



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for March 19th

6 Mar - All of the Tinley Park Five Have Now Been Transferred

Now that John Tucker has finally been classified and transferred and Dylan Sutherlin has been transferred to a long-term facility, all of the Tinley Park Five have arrived at the prisons where they will most likely serve the duration of their sentences.

MORE:

Jason, John, and Cody were all placed in minimum security facilities. Apparently due to space limitations Alex and Dylan were placed in medium security facilities.

All five are in very good spirits and are currently in the process of trying to take advantage of some of the educational opportunities offered. These classes and programs can also chip away at their sentences. It's optimistic but we're hoping on seeing Alex and John this year, Cody and Dylan in early 2014, and Jason by the end of 2014.

They're all very fortunate to have been placed in relatively decent facilities. They've had no real problems with guards or other inmates thus far. They're all planning on making the most of their circumstances and trying to pass their time quickly by taking GED and college course, working out, watching television, and reading.

6 Mar - Updates on Americans Extradited to Canada

As we wrote last time, five Americans are facing extradition or have been extradited to Canada for alleged participation in demonstrations against the 2010 Toronto G 20 summit. We've compiled updates below.

MORE:

An American man facing charges in Toronto over the G20 summit in June 2010 will be allowed to return to the United States until his trial.

Richard Dean Morano's lawyer said Wednesday the 22-year-old is being freed on \$80,000 bail and will stay with relatives in his home state of Pennsylvania.

Morano, of Lackawaxen, Penn., was one of two Americans extradited from the U.S. Tuesday on charges stemming from the riots that occurred two years ago during the meeting of world leaders.

Kevin Chianella, 20, from Queens, N.Y., also appeared in court but his case was put over to Thursday because he had no surety, police said.

Both men face numerous charges, including mischief endangering life.

Police allege Morano smashed a police car window with a rock while an officer was inside and used a piece of lumber to break the window of a clothing store.

Morano is also accused, with others, of smashing windows at two coffee shops, a branch of the CIBC and a leather store.

Among other things, it's alleged Chianella used a bag of rocks to smash the windows of a police car while an officer was trapped inside, threatened a Toronto Star photographer trying to take pictures of his actions, smashed a large window and damaged an ATM.



A third American appeared in court last week to face four charges in connection with incidents at the G20 after consenting to extradition from Boston.

Quinn McCormic, 25, is accused of throwing objects at the windows of a clothing store, bank and the Toronto Police Museum, with total damage estimated at more than \$125,000.

McCormic is charged with three counts of mischief over \$5,000 and disguise with intent.

Two other Americans also accused in the G20 violence are in custody south of the border.

Toronto police Det. Gary Giroux said Joel Bitar, of New York City, is to appear at an extradition hearing there later this month. He faces 26 charges including mischief over \$5,000 and assaulting a police officer.

Dane Rossman, of Tucson, Ariz., is being held in that state pending extradition, Giroux said.

Dozens of protesters - many wearing disguises - went on a rampage through downtown Toronto during the international summit.

More than 1,100 people were taken into custody that weekend in one of the largest mass arrests in Canadian history.

Most were released without charges but more than 40 people have been successfully prosecuted.

7 Mar – Update from Jalil Muntaqim

Jalil was recently found guilty of, get this, having two stamps in a book while trying to go to the law library. The punishment? Seven days in keeplock (23 hours a day locked in his cell). Once he got out of keeplock, he sent the following update, including the prison report.

MORE:

As you can see from the enclosed, I was just released from keeplock status. I am providing with the typed (prototype) of the disciplinary report, the disposition and my written argument made to the disciplinary hearing. Naturally, they were not going to dismiss the entire report and had to find me guilty of something, although I never made it to the law library. There is a group of guards here that do not want me in general population. They believe I should spend the rest of my time in the SHU. At any rate, I want to send this out to be posted to show folks an aspect of the petty harassment I have to confront in this prison. My only hope is this disciplinary disposition will not prohibit me from participating in the trailer visit with my Mom. We are waiting for approval of the application. I must admit there is a facility rule that prisoners are not to have stamps and personal property in the law library. Any stamps brought to the law library must be already glued on envelopes. I didn't know this! However, the guard who targeted only me to be searched could have made the disciplinary report a Tier I or II, not the highest Tier III. The Captain conducting the hearing stated as soon as I walked into the hearing room that the disciplinary report should have been a Tier II. He told me that he intended to release me from keeplock and have my property returned to me. But he was going to find me guilty of 113.22, with the penalty as indicated. Even when they know it's bullshit, they still want to get the \$5.00 surcharge.

...

Please extend my very best regards to the righteous of heart with you.



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Although Inmate Bottom inadvertently carried the reported items en route to the law library, it is still not allowed. Inmate Bottom will be held accountable.

C. Special Instruction on Correspondence Restrictions and Referrals:

Return items to Inmate Bottom.

Hearing Officer: Captain Covenant

Date: 3/6/13

Time 11:17 AM

TO: Superintendent Hearing Officer

FR: ANTHONY BOTTOM, 77A4283, D-41-40

RE: Inmate Misbehavior Report of 28 Feb. 13 written by C.O. C. Yackeren

DT: March 4, 2013

Superintendent Hearing Officer:

To rebut the allegation made in C.O. Yackeren's misbehavior report referred to above, for the following reasons it is requested this misbehavior report be dismissed, and personal property returned.

First, according to Attica Facility Rule Book #10.14: "Inmates are allowed a maximum of \$22.00 worth of stamps in their possession (on person, in cell)." The DOCCS State Inmate Rule Book, #113.16: "An inmate shall not be in possession of stamps in excess of \$20 in value, money, a credit card, credit card numbers, check or unauthorized valuable or property."

There is absolutely nothing in either Rule Book that informs stamps are contraband, or possessing stamps, specifically two (2) stamps is a violation of any rule.

Since stamps or the possession of stamps are not contraband, the charge of smuggling fails to meet the test of a violation. In the case of *Matter of Secore v. Goord*, 666 N.Y.S. 2d 530, inmate Secore was charged with smuggling cigarettes that he had in his socks, but because cigarettes were not contraband, the Court held that, "... respondent's determination that petitioner was guilty of smuggling is not supported by substantial evidence (See, generally, *People ex rel. Vega v. Smith*, 66 N.Y. 2d 130, 139, 495 N.Y.S. 2d 322, 484 N.E. 2d 997)." Hence, I cannot be charged with smuggling an item that is not contraband, and according to the Attica Facility Rule Book (#10.14) and Statewide Inmate Rule Book (#113.16), I am permitted to have in my possession.

It is incomprehensible that a photocopy of my book is contraband. In fact, it is unconscionable that a personal letter discussing my book or IDEAS, having absolutely nothing to do with this facility, could be found as a rule violation. As a prolific writer who has been published in University books "New Abolitionists: (Neo) Slave Narratives and Contemporary Prison Writings," ed. Joy James (Brown University 2009); "Schooling a Generation in the Politics of Prisons," ed. Chinsole (1996, Berkeley, CA: New Earth Publications); "This Country Must Change," ed. Craig Rosebraugh (200, Arissa Media Group); "Exiting the Prism – Fade to Black ..." Poems by Jalil Muntaqim, ed. Schwartz, (2012, Olive Tree Publishing), journals, and various forms of print media, (NYC Amsterdam News, San Francisco Bayview) etc., it seems this disciplinary proceeding wants to censure or prohibit my capacity to communicate/respond or limit my First Amendment right of speech. Neither the photocopy nor letter is contraband, and personal correspondence mentioning or promoting my writings does not rise to the charge of solicitation.

One final point: D-Block lobby, for all intents and purposes, is not the Law Library. If the charges reflect a violation of Law Library rules and regulations without entering the Law Library, and void any actual materials or



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property pertaining to the Law Library, the charges are absent supportive substantial evidence. In essence, any item alleged to be prohibited in the Law Library never reached the Law Library, was never in the Law Library. Therefore, no Law Library rule or regulation was violated.

For all the above reasons, this misbehavior report and all charges should be dismissed.

Your fair and impartial consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

7 Mar - Anonymous 'spokesperson' Barrett Brown to spend year in jail without trial

The federal trial against alleged computer criminal Barrett Brown has been delayed by six months. Now the activist once called the "spokesperson" of the Anonymous hacker movement will wait in prison for one full year before being tried.

MORE:

Brown, 31, was scheduled to stand trial later this month for a slew of charges that have handed down in three separate indictments filed by the government since last September. Per the request of his attorneys, however, legal proceedings have been pushed back for six months, delaying the trial until September 2013.

Doug Morris, a public defender appointed to serve as Brown's defense counsel, asked for an extension in order to evaluate the evidence against his client, the Associate Press reports. US District Judge Sam Lindsay obliged on Wednesday this week.

The AP adds that Brown's trial for one indictment is now slated for September 3, 2013, with trials for his second and third indictments scheduled to start on Sept. 23. Brown was arrested on Sept. 12 last year and has been in law enforcement custody for the nearly six months since.

The AP describes Brown as having "once served as de facto spokesman for Anonymous, a shadowy movement that has gotten attention for cyberattacks," although he says he's never represented himself as such. Although Brown has aligned himself with the Anonymous movement on several occasions in the past and have spoken broadly on matters relating to the group, he wrote from prison last year, "I am not and never have been the spokesman for Anonymous, nor its 'public face' or, worse, 'self-proclaimed' 'face' or 'spokesperson' or 'leader.'"

Brown's legal issues began last March when FBI agents raided his Dallas, Texas home with search warrants for computers that contained information pertaining to, among other things, the Anonymous collective, offshoot LulzSec and a number of private businesses that were investigated by both groups as well as Brown's own Project PM, an independent think-tank he designed in part "to develop new methods by which to use the internet for positive change and to encourage others to adapt such methods."

One day after the March 2012 raid, Brown wrote the FBI "fully intended to take a certain laptop, and did" when the feds raided his mother's house shortly after the first incident. He also said that federal agents threatened both he and his mother with conspiracy to obstruct justice for the next few months, spawning Brown to lash out at the FBI in a series of YouTube videos and Twitter posts created in September 2012.

"I know what's legal, I know what's been done to me... And if it's legal when it's done to me, it's going to be legal when it's done to FBI Agent Robert Smith — who is a criminal," claimed Brown in one of the clips uploaded to the Web. "That's why Robert Smith's life is over. And when I say his life is over, I'm not saying I'm going to kill him, but I am going to ruin his life and look into his fucking kids... How do you like them apples?"



Hours after that video was uploaded to the Web, a SWAT team raided Brown's Dallas, Texas apartment and placed him in custody for nearly one month before he was charged with threatening a federal officer. Once behind bars, though, Brown's legal issues escalated.

While in custody, the Justice Department unsealed two separate indictments against Brown: In December, Brown was charged with sharing an Internet hyperlink that contained over 5,000 credit card account numbers, the card holders' identification information and the authentication features for the cards. One month later, Brown was charged with obstructing justice by "knowingly and corruptly conceal and attempt to conceal records, documents, and digital data contained on two laptop computers," as he hinted at nearly one year earlier.

Attorney Jay Leiderman, who is not representing Brown in this case, wrote on his personal blog when the third indictment was unsealed that the hacktivist could face a century in prison if convicted on all counts.

"He is alleged to have made threatening YouTube videos aimed at the FBI agent that raided his home, he is alleged to have shared a link that contained credit card and access information, and he supposedly hid laptops when the FBI came-a-knocking. That's right, that sorta stuff could cost you 100 years these days," he wrote.

Brown is alleged to have shared a link to the credit card details in a chat room after seeing it posted in another. The trove of data contained within the link related to subscriber data pilfered by Strategic Forecasting, or Stratfor, a private intelligence company hacked by Anonymous in December 2011. Thousands of emails obtained in that compromise were later given to the whistleblower website WikiLeaks and have been subsequently published online.

Upon release of the credit card numbers, Brown disavowed the hack. He said, "Stratfor was not breached in order to obtain customer credit card numbers, which the hackers in question could not have expected to be as easily obtainable as they were. Rather, the operation was pursued in order to obtain the 2.7 million e-mails that exist on the firm's servers."

Jeremy Hammond, a hacker and activist from Chicago, has been behind bars for over one year while awaiting trial for charges relating to the Stratfor hack. Federal prosecutors say he spearheaded the hack as a member of the groups Anonymous and LulzSec. He stands to face the rest of his life in prison if convicted.

10 Mar – Political Prison by Walter Bond

We've included the latest by Animal Liberation Front prisoner Walter Bond below.

MORE:

To be in prison is to be a whipping post for those in political power. I will always find it a little odd and slightly offensive when people of an intellectual background or mindframe try to explain the mechanics of oppression to me. As if life was a classroom or thesis where real experience is trumped by word-ideas and an ability to apply precision to philosophy. Those of us in the prison system know oppression. We live it everyday, every hour. Authority, slavery and domination are our lot. Any employee, guard, visitor or invisible faceless bureaucrat need only snap their fingers and we are whisked away to confinement cells smaller than your bathroom. For days, months, or years.

In a capitalist system of immense social stratification 'prisoner' is the lowest rung in a classist and racist society. When you face federal prison charges your indictment reads 'The United States of America Vs. (insert your name)'. That is usually the first and last truth you will be awarded. From that point forward you face the largest maniacal bully on the face of Mother Earth, the United States government.



Currently there are more than 2 and a half million people imprisoned in America. With more than 6 million on parole, probation or supervised release. That is approximately 1 out of every 33 adults in the U.S. which are in some stage of 'corrections'. Nearly everyone in this system falls into one or more of four categories, those being: 1. Black, 2. Latino, 3. Poor, and 4. Uneducated.

Women in prison are routinely incarcerated hundreds of miles away from their families and children. Much further distances than men. Due to their minority status amongst the prison population (most prisoners are men) women endure imprisonment by a system that makes little concession for sex and gender differences, and often heaps extra derision and scorn upon the female prison population. Women that come into the prison system pregnant are often chained and shackled to tables while giving birth. They also have immensely greater chances of never seeing their children again after the hour or two that they are allowed to spend with their newborn babies. Upon return to their prison cells, robbed and stripped of their progeny, women in prison face a grief and hollowness worse than anything I can imagine. There are currently over 150,000 African American women imprisoned in America or on probation, parole or supervised release. That's 1 out of every 9 African American women in the United States.

Under the guise of the war on drugs, the war on gangs, the war on guns, and of course the war on terrorism the prison system incarcerates the indigenous, people of color, and the poor at unprecedented rates. In the process criminalizing many addicts and small time 'middlemen' drug dealers that would benefit far more from help with their addictions, instead of criminalization and imprisonment around more serious or violent offenders.

As much as I identify with being vegan, straightedge or anarchist I also identify with being a prisoner. I have been incarcerated in county jails such as Cerro Gordo county and Black Hawk county in Iowa. Or Davis County in Utah and Jefferson County in Colorado. I have been in state prisons in Iowa, such as Oakdale Classification Center, Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility, Anamosa State Penitentiary, and North Iowa Correctional Facility at Rockwell City. I have been in a corporate run prison at the Nevada Southern Detention Center and I have been in Federal Prison in Oklahoma at the Federal Transfer Center and now the United States Penitentiary of Marion on the Infamous Communications Management Unit for 'domestic terrorists', where I currently reside.

Contrary to how the media or politicians portray prisoners we are just people. Among the millions of people that are incarcerated are mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, children, parents, friends, fathers, brothers, uncles, aunts, grandfathers, grandmothers and family. As a prisoner you experience first hand far more diversity than you do in the open air prison (society). Instead of being divided by class, politics, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color, culture and all the other dividers we use to tribalize and separate ourselves from each other. We are all right here in close quarters. People that you once thought were repulsive in manner, attitude or appearance become more familiar to you than your best friends from free world.

Of course Prison can also be a violent world just like in the open air prison you live in. The difference is that there is no running away from violence in here. Which means that as a prisoner you relearn instincts that you may have lost or never thought you had. Like a child you learn how to read people, you learn how to not be fooled by nice clothes, slick talk or kind words. You learn that not everyone that postures violently is dangerous and some that seem completely non-threatening are very dangerous indeed. You learn how to deal with lots of truly different people under adverse circumstances as a matter of everyday life. You learn how to not be sensitive over other peoples views or beliefs.

Unfortunately, you also learn that the outside world, much like the media define you by your crimes. If you stole some money when you were a kid, wouldn't you find it unfair and discriminatory if 20 years later when you were trying to get a job, or an apartment, or admission to college you were told "sorry, we can't allow thieves



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here"? This is exactly the case with nearly all that come out of prison. there is years of time between you and your offense but you still must be defined by it.

The first time I was released from prison I had many a good job denied me, solely because of my criminal record. I started to lie about it on my job applications and then was finally able to get a job as a fry cook at Applebee's, a shitty corporate restaurant. An old acquaintance recognized me and told the boss about my past. I was brought into the office and thoroughly berated and threatened with being fired for being a liar. And then finally allowed to continue my 'privilege' of working in a place completely against my ethics as a vegan so that I could avoid going back to prison on a parole violation for not holding 'adequate employment'.

This is to say nothing of the difficulties that gay lesbian and transgendered people face in prison or the slave wages prisoners must endure while working in the prison if they want to keep their 'general population' status and have the 'privilege' of looking at the sky or of making a 15 minute call to family.

In a hierarchical society where all life is viewed in ranks or the rungs of a ladder. In a consumer driven society where all life is a commodity or only as important as it's output for consumer gain the prison is quickly becoming the model used in society. Schools, workplaces, post offices, airports and the shopping malls. Along side the nastier businesses such as slaughterhouses, military and police training which all go off of the same model as the penitentiary design and mentality. Which is, by the way, why so many ex-military people work in prisons. It's because they themselves were institutionalized by the government.

It is only a matter of time before the open air prison drops it's facade and the walls go up, and the razor wire glistens in the afternoon sky and the rights you think you have all become privileges. Because if you want to see the future of a class society, of imperialism and corporate fascism you need look no further than the lowest class within that society, it's prisoners. But just like slaughterhouses, prisons are tucked away in small-town USA, in rural areas where you don't see. The mainstream media ignores prison and it's millions of inmates unless it happens to make a good story to interview one of the 'human monsters' that languish within. Just like it ignores the murder and death of Animals behind walls to feed filthy and destructive industries.

So it's up to you to care where other don't. It's up to you to raise awareness where others won't. And it's up to you to use your freedom and privilege in the cause of liberation . If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

11 Mar - Amnesty International Launches New Online Campaign for Albert Woodfox

On March 11th, Amnesty International launched an online campaign asking Louisiana Attorney General James Caldwell to not appeal the District Court's ruling to either release or retry Albert Woodfox, declaring: "After decades of injustice, let the Angola 3 ruling stand!"

MORE:

Please support Albert by taking action, forwarding it to your email list and asking your networks to spread the word. Now is a critical time in the fight for Albert's freedom. We want Caldwell's office to be inundated with emails so he hears it loud and clear that the cycle of injustice and cruelty must end.

Introducing their online action campaign, Amnesty writes:

Albert Woodfox has spent nearly 41 years in solitary confinement in conditions that are cruel, inhuman and degrading. In 1972, he and two others were convicted of murdering a guard at Angola prison. The "Angola 3" were sentenced to life imprisonment - although no physical evidence linked them to the crime and serious legal flaws came to light.



Albert Woodfox's conviction has been overturned several times, but Louisiana Attorney General Caldwell has dogmatically appealed every ruling in Woodfox's favor. On February 26, a federal district court ruled again to overturn the conviction. Call on Attorney General Caldwell not to appeal the ruling so that Woodfox can be retried or released.

Below is the full text of the email to AG Caldwell:

On February 26, Albert Woodfox's conviction for the 1972 murder of a prison guard was overturned once again, this time on the basis of racial discrimination in the selection of the grand jury foreperson. I know that you have already indicated that you intend to appeal the ruling, but I write to you today with one simple request - make history. Let the federal district court's ruling stand.

The court's ruling lends weight to widespread concerns that there have been significant flaws in the legal processes that have kept both Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace behind bars. These flaws include inadequate legal counsel, prosecutorial misconduct, lack of physical evidence, potentially exculpatory evidence lost by the State, evidence that the key eyewitness testimony was paid for in bribes by the State, other eyewitnesses retracting their testimony, and now racial discrimination. To appeal this latest ruling would compound injustice and delay the legal process by years, as the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals would have to rule before justice could be served.

I am also deeply concerned that, since his conviction, Albert Woodfox has been held in conditions that can only be described as cruel, inhuman and degrading. He has been denied access to work, group activities and rehabilitation programs. The negative physical and psychological effects of these conditions have taken a heavy toll on the 66 year old.

The State should move to either retry Albert Woodfox, or to release him. To delay the legal process by appealing this ruling would be both cruel and unnecessary. Please break the cycle of injustice and cruelty. Let the ruling stand.

12 Mar - A Thank You and more from Marie Mason

After an outpouring of cards from around the world, Marie has written a public thank you. She's also written a statement of support for striking workers in Minnesota.

MORE:

A Thank You from Marie Mason to All Who Wished Her Happy Birthday

Greetings Family and Comrades, Well-wishers, fellow activists, anarchists (and non-be/quantifiable),

I want to say thank you for all of the amazing and sweet greetings, cards, letters, photos and artwork that people sent me in response to the event in January. Mail was held up for a bit, but I think that it has all been processed and passed on to me by now.

It was the most incredible inspiration to hear from so many folks working to defend animals, Earth and human rights from so many places! I have learned so much. People sent their stories about great campaigns and histories of struggle, creation stories and poetry, their own beautiful artwork and so much love in words.

I have been really trying to write as many folks as I can, and am always sad that I am limited by the number of stamps they allow us and by whether contact is approved. Please know that I was touched and encouraged by whatever you sent (not a mean word in the bunch), and that it meant a lot to have been given a push by my



community.

I have been processing a lot of my own history this year, probably just a function of so much isolation and time spent in confined quarters. In my former free life, if I was faced with difficult decisions or sadness, trauma or trouble I would go to the woods and hike, or swim in one of my beloved Great Lakes to find solace and focus. The natural world is my source of strength and my comfort. It has been hard to be unable to walk on the ground, touch a tree or see the sky without metal in between. Prison on the compound was one level of removal from life, but this is another level of intensity entirely.

So it was a joy to be able to hear from so many folks actively working in service to this Earth, to be inspired by you all and to be comforted to know that, though I am no longer able to walk with you, that you are continuing the journey forward. That is my comfort now. Thank you all, for your work, for your kindness and for the incredible support that you have offered me and so many others. It makes me feel still part of a community of resistance, still part of the world.

Never give up, never give in – until all are free and this Earth is healed and loved again.

"Words of Encouragement and Respect" (A statement in support of the Sisters' Camelot Canvass Workers)

I know that you don't know me personally, but we are family in the sense that we are part of a broad and wonderfully diverse movement to improve the conditions we find ourselves in and to make the necessary changes in ourselves and in public policy to change this world for the better. Because we are family, I am sending my love and encouragement, my respect and best wishes to you all.

In the course of my organizing on the outside, there were several times when the needs of the workers and the concerns of environmentalists and peace activists seemed to be at odds. Not always, not every time, but at least a few times we were able to find a way to respect the integrity and dignity of the working folks involved in the dispute and the altruistic vision of the folks who were attempting to preserve this planet. It is possible to do, has been done and can be done in this instance, I am sure.

A long time ago, I had a conversation at an environmental conference with the president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic workers union. He'd been invited by Greenpeace as a representative, but felt unsure of whether a genuine coalition was being built there. He stated that the major impediment to workers joining forces with community members when there were chemical accidents or nuclear hazards detected - was that the workers felt that by and large, their needs would be abandoned when it came down to the wire. If the environmentalists/peace activists were able to close the factory or shut down the workplace, then they would leave the rest of the fight to the workers alone to solve what would happen to them. We shook hands and I promised to always see these issues not just as an environmental justice activist, but also as a worker in solidarity with other workers. Because, of course, I was always a worker as much as an activist.

Another instance when it possible to build an alliance, and the opportunity was lost - was when Greenpeace actively broke a union organizing drive. I was mostly familiar with the Canadian folks. The campaigners were working with us on an incinerator issue in Detroit. Several of the good folks who were risking their lives doing actions to raise the media awareness of the waste and toxic issues associated with that world's largest incinerator - were fired during the campaign for trying to be represented by the IWW. Campaigners were regularly told they could not take scheduled vacation or be given minimal medical insurance, and that they should just be happy to be able to get a little pay and do the social justice work they wanted to do. They were told this by a board of directors who were and still are mostly wealthy white men. But the damage of treating the folks who fight so hard for all of us so poorly is terrible. We lose talent, we lose energy, we lose commitment and focus - as wonderful young people (and older folks who do not need to make enough to support families) are burned out routinely, used up as an exploited resource.



This is not a respectful way to treat such good people who give so much of themselves to all of us. This can hardly be the world that we envision or want to create. While it is only reality that there will never be as many resources devoted to protecting the world as there are to destroying it, at least not under this current economic system - surely there is enough to share honorably and fairly with those who make that protection possible, those who help support all the wonderful volunteer work that transitions in and out of the movement as they have time and resources to donate.

The ends does not justify the means, as it has often been said. We cannot create a just and fair world by running roughshod over those who are fighting with us. Please consider what appear to be two sides of an issue to be actually two sides of the same coin. We have to build sustainable movements of resistance to create positive, long-lasting change. This means respecting each other, not using each other. I hope so very much that you will consider each other, as I do - as family. Please talk this through. I have the greatest faith in your capacity to be good to one another.

12 Mar - Leaked Audio: US Citizens Can Now Hear Manning Statement

A foundation dedicated to promoting and funding transparency journalism has released a recording of Pfc. Manning reading a statement made in military court at Fort Meade about releasing United States government documents to WikiLeaks.

MORE:

The recording from the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) was covered by NBC's "The Today Show" at 7am EST. The Guardian's Glenn Greenwald, a board member of the foundation, also put up a post highlighting significant excerpts of his statement.

Full audio of Manning can be listened to by clicking on the player at <http://soundcloud.com/buzzfeed/bradley-mannings-full>

In a release on the foundation's website, FPF notes, "While unofficial transcripts of this statement are available, this marks the first time the American public has heard the actual voice of Manning."

FPF states:

Freedom of the Press Foundation is dedicated to supporting journalism that combats overreaching government secrecy. We have been disturbed that Manning's pre-trial hearings have been hampered by the kind of extreme government secrecy that his releases to WikiLeaks were intended to protest. While reporters are allowed in the courtroom, no audio or visual recordings are permitted by the judge, no transcripts of the proceedings or any motions by the prosecution have been released, and lengthy court orders read on the stand by the judge have not been published for public review.

FPF, which partly decided to start its organization to ensure the flow of donations were able to resume to WikiLeaks, has not been publishing leaks. The foundation realized, "We had a unique opportunity to bring some small measure of transparency directly by allowing the world to hear for itself the voice of someone who took a controversial and important stance for government transparency."

The foundation hopes "this recording will shed light on one of the most secret court trials in recent history, in which the government is putting on trial a concerned government employee whose only stated goal was to bring attention to what he viewed as serious governmental misconduct and criminal activity." It also would like to see "prompt additional analysis of these proceedings by other journalistic institutions and the public at large."



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“While we are not equipped (technically or as a matter of human resources) to receive leaked information” and do not plan to receive “leaks” in the future, “we are proud to publish and analyze this particular recording because it is so clearly matches our mission of supporting transparency journalism,” the foundation declares.

Documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras edited a video of Manning’s voice describing what he thought when he first watched the “Collateral Murder” video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack in Iraq and why he decided to release the video to WikiLeaks.

I have been regularly attending Bradley Manning’s court martial proceedings. I was able to hear Manning deliver the statement myself like the twenty or thirty people in the public gallery of the courtroom. However, I did not sit back and listen to every word he was saying and fully take in the meaning. There are many parts of Manning’s statement that I am certain I do not remember hearing because I thought I would not hear him say the words again.

The court martial has been conducted with a layer of secrecy that is unjustified. I, along with other journalists, have been plaintiffs in a lawsuit brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) to force the military to make court documents available in a timely fashion.

Last week, CCR submitted an additional declaration I drafted to a military appeals court currently hearing the case:

*On February 26, 2013, Judge Lind read her ruling on the defense’s speedy trial motion in open court. It took two hours for her to complete reading this order. The order contained a large number of dates and abbreviations for government agencies and other military terminology that might have been readily comprehensible in a written document but that we in the press could scarcely keep up with when listening to Judge Lind’s rapid-fire oral delivery. **A colleague of mine in the press room calculated that Judge Lind was reading at a rate of 180 words per minute, and that the entire ruling contained at least 23,000 words, an estimate which comports with my observations as well.** (For comparison, a very good professional typist can manage about 80 words per minute, and my understanding is that the absolute maximum speed at which humans can type for extended periods is approximately 150 words per minute.) [emphasis added]*

Manning read his statement two days later and, when he read his statement, his reading was not much slower. The only reason why I did not become frustrated with trying to keep up with the statement was because each paragraph seemed to contain a new detail about what he did that I had long been waiting to hear from him. It also contained new details in his story that I never imagined had taken place (like, for example, trying to go to the press before submitting the Iraq and Afghanistan war logs to WikiLeaks or researching the sets of documents or reading about the “Collateral Murder” video before deciding to submit them to WikiLeaks.)

When I return to Fort Meade in April, I will undoubtedly hear about the release of this audio recording from military Public Affairs Officers. I may even receive a press release from officers at some point reminding the press explicitly of the rules: that we are not to use recording devices. At the moment, I think the recording was made inside the courtroom. If it was recorded from inside the media center, one would be able to hear members of the press pool making noise and reacting to Manning’s statement.

The only damage that will come from this leak is the military will feel embarrassed it cannot properly secure the court martial proceedings in the way the military desires. The proceedings will be able to continue appropriately. The source who engaged in an act of forced transparency will see Fort Meade re-establish control over the flow of information.

It was long overdue. The public deserved to hear the voice of the soldier who risked his livelihood and future plead guilty and describe in detail what he did.

Update:

Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, who is also a board member and co-founder of FPF, has a reaction to hearing audio of Manning's statement up at Huffington Post. He writes:

Whoever made this recording, and I don't know who the person is, has done the American public a great service. This marks the first time the American public can hear Bradley Manning, in his own voice explain what he did and how he did it.

After listening to this recording and reading his testimony, I believe Bradley Manning is the personification of the word whistleblower.

13 Mar - Anarchists who refused to testify speak out for first time

KteeO and Matt Duran recently gave an interview to a local news outlet. We've pasted KIRO's article below.

MORE:

Two self-proclaimed anarchists said the government prosecuted them unfairly.

Katie Olejnik, 23, and Matt Duran, 24, talked to KIRO 7 Eyewitness News reporter James Schugel for the first time since getting out of Seatac Federal Detention Center.

They were supposed to tell a grand jury what they knew about Seattle's May Day riots, including the names and political beliefs of people involved.

Anarchists vandalized downtown Seattle businesses and a courthouse last May. They used sticks and bats to damage several buildings and a courthouse and to vandalize vehicles.

When Olejnik and Duran wouldn't share information about the riots, the government sent them to prison. They stayed there for more than three months.

"They were like, 'Do you know this person?'" Olejnik said, "and they would say a name, and I wasn't going to answer. Then they started asking me about people's political beliefs, and I couldn't answer that in good conscience."

"I believe in a lot of different ways of organizing, and that may be one thing somebody does," Duran said. "But I can't control what they do."

A judge released the two from prison two weeks ago, on the grounds that confinement made them more resolute and was pointless.

Schugel asked Olejnik and Duran if the rioters did the right thing.

"I can't control anyone else's actions," Olejnik said. "This is going to sound really horrible, but I don't really care what happened on May Day. I don't have a strong opinion either way."

Olejnik and Duran told Schugel that they think the government targeted them because they had jobs and a reason to give up information and stay out of prison.

Now that they have been released, Olejnik is working, but Duran is looking for a job.



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Olejnuk and Duran said the horror they went through in small cells while in isolated confinement was well worth it to keep their secrets.

The two could still be charged with criminal contempt of court and put back in prison.

"We could just be going on with our lives, moving forward, and it could happen at any minute," Olejnuk said.

14 Mar - Cops Arrest And Pepper Spray Protesters At Third Kimani Gray Vigil

After cops in NYC murdered a 16 year old boy named Kimani Gray on March 9th, nightly protests have been organized in East Flatbush. Rebels have defended themselves against attacks by cops, that have included beatings, pepper spray, and arrests. Even so-called alternative media has highlighted voices calling for "restraint" over community defense and venting frustration. With that, we've included an article by Gothamist.

MORE:

For the third night in a row, people took to the streets of East Flatbush to voice their outrage at the NYPD's fatal shooting of Kimani "Kiki" Gray. Though the 16-year-old's death was the most obvious catalyst the night's protest, it was clear that frustration with the NYPD extended beyond this one case, as demonstrators taunted cops all night with chants of "Don't Shoot Me!"

Over the course of four hours, people from Kimani's neighborhood mixed with activists from other parts of NYC, marching through the predominantly African-American neighborhood and numbering in the hundreds at the protest's peak. The demonstrators at times walked down the middle of Church Avenue, regularly chanting "No justice, no peace." Some demonstrators threw bottles at groups of officers, pieces of rock or stone at vehicles, and there were other reports of a few bricks being thrown. One marcher threw something at a police van window that caused it to shatter near the intersection of Church and Troy, and a reporter on the scene snapped a photo of a police cruiser with a broken rear windshield.

At other times, police used pepper spray on demonstrators, as well as orange nets to "kettle" one group. At least some of the people arrested in that group were on their way home and had nothing to do with the night's action.

An NYPD spokesman tells us they're "still ascertaining and tabulating" the number of people arrested last night, explaining that some were issued summons while others were "sent through the system" (meaning at least one night in the Tombs). We saw at least 13 arrests, and the total number could easily be double that if not more. (The Post hears 50.) Many of those arrests resulted in a teenager on the pavement with three or four cops crowding over them. One particularly tense stand-off between a female demonstrator and a male police officer began with the cop telling her to get on the sidewalk, and her responding, "Or what, you'll shoot me?" The officer, whose helmet had the number 7987 on it, said, "No, but I'll slap you."

The night was supposed to be calm. City Council Member Jumaane Williams, who represents Kimani's district, Tweeted his anger repeatedly at people from outside the community coming in and inciting young people from the neighborhood, "Please stay the HELL out of our community if will only agitate our kids. It's dangerous and counterproductive. Be responsible or STAY away!"

Kimani Gray was killed on Saturday, March 9, at 11:30 p.m., after two police officers shot him seven times. Police say that Kimani had pointed a .38-caliber gun at them, though one witness says the teen was not holding a gun. A recent autopsy showed that three of the bullets hit him in the back, though the specific details of the shooting remain unclear.



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The parents of Ramarley Graham, an unarmed teen who was fatally shot by a police officer, attended the early part of last night's vigil, offering words of support for Kimani's family. "I'm not trying to tell people not to be angry. You have a right to be angry," said Franclot Graham, standing near a memorial for Kimani. He stressed, though, that property destruction was counter-productive and played into the hands of those who wanted to dismiss all of their collective grievances. He also implored people not to lose interest in this case. "Don't disappear a week from now, after [Kimani]'s buried," he said. "Don't disappear," he repeated.

"When are they going to start protecting us and stop killing our kids?" Constance Malcolm, Ramarley Graham's mother asked, referring to the NYPD.

The evening's action alternated between periods of calm and tense confrontation. Towards the end of the night, a group of teenagers standing on a curb were taunting a few cops standing several feet away in the street. After a few minutes and seemingly unprovoked, an officer reached onto the sidewalk to grab one of the teenagers, who took off running. This sparked an all out foot-chase, with officers in hot pursuit of the runner and some of the NYPD's less athletic members cheering their fellow officers on.

The runner cut down a side street, media and police giving chase. The suspect got away, but about halfway down the street police briefly detained a separate young man who was going home for the night. He was black—as was the runner—and immediately informed the police that he wasn't the person they were looking for. One cop was heard explaining that he was on orders from his sergeant to arrest him. While several white cops walked the wrong man toward a police van, they ultimately decided to let him go.

14 Mar - US Attorney Indicts Reuters Employee for Conspiracy Charge

The Justice Department indicted Matthew Keys, the deputy social media editor for Reuters.com, for allegedly conspiring with members of Anonymous and giving them login information so they could "hack into and alter" the Los Angeles Times' website.

MORE:

The indictment should raise suspicion, however, because Hector Xavier Monsegur or "Sabu," who the FBI flipped and used to catch and, to some extent, entrap LulzSec hackers, is likely involved in the indictment.

Keys is charged with "conspiracy to cause damage to a protected computer," "transmission of malicious code" and "attempted transmission of malicious code."

From Matthew Keys' indictment, US Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner, who prosecuted "Sabu," and Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman allege, "Between on or about December 8, 2010, and or about December 15, 2010, in the State and Eastern District of California and elsewhere, Matthew Keys, together with at least one other person, did conspire to knowingly cause the transmission of a program, information, code and command and, as a result of such conduct, intentionally caused damage without authorization to a protected computer, causing loss to a person during a 1-year period aggregating at least \$5,000 in value," which violated a section of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

Who could that other person be? On March 14, the same day as this indictment, Wagner and Assistant US Attorney Matthew D. Segal filed a "notice of related cases" to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, where the indictment was filed.

The notice:

Both cases related to computer hacking attacks by the group that called itself "Anonymous." The Keys case alleges



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that Keys gave login credentials to members of Anonymous and encouraged them to vandalize the web site of his former employer, a news organization. Defendant Monsegur, who used the nickname “Sabu,” appeared in the Internet chat log at the core of the Keys case, and, in that chat log, offered advice on how to conduct the network intrusion. Monsegur later became a cooperating defendant in the Southern District of New York.

In Parmy Olson’s book, *We Are Anonymous*, Olson writes that Sabu claimed, “Keys had given away administrator access to the online publishing system of Tribune, his former employer, in return for a chance to ‘hang out in our channel.’” Keys denied this.

In his indictment, it alleges, “In or about early 2011, Monsegur and his co-conspirators misappropriated login credentials to access the Tribune Company’s computer systems without authorization.”

“Sabu” had his sentencing on twelve counts of violating federal law, which carried a potential total sentence of 124 years in prison, postponed without explanation in February. In August of last year, he had his sentencing hearing postponed for six months. According to prosecutors, this was because of continued cooperation with federal agents.

According to a *New York Magazine* article, on June 7, 2011, he was arrested and then “secretly arraigned in a federal courtroom in lower Manhattan and released on his own signature” on the following day. He entered LulzSec chatrooms and “overachieved for the FBI, working diligently ‘since literally the day he was arrested,’ an assistant US Attorney said. He was ‘staying up sometimes all night ... helping the government build cases’ against friends who the US government later called his ‘co-conspirators.’”

One could argue he helped the FBI entrap Jeremy Hammond, who is being prosecuted for hacking into Stratfor and releasing emails to WikiLeaks. Hammond’s criminal complaint reads:

As discussed in more detail below, at or around the time the Stratfor Hack took place, CW-1, at the direction of the FBI, provided to HAMMOND and his co-conspirators a computer server in New York, New York, which could be used to store data, and to which HAMMOND and his co-conspirators in fact transferred data} I have spoken to an employee of the FBI who reviewed the transferred data, and learned that it was similar in content and format to the data found in the files found on the .onion server discussed above.

CW-1 is “Sabu.”

On March 18, 2011, details on Keys’ activity in secret chat rooms where members of Anonymous were planning attacks on websites. Keys posted a statement on Tumblr where he claimed, “I identified myself as a journalist during my interaction with the top-level Anonymous hackers and at no time did I offer said individuals any agreement of confidentiality. In fact, I asked several of them for their feelings should they be exposed. They seemed, by and large, indifferent.” He also described handing over chat logs from his access to secret chats for a two-month period to media organizations.

Keys, himself, thought “Sabu” “trusted” him and he wrote in a post for Reuters on March 7, 2012:

In late December 2010, Sabu confided in me some personal details. He said he was a single, unemployed foster father of two children, and was living on government assistance. He said he lived in the metropolitan area of New York (he was arrested at his apartment on east side of Manhattan, in fact) where he would take on technology gigs as they came. If none came for a while, he would hack into a vulnerable server used by an e-commerce website, obtain a few hundred — maybe a few thousand — names and credit card numbers, and sell them to other hackers. Before selling them, he’d make sure the credit cards were still valid by charging small donations to a variety of charities — the American Red Cross was a favorite among Sabu, Kayla and other hackers.

According to the post, Keys lost his access in January 2011. Also, while in the chats, he recorded the logs.

He wrote that he told “Sabu” he “recorded the conversations that took place in the InternetFeds chat room — not as text logs, but as screen shots, just to refute any future claims that the text had been manipulated if they were discovered or published” and “Sabu was unhappy.”

If the FBI truly thought Keys had done something, he could have been indicted long, long ago. He could have been arrested when agents identified six men—including Hammond and “Sabu”—and made charges against them public. Perhaps, the fact that Keys had identified himself as a journalist in the chat room did not lead the Justice Department to indict him until now. Maybe, even though federal agents would have had the tweet from “Sabu” on Keys, they did not believe it.

If one removes “Sabu” from the equation for the moment, the FBI could easily be going after Keys because they know he has chat logs. They could be betting that, faced with charges where he could spend time in prison, he will inform on individuals he interacted with when he was in these secret rooms with members of Anonymous.

The indictment alleges that on December 8, 2010, he gave “one conspirator” unauthorized access to computer systems of Fox.” He responded under the name AESCracked, “It takes a while to grant one username permission to every site. I’m doing that now.” Then he joined the secret “InternetFeds” chat room and allegedly told “unidentified individuals that he was a former employee” and “proceeded to give them a username and password and told them to ‘go fuck some shit up.’”

Who knows where the FBI obtained this information in the indictment, but would it be surprising to find out this is all from “Sabu” or that he is the “one conspirator” referenced in the indictment?

Publicly, Keys presented himself as someone acting as a journalist in the chats with Anonymous members. He ended up writing a story on his time spent in chats so it is troubling to think the FBI may be going after an employee of a media organization to flip him and have him inform on what he knows about people in Anonymous. Even if he offered no protection to those in the chats and said they could be exposed, it is bothersome to think the investigators are going to go through his communications now and use the communications to piece together details that could lead to the indictments of others. This prosecution is almost guaranteed to destroy Keys’ life and one thing on his mind will be what he can share to make some kind of a deal (provided he knows anything the FBI doesn’t already know).

14 Mar - They don't want us to organize by Alex Hundert

We've included the latest by 2010 Toronto G20 "main conspiracy" prisoner Alex Hundert.

MORE:

One of the core features of authoritarian systems is the monopoly over the legitimate use of power. Only the authorities are allowed to exercise it. While prison is inherently an authoritarian institution, it is important to be able to recognize it as a microcosm of the ways that more encompassing systems function in our purportedly democratic state. The idea that power is rooted in a people’s consensus is but a fiction manufactured to elicit both complacency and complicity.

When people, imprisoned or otherwise, try to organize themselves — whether within or outside of the structures and procedures designated by authority as proper — if the goals of that organizing are counter to the interests of those who hold power, those organizers will be targeted and the so-called rights of people negated. Rights only exist in so far as they do not substantively undermine the needs and legitimacy of power, of those in charge. They do not want us to organize.



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While I have been imprisoned at the CNCC, every attempt that I have made to act against the deteriorating conditions in the prison, though mostly in accordance with authorized structural mechanisms, has not only been negated or dismissed but also at times criminalized. This very much parallels some of my pre-imprisonment organizing experiences as well, where sometimes those efforts most in accordance with so-called “proper channels” were often those most targeted by authorities for criminalization.

In prison, this institution’s administration has repeatedly denied access to, or even the existence of, some of Correctional Service Ontario’s rules. I have been on multiple occasions threatened by guards and senior management. I have faced disciplinary action without even being accused of breaking the rules. Any attempts to appeal to the notion of rights or policies have been entirely negated, one way or another. None of these experiences are unique to myself. They are standard fare in prison, like in most authoritarian institutions and systems.

It is not a coincidence that the actions which led to the original conspiracy charges I faced, the breach of bail conditions I was re-arrested for, and the counseling charges I was forced to plead guilty to were themselves all seemingly protected by a doctrine of rights, yet criminalized because those rights were being exercised in a form that challenged the very legitimacy of the ways that power is monopolized in the neo-authoritarian statist system we are currently living under.

In such systems granted rights, guaranteed freedoms and democratic processes are only valid when used in ways that reinforce the legitimacy of power. So when people attempt to organize for individual or communal autonomy, or the decentralization of power, or to improve the lives of people in targeted communities which would undermine the system’s order, those efforts will be negated and criminalized. This is the system we live under. Prisons illustrate and embody, enforce and reinforce this authoritarian system.

In the federal prison system during the 1970s, in a series of riots, imprisoned people literally fought and died to challenge this type of systemic negation of their dignity as people who, though imprisoned, remain members of communities that collectively comprise an allegedly democratic society. One of the results of that period of resistance was the creation of inmate committees — currently institutionalized through Correctional Service of Canada’s Commissioner’s Directive 083 — which now serve as organizing bodies for imprisoned people and as an internal accountability structure within federal prisons.

A few months ago, several of us imprisoned at the CNCC decided that we wanted to try to establish something similar here, knowing that such a thing once existed in this very prison. In order to force the issue of accountability and input from imprisoned people for the day to day operations that dictate our lives here, we were going to simply submit request forms asking to start an inmate committee.

Before the request even made it past the guards, I was pulled off our range by one of them. Making explicit threats, he told me that such an effort would not be tolerated. He threatened to “search and strip” various ranges on the unit and to “put it all over me,” meaning that he would tell other imprisoned people that it was on my account that privileges would be revoked and cells trashed, meant to result in retributive physical violence against me. “I’m going to start doing your time and lots of other people’s time,” he told me.

Some of the people I had been collaborating with still wanted to push forward. We knew it was not a bluff from the guards but we were ready to see things escalate. However we had not done the work of building support on the unit for such efforts and knowing that people other than ourselves who had not consented to conflict would bear much of the brunt of the guards’ recrimination, we took a step back to strategize.

The protest-action in December, that resulted in myself and two others being thrown in the hole, was a



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spontaneous response to worsening conditions in the prison at a moment near the culmination of that strategy. A week later we were almost ready to make our move, when I was then thrown back into solitary confinement on a “security hold”. I think that security figured out that something was about to happen. Nothing moved forward during the additional month that I was in segregation and by the time I returned the momentum had largely dissipated, tensions having been redirected to interpersonal conflicts among the imprisoned people.

One of the reasons we need an inmate committee here is to have space to deal with conflict between groups of imprisoned people. Another is to build a platform from which to demand accountability and to address issues including lack of access to books and programs, discrimination and racism, abuse of authority, and deteriorating living conditions. An inmate committee would be a representative body that would enable us to provide input for ways to decrease violence in the prison, to address needs, and to empower us to make our own lives better while we are in prison.

One of the preliminary strategic steps we took was an attempt to start a unit-wide inter-faith discussion group. This was to allow us to talk about racism within the prison population and in the broader world, misogynist attitudes that are prevalent amongst the population, discrimination and violence in the prison against people living with HIV/AIDS and queer and trans people; and to do work together to build, maintain and support connections and reintegration in our communities, as well as to give us experience and to foster an expectation of being able to organize together. This proposal was officially rejected because the prison is “understaffed,” but a member of the chaplaincy had forewarned me that the initiative would be turned down because the administration does not want to give us “space to conspire.” They don’t want us to organize.

Not only do they not want us to organize, they don’t even want us to know the rules. (This is part of why legal codes and procedures are so difficult to decipher and navigate.)

This prison has, on multiple occasions, literally removed from my mail the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services Act and its attendant Regulations, Regulation 778.

A security manager here, Sergeant Beninger, told me that imprisoned people are not allowed to see the legislation for security reasons, and refused to discuss the appropriateness of this rule. When I asked why we are not given access to the Inmate Information Guide for Adult Institutions, all he could say was that people imprisoned here are supposed to receive copies upon admission. He would not comment on the fact that we do not.

When I wrote to the Superintendent, Robyn Kasha, formally requesting access to the legislation, she responded by saying that the request should be redirected to the Education department because the MCSA is “resource material” and we are therefore only entitled to have access to it during class time. This would mean that only the estimated 10-15% of people imprisoned here who are enrolled in the education program are entitled to see the provincial legislation, the laws that govern this place. When I challenged Deputy Superintendent Johnston and refused to accept his repetition of the “security reasons” mantra, he acknowledged that “of course” we have a “right” to have a copy of the legislation.

There is, however, quite a logical reason why the institution’s administration considers it a security risk for imprisoned people to have access to the MCSA. The act and its regulations — those passed in provincial parliament — dictate a very different set of rules than those which govern the lives of people imprisoned here.

Our granted rights are infringed upon and violated in systemic and institutionalized ways on a daily basis here. The terrible conditions on the Segregation Unit, for example, do not in any way correspond to the rights that have been guaranteed to us by elected parliamentarians. It turns out that the “rules” of provincial prisons are



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determined not according to the legislation, but by a lengthy document called the Institutional Services Policies and Procedures Manual which is authored by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and has not been passed by the provincial legislature.

According to a January 24th letter that I received from Superintendent Kasha, "for security reasons the ISPP is not a public document."

So apparently the Institutional Services Policies and Procedures Manual authored by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, which fundamentally undermines and contravenes the rights guaranteed to us by elected representatives, is a secret document. A more Orwellian negation of democratic principles could not be invented. And people wonder why I do not believe in electoral democracy.

Within an oppressive system prison can best be understood as an institution that both enforces and reinforces the established order. On the one hand prisons are an enforcement mechanism whose spectre breeds compliance and complacency. On the other hand, the systemic patterns of how, why, and who is imprisoned ingrains hegemonic norms and shows complicity. Further, when we understand prisons as microcosms that illustrate the functionality of order and authority, complacency and complicity, we can glean deep understandings of how power functions in both micro and macrocosmic systems.

One of the ways that we can see prisons operating as a systemic microcosm that shuts down the ability of people to organize is to understand the prison's role as a warehouse. Prisons warehouse — they store away people whose participation in ostensibly democratic societies power seeks to deny. They keep people out of their communities thereby denying their participation. This is obvious when we look at who is primarily targeted for imprisonment: Black people, poor people, Indigenous people and people disabled by inadequate social support for denormalized mental health conditions.

Within the prison, the Segregation Unit functions as an internal jail where similarly warehoused are those whose presence is deemed undesirable in the General Population. In the Segregation Unit, also known as "the hole," are people whose mental health conditions the institution is unable or has no interest in supporting, and those labeled as threats to security. Some people merely spend short terms in segregation as punishment for "misconduct" thus serving as disincentives for challenges against the authorities' claims over people, enforcing order, and reinforcing complacency as well as the values of exclusion.

I recently spent five weeks in segregation because my endeavours to organize have caused me to be classified as "likely to endanger the security of the institution."

Initially I was thrown in the hole on "misconduct" for "inciting a disturbance." After a week in segregation where I was able to find ways to build support for prison hunger-striker David Cedeño I was returned to the General Population with a "reprimand" for my "non-violent" offence.

Once out of segregation I immediately started working to spread word of Cedeño's actions amongst the population of imprisoned people. His strike was as much for the dignity and rights of all of us and against the oppressive nature of this institution as it was about confronting the ongoing attacks he was facing from the guards. Awareness of his struggle and support for it was a potential catalyst for broader resistance inside the prison and could have sparked the fuel to start an inmate committee here. It was also simply important for people to know about David Cedeño — knowledge is often the most dangerous threat facing authoritarian regimes.

It seems that as soon as the authorities became aware of these efforts, I was quickly thrown back in the hole, just



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48 hours after getting out of segregation. However it has also been suggested by one of the guards that I was never supposed to have been let out in the first place. I was never given a “misconduct” for this occasion as there were no rules they could point to that I had broken. I was merely guilty of sharing information. Nonetheless I was held for another four weeks in solitary confinement under the vague notion of a “security risk.” After four more weeks in the hole, I found an opportunity to agitate against the authoritarianism of this institution — even from solitary confinement. I began to challenge the procedures and policies — the rules — that are in practice on the segregation unit. I told other imprisoned people about their so-called rights and I explained to the guards that the orders they were following are contrary to what the legislation accords.

One day I showed a guard a copy of the MCSA Regulations (that I managed to finally get my hands on). He agreed that it very clearly guarantees imprisoned people a standard of living that is grossly violated by institutional practice. An hour later a sergeant was at the door of my cell. I showed her the same section of Regulation 778. Her response was to inform me that the issue was “above her pay grade.” Two hours later, along with two guards and two sergeants, Deputy Superintendent Johnston was in my cell to talk to me.

It seemed that all of a sudden my “security review” had been completed and they were ready to return me to the general population. I guess they had to stop me from undermining the authority of the institution through teaching people about the legislation. However, being moved out of segregation did not come without renewed threats.

Johnston told me that if another “disturbance” occurred it would not matter whether or not it was “non-violent” (nor if I was actually guilty of “inciting”), not only would I be put permanently back in segregation and lose my “remission” (extending my sentence), but I would also be hit with new “serious criminal charges.”

If I am forbidden from even talking about “rules” and “rights” then obviously organizing is to be out of the question.

When we were arrested during the G20 summit a group of us were charged with “conspiracy” — not doing something, talking about something — a thought crime; meeting to plan protests (and yes, some of those protests included elements that are “illegal”). Over the 48 hours following the police raid on my house more than 1100 people were arrested. Fewer than 300 were ever charged, fewer than 50 convicted. Most of the arrests were totally unwarranted and obviously illegitimate (as if any armed kidnapping — which is what an arrest is — should ever be considered “legitimate”).

Less than half way through our preliminary inquiry, the Crown wanted to drop charges against two thirds of the Main Conspiracy Group defendants and to have six of us plead guilty to “counseling” charges, to sharing information. I pled guilty to two counts, one stemming from a series of activist workshops, one for compiling a list of potential protest sites. For this I received a 20 month prison sentence.

At one point while I was out on bail, I was arrested for participating in a speakers’ panel that was arranged to talk about post-G20 organizing and movement unity. Allegedly this constituted a breach of the order not to participate in any public demonstrations — a “demonstration” being defined as any public meeting in which any moral or political matter is discussed.

And allegedly, this is not an authoritarian state.

The premise that the authoritarian power holders of our society do not want us to organize is a system-wide reality. By “us” I mean anyone who through their actions, or through their very bodies and identities, challenge the system’s dominant norms. For example: people of colour in a white supremacist society, trans people in a



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cis-supremacist heteronormative society, Indigenous people in a settler society. I hope that people can see that.

We are living with a mounting slew of measures from all levels of government that undercut the power of unions, of environmental groups, of cultural groups, of community organizations, of advocates, and of anyone who would organize to improve the lives of people in targeted neighbourhoods and communities. The very practice of non-governmental, non-corporate organizing — from unions to NGOs to community groups — is under attack.

While I have been able to document some of the recent attacks on the efforts of imprisoned people to organize at the CNCC, and to narrate some of the resistance to those attacks, there is nothing new or unique to this story.

This purportedly democratic state has a long history of criminalizing dissent and the organizing of people(s) who have been cast as peripheral to the hegemony of the dominant normative culture. Whether through historical and ongoing attacks against Indigenous Peoples' sovereignty, the over-policing and stigmatization of neighbourhoods of colour, or the myriad ways that austerity cuts are eliminating opportunities for poor people to organize in their own neighbourhoods, this state has always sought to prevent targeted people from being able to organize. And not only do I hope that people can see that, but I hope we are ready to fight back.

15 Mar - Seth Hayes hit for the 9th time at the parole board this week

Seth Hayes was recently denied parole for the 9th time, though he has served 40 years on a 15 year to life sentence.

MORE:

Greetings everyone and especially supporters of Seth Hayes. Seth was "hit" again at the Parole Board for the 9th time. The reason given was the same reason given for previous 8 parole board appearances: "due to serious nature of the crime." Seth was given a risk assessment last year and it came back very low. Seth has had a great work record, discipline record, a family. Seth is also a Vietnam veteran, having received the purple heart. This reasoning has nothing to do with rehabilitation, with the community in mind, his family. It also fails to recognize the 15 year to life sentence Seth has served past the mandatory 25. Seth, now in his 60's, has been incarcerated since 1973, and is now in his 40th year of incarceration. Seth is not the only one either, the Department of Corrections and the Parole Board have much interest in keeping inmates inside. More to come in the future.

16 Mar – Daniel McGowan Spring Update

It has been some time before we sent out a proper update about Daniel. The last 3 months have been busy with helping Daniel adjust to life outside of prison. His support crew recently sent a comprehensive update.

MORE:

We wanted to thank everyone for the supportive emails we have received since December. Not only has Daniel seen and read all of them but we are all appreciative of the support that people have continued to show him since 2005.

How is Daniel doing since release?

This is the question we get the most and its a tough one for a few reasons. We want to protect Daniel's privacy and his desire to move forward but he also wants people to know he is doing well. As you may know, Daniel is working for a law firm in NYC and started two days after he got to the halfway house. He is working full-time, seeing his wife Jenny, family and friends on weekends and counting the days until he comes home for good. He is not doing media interviews nor can he attend public speaking events at the moment. We will continue to share emails sent to friendsofdanielmcg@yahoo.com with Daniel.



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Is Daniel still in custody? What's the deal with the halfway house?

Daniel was released from prison on December 11, 2012 and is serving the last 6 months of his sentence at a halfway house in New York. Because he is in BoP custody and still serving his sentence, his activity is limited to work, home and medical appointments. He cannot get unannounced visitors or calls at the halfway house. Unfortunately, Daniel was denied home detention, which would have allowed him to come home month ago and report to the halfway house weekly. There was little reason given other than that it relates to Daniel's charges. The Bureau of Prisons continues to punish Daniel and ignore his complete lack of disciplinary violations. Thankfully on June 5th his sentence ends and he starts a three year term of supervised released (probation).

What ever happened with Daniel's lawsuit against the Bureau of Prisons?

We have had a number of small victories in the Aref v Holder lawsuit that Daniel is a plaintiff on. This is the lawsuit filed in April 2010 against the Department of Justice and BoP for designating Daniel (and other prisoners) to a Communication Management Unit (CMU). [The suit's defendants are Attorney General Eric Holder; Charles Samuels, Director of the BOP; D. Scott Dodrill, Assistant Director of the Correctional Programs Division of the BOP and Leslie Smith, head of the BOP's Counter Terrorism Unit].

In the last few months, we were granted the right to file an amended complaint charging that the BoP retaliated against Daniel for his Constitutionally-protected political activism and speech. It was confirmed through the viewing of previously-secret documents in the legal discovery process that Daniel's political speech was the rationale for sending Daniel to a CMU two separate times (a total of 47 months). You can read the amended complaint at <http://j.mp/WyC9Yx>

A few weeks ago, Daniel won an order denying a summary judgment motion filed by defendants over a year ago that argued that he had only complained to the facility that the transfer violated his constitutional rights and did not specify that it was retaliatory. Our lawyers countered that Daniel's administrative complaint was more than adequate. Nearly 16 months later the Court agreed, denying the motion for summary judgment.

In February, the defendants filed yet *another* motion to dismiss (read at <http://supportdaniel.org/files/motiontodismiss2013.pdf>) which reiterates the same arguments they raised in the last motion to dismiss. In this one, they released redacted memos written by Counter Terrorist Unit staff regarding Daniel's placement in the CMU. These are very interesting and contrary to the written rationale given to Daniel for CMU placement.

Next up, we will be filing a response to the defendants' Motion to Dismiss the week of March 18, 2013. Big thanks to our lawyers and the staff at the Center for Constitutional Rights for their efforts with this lawsuit. You can download the latest two-page CMU flyer [here](#).

T-Shirt sale is on!

We are having a T-shirt sale this weekend!!!

All Support Daniel T-shirts, with the beautiful image made by Kristine Virsis, have been discounted. These shirts have been printed since early 2006 in order to raise funds for Daniel's legal defense and commissary fund but we are now at an end. There are roughly 20 shirts left and we wanted to sell these ones to our supporters at a discount. We will not be printing these again!

For only \$13, you can get a Support Daniel T-Shirt (printed on American Apparel) at <http://www.simpleregistry.com/welcomedanielhome> The price includes domestic shipping. Questions & International orders? Contact us at friendsofdanielmcg@yahoo.com



What's next for Daniel?

We are going to leave that one up to Daniel. As for us, our group will be disbanding once Daniel is home. For the last 8 years, we have kept up a steady and energetic campaign of legal defense, prison support and release/re-entry help for our friend. While this all continues offline, we are ceasing our public work. Daniel is one of many political prisoners in the system and while he is out, there are many people still inside. We want to lend our efforts and support to those people. We will be using the Support Daniel list serves, website, Facebook profiles and Twitter feed to that end.

Please check out the following support websites for Political prisoners and more specifically, eco prisoners. These people are all in need of your support.

Eric McDavid: <http://www.supporteric.org>

Marie Mason: <http://www.freemarie.org>

Walter Bond: <http://supportwalter.org>

Steve Murphy: <http://www.supportsteve.org>

Other ecoprisoners: <https://earthfirstnews.wordpress.com/ef-prisoner-support/list>

NYC ABC Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners: <https://nycabc.wordpress.com/guide>

Portland ABC: <http://pdxabc.com>

Denver ABC: <http://denverabc.wordpress.com>

Thank you all for your continued support of Daniel these past 8 years. We want to thank all the people who donated for the Welcome Home registry we set up and came out for the various December 7th events held in NYC, Eugene, Portland and Niagara Falls. Those events and your efforts have made it so Daniel did not have to worry about buying essential items like clothes, etc.

21 Mar - Support Russell Maroon Shoatz Meeting

Folks are organizing to get Maroon Shoatz free and the next meeting is Thursday, March 21st.

MORE:

The time has come for our March monthly meeting, THURSDAY, MARCH 21st, 2013, 7 PM, at 339 Lafayette Street

BE THERE as we finalize NYC plans for the upcoming urgent 30-Day Pressure Campaign, April 8-May 10, for Maroon's IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM SOLITARY, and discuss the upcoming May 3 NYC BOOK LAUNCH for Maroon the Implacable, the just-released collection of Maroon's insightful writings.

Proposed Agenda (please send comments/modifications):

1. Social, Networking time
2. Introductions
3. Film Clip: Maroon
4. Brief Reports from Working Groups:
 - a. Media/Literature (including 30-Day Campaign, and website update)
 - b. Finance/Fundraising (including May 3)
 - c. Outreach (including Anarchist Book Fair, and Film Showings)
5. Discussions:
 - a. Organizer's Weekend Training Session
 - b. Summer Study
6. Next Meeting: April 18 OR a weekend date?????



5 Apr – ProLibertad Teach-in for Jailed Puerto Rican Revolutionaries

WHAT: Puerto Rican political prisoner teach-in

WHEN: 6:30pm, Friday, April 5th

WHERE: Casa de las Americas - 182 East 111th Street (between Lexington and 3rd Avenues)

COST: Free

MORE:

Thursday April 4th, 2013 is the 33rd anniversary of the arrest of 11 of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners! After years of struggle, we still have 2 Political Prisoners left! Join The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign as we commemorate the men and women who have been imprisoned for fighting for the freedom of Puerto Rico!

Program:

Letter Writing to Oscar and Norberto!

Films on the Political Prisoners!

Come hear about the New Campaign for Oscar Lopez Rivera!

A report on the case of Machetero Norberto Gonzalez Claudio!

Contact: The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

Website: <http://www.ProLibertadWeb.com>

Email: ProLibertad@hotmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProLibertadFC>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ProLibertad>

Tele: 718.601.4751

13 Apr – Benefit show for NYC Anarchist Black Cross and Wolf Mountain Sanctuary

We're really excited to see folks organizing a benefit for us. There will be loud bands and plenty of information on the prisoners we support as well as for the other organization receiving funds from the benefit-- a wolf sanctuary appropriately named Wolf Mountain Sanctuary.

MORE:

WHAT: Benefit for NYC ABC/Wolf Mountain Sanctuary

WHEN: 7:00pm, Saturday, April 13th

WHERE: Fitness – 1196 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn, New York

COST: \$8-\$10 donation

BANDS:

BARBARIAN (record release, NYC)

SKELPTARSIS (NYC crust)

LORDS OF DEATH (NY DBEATDOWN)

DISCHAKA (NY DBEAT PUNKS)

more bands TBA

14 Apr – Book Party for "Exiting the Prism" by Jalil Muntaqim

WHAT: Book party

WHEN: 1:30-4:30, Sunday, April 14th

WHERE: Brecht Forum – 451 West Street (Manhattan)

COST: Free, with books for sale



MORE:

NYC Jericho is very happy to report that we finally have a venue for Jalil Muntaqim's Book Party!!

The Brecht Forum at 451 West Street in Manhattan has agreed to host our event on Sunday, April 14, 2013 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

As soon as we have confirmed some poets and spoken-word artists, we will announce them on our website, www.jerichony.org

Plan to come, have a great time, eat some food, buy the book and help Jalil EXIT THE PRISM!