



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for August 20th

10 Jul - Casey Brezik sentenced to 12 years for stabbing

In 2010, anarchist Casey Brezik tried to assassinate the governor of Missouri. He was recently convicted and sentenced to a dozen years.

MORE:

The man who tried to stab Governor Jay Nixon, but instead stabbed a college dean, will spend 12 years behind bars.

A judge sentenced 25-year-old Casey Brezik to 12 years on each of three counts – assault, and two armed criminal action charges – and seven years on a second count of assault. All sentences will run concurrently.

The attack happened in September 2010 at Penn Valley Community College.

Dean Albert Dimmit was stabbed, but did recover from his injuries. Gov. Nixon was set to speak at the campus but was not there during the attack.

5 Aug - A3 Newsletter: On a Move, But the Struggle Continues

On July 12, Louisiana's Hunt prison reduced Herman Wallace's classification from maximum to medium security and transferred him out of solitary confinement into a 10-bunk dorm inside the prison hospital, where he has access to a day room, and does not have to wear leg irons.

MORE:

While celebrating the more humane conditions, we emphasize that the transfer from solitary is not enough and we are asking folks to continue supporting Amnesty International's call for compassionate release.

Expedited Review of Herman's Case

There is also some exciting news in Herman's long dormant habeas case. Judge Jackson began a recent status conference with Herman's legal team by granting Herman's request for expedited review. He said he will not issue a formal ruling but has spoken with the Magistrate Judge (Riedlinger) and gotten assurances that he can and will issue his recommendation within 30 days. Then each side will have 14 days to submit simultaneous responses, and another 14 days after receiving the other's first response to rebut. Judge Jackson said he is prepared to rule as soon as both sides have their final say.

Herman's Health

In more disturbing news, it also came to light last week that the medical team at LSU, where the prison took Herman to for diagnosis 6 weeks ago, had actually ordered 2 rounds of oral chemo, to have started then, 6 weeks ago. However, the prison failed to administer this altogether, and as a consequence Herman's tumor has continued to grow. This proves what was already suspected--that the prison is not providing anything close to a reasonable standard of care. In fact it seems to be intentionally disregarding the medical advice that they themselves had sought. This is on the heels of a diagnosis that, by expert opinion, is at least six months later than it should have been given Herman's recent medical past. After some quick pressure from the legal team, Herman has now begun his oral chemo regimen. He has not yet experienced any pain related to the treatments and seems to have regained his appetite. Hopefully they can help slow the progress of his disease and give us some much needed time to ensure that his does not become the poster case for "justice delayed is justice denied."

A3 Together Again

In more heartwarming news, last week Herman, Albert, and Robert were together again for the first time in several years, thanks to a court order granting them time to meet jointly with their attorneys in the lead up to the civil case next summer. Obviously, they had tons of business to discuss during the 6 hour meeting, but as those lucky enough to have spent time with them in person know, there is something intangibly magical about each of these incredible men individually, and therefore something incredibly powerful and productive about them all being together in the same room once again. The attorneys have gotten a court order to have regular monthly meetings leading up to the trial next June.

New Song Dedicated to Herman

Amy Ray from the Indigo Girls has just released a new song inspired by Herman Wallace and the Angola 3, entitled *The Rise of the Black Messiah*. The song's title is a reference to the infamous March 3, 1968 FBI COINTELPRO memorandum from one month before Martin Luther King's assassination, declaring the need to "prevent the rise of a 'messiah' who could unify, and electrify, the militant black nationalist movement," with the then anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist King cited by the FBI as a potential 'messiah.'

Reflecting on making her song about Herman, Amy Ray describes the challenge of finding words to describe what Herman has been subjected to: "Any person, let alone an innocent one suffering in solitary confinement for 40 years, is just paralyzing. There are no gray areas in the case of the Angola 3, this is clearly an abuse of human rights, but the historical context of it is so mind-blowing that it's hard to write about."

A3 Solidarity With CA Prisoner Hunger Strike

Albert, Herman and Robert have all been involved in numerous hunger strikes from their early 1970's strikes demanding that food trays not be shoved under the cell door on the floor for sanitary reasons, to their last hunger strike in 1998 to protest the prisons reduction of their hard won contact visit privileges and other diminishing rights.

Robert says: "During the early seventies, Albert, Herman, and I participated in hunger strikes. We understood then (and now) that this was an effective 'tool' to get the attention of the prison administration, and it sets the stage for further negotiations."

This week, our media activist project, Angola 3 News, published video coverage of the July 31 protest in Oakland, organized in support of the hunger strikers in California.

5 Jul - Alan Turing, Jeremy Hammond, and Breanna Manning

All three of these people are or were information specialists: hackers, government technicians, and/or cyberneticians. All of them are seen as heroes by some, and as traitors by others. The work of two of them, in the service of their countries, has contributed to the deaths of people in other countries. Two of them attacked the war effort by illicit means, while another, in another war, contributed to it heavily.

MORE:

Two of these actors are queer, which fact has been handled unevenly—sometimes capitalized upon and sometimes ignored, often punished. One is having his reputation rehabilitated, and is nearing canonization as a gay martyr; another has been championed by liberals internationally; the third is supported mainly by anarchists who are divided even among themselves about his character.

State use and state destruction of queers are intimately connected—how do we fight our co-option while also fighting for survival? In the wake of Breanna Manning's conviction for leaking military secrets, a conviction that was made on the evidence of a queer snitch: what can be said about legibility and narrative control, about becoming discernable and keeping secrets? As Parliament debates overturning Alan Turing's conviction on the charge of gross indecency, the queer relationship to cybernetics and its corresponding recuperation by gay-friendly corporations like Google deserves thought. And, as Jeremy Hammond faces prison time for hacking a private intelligence company, what does security mean to us?

The past

1.

Breanna Manning, referred to by most as Bradley Manning, joined the military in 2008. As an out gay person, she was bullied to the point of torture by her fellow cadets and drill sergeants. She screamed back at them, and never attempted to hide or deny her queerness, although Don't Ask Don't Tell prevented her from being fully out. On the weekends, she became involved in the hacker community, and spent time at the Boston hackerspace. She was deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2009, where she was miserable, often working 20-hour shifts in a dim computer room. She began talking about her depression to friends on the Internet. When she visited the US a few months later, she spent time with her partner, hung out at the hackerspace, and began publically presenting as a woman. She mentioned to her partner that she had classified information, and was thinking of leaking it.

Alan Turing studied mathematics at Cambridge; he was elected a fellow in 1935, when he was only 22, upon proving the central limit theorem... again; he hadn't noticed that someone else had solved the problem thirteen years before. During the next several years, he developed the concepts behind Turing machines (now generally seen as the first theorized computers), argued math with Wittgenstein... and was recruited as a codebreaker by Bletchley Park in the leadup to WWII. During his work for the park, he made many significant cryptographical advances. Though he was seen as quite eccentric, he was highly esteemed by his colleagues; most recognized him as a genius, without whom the English would have lost the war. It is unclear whether most of them knew that he was gay; it seems that knowledge was generalized only upon his later conviction.

Jeremy Hammond began programming when he was eight, and started organizing against the Iraq War when he was a teenager. He founded HackThisSite, a computer security teaching website, when was eighteen; a year later, he was kicked out of college for pointing out a security flaw on the computer science department's website. He gave a talk at Def CON that year about electronic civil disobedience as a possible form of attack on the Republican National Convention. He was arrested several times that year and the next for occupying a park, protesting Nazis, and fighting with anti-gay protestors at Chicago Pride. At this point, his name became muddied; he gave a tape of the Pride altercation to his lawyers, against the wishes of the other arrestees. As a result, some anarchists now consider him a snitch. In 2006, he was convicted of hacking Protest Warriors, a notorious reactionary group that attacks leftist and anarchist protesters; he was sentenced to two years in federal prison and three years' probation. He was arrested twice more in 2010, once for confronting the Holocaust denier David Irving in a restaurant, and once for protesting the Olympics.

2.

Breanna Manning long opposed the war she found herself involved in fighting. When she saw the video now known as Collateral Murder, which shows US soldiers indiscriminately killing Iraqi civilians, she decided to act—she sent the video and many other classified documents to WikiLeaks. She smuggled out the information by, among other methods, bringing in CDs labeled “Lady Gaga” and burning data onto them while pretending to enjoy the music on headphones. She came out as a woman to her commanding officer a short while later, and, in the ensuing days, experienced intense psychological and emotional pain over both the secret she was keeping and the secret she was telling. While a psychiatrist recommended her for discharge, she was only demoted and reassigned. She reached out to a few people she admired, but found a listening ear only with Adrian Lamo. Lamo had a reputation as an oppositional queer hacker; he promised her repeatedly that she could trust him, that he would never snitch, and encouraged her to say more. She talked with him at length about her gender dysphoria, about her mental and emotional struggle... and about the leaks. They chatted for four days; Lamo met with the FBI on day two. Six days after they began talking, she was arrested—as a direct and immediate consequence of Adrian Lamo's betrayal.

Alan Turing was living quietly enough after the war. He was awarded a medal by the King for his war work, but it all had to be kept secret; he was recognized as a hero only by those who were there. He continued to publish significant papers on computing, but was hampered in this by the required secrecy around breakthroughs made during his work for the government. He started thinking seriously about artificial intelligence, and developed the idea of the Turing test—what he's most commonly known for today, and, humorously enough, the reverse conceptual basis of CAPTCHAs. He also worked on mathematical biology, considering Fibonacci numbers in plant structure. All of this was cut short, however, by his decision to go to the police when his home was burgled.

He told the police that the robber was an acquaintance of his new lover. Upon this admission, both Turing and his lover were arrested and charged with “gross indecency.” This began the ruin of his life.

Jeremy Hammond was arrested by the FBI in March of 2012. He was accused of hacking Stratfor, a private intelligence company, and passing 5 million of their emails on to WikiLeaks. His arrest is based largely on evidence provided by Sabu (Hector Monsegur), a LulzSec cofounder; they chatted about the attacks Jeremy performed, but as comrades, co-conspirators. Unfortunately for Jeremy, Sabu was already planning to betray him. Sabu praised Jeremy, and said—linking the alias Jeremy was using to another—“If I get raided anarchaos your job is to cause havoc in my honor.” “It shall be so,” Jeremy replied... and the Judas kiss was complete. The FBI used this conversation, and the personal background information Jeremy had shared with Sabu, to arrest him.

Sabu’s story is pretty sad, as snitches go. He was responsible for the children of his incarcerated aunt, with whom he lived in the projects; he hacked not only as a political action, but also to pay the bills. The government asked if he wanted the kids to go to foster care, to see another parental figure imprisoned... and he rolled, hard. He actively elicited and gathered information on LulzSec and AntiSec members and activities, and was described by the FBI as a model informant. His work is directly responsible for the arrest of seven people, including Hammond. Despite this cooperation, Sabu faces up to 122 years in prison. His sentencing has been postponed without explanation.

3.

After her arrest, Breanna spent eleven months in solitary confinement, often under suicide watch. While prison is always cruel, many have described the conditions of her detention as particularly inhumane. In response to widespread pressure from prominent academics, nonprofit leaders, and celebrities around the world, she was eventually transferred to the prison at Fort Leavenworth, where she was occasionally allowed to interact with other people. In February 2013, she pled guilty to 10 of the 22 charges in exchange for a maximum sentence of 16 years. She was tried on the remaining charges, and found guilty of all but two. She was not found guilty of aiding the enemy, a capital charge. As I write, she awaits sentencing.

Alan Turing was given a choice between imprisonment and forced estrogen treatments, designed to make him impotent; he chose the treatments, which he endured for a year. His security clearance was revoked under the excuse of widespread anxiety about homosexuals’ vulnerability to blackmail by Soviet agents. On June 8th, 1954, he was found dead of cyanide poisoning, with a half-eaten apple beside his bed; his longterm friend speculates that Turing was gesturing towards his favorite part of Snow White, the scene of the witch poisoning the apple. In years since, he has been honored in many ways, and is now generally acknowledged as the father of computer science. The British prime minister recently apologized on behalf of the government for “the appalling way he was treated,” and it seems likely that he will be pardoned soon.

In June, Jeremy Hammond pled guilty to one count of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. (As his support campaign points out, this is the law recently used to drive Aaron Swartz, another hacker, to suicide. Two of Breanna’s charges are also violations of this act, which basically adds penalties for using a computer to commit a crime. Like the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, it is a law used specifically to target activists and radicals.) Jeremy faces up to ten years in prison, and has already spent nearly a year and a half in pre-trial detention; this pre-trial time alone is more than his Irish and UK co-defendants were sentenced to. Meanwhile, his twin Jason Hammond has been arrested and charged with three felonies for allegedly participating in the Tinley Park attack upon a white supremacist group in 2012.

The now

What can we say about all this? The central point, of course, is that these are all real people in terrible situations. With the exception of Turing, for whom there can only be memory and revenge, they currently need tangible solidarity. We cannot contribute to the media’s tendency to reduce them to a story, archetypes, causes. These people are complicated, fragmented, neither wholly victims nor heroes: humans. (Of course, it is also fine to

decide to not support someone because of their questionable practices or history.)

Still, there are a few common threads that seem relevant and worth discussing.

Recuperation and assimilation always serve the purpose of extracting value.

Turing is being rehabilitated as a hero not because the world has improved, but because it now serves the purposes of capitalism to “acknowledge forgotten gay history.” The apologies offered are a shadow play designed to distract us from the real evil done to him, committed with his help during the war (he worked for the Allies, but all sides are evil when empires fight), and enacted now by the cybernetics workers who identify with him. Manning’s case has been used to argue for reform in the military’s treatment of gays—if she had been treated with respect around her orientation and gender, the argument goes, she wouldn’t have broken military law. Both she and Jeremy Hammond have been used by WikiLeaks (and Julian Assange in particular) for the purposes of self-glorification; they rot in prison while WikiLeaks presents itself as a noble journalistic organization that just wants our military decisions to be made more democratically. In all these situations, the actors have received recognition and support mostly because it profits someone else.

Some are more recuperable than others.

It is notable, though, that Hammond has received far less public support than Manning—in part because his proposed sentence is much lighter than what she faces, but surely also because of his past as an anarchist. I do not personally see him as more deserving of support than Manning, particularly with his questionable past actions in mind... but the story of a young, patriotic soldier, driven to the brink of insanity by homophobic bullying, who couldn’t keep the truth of the ugliness of war to herself and had to share it with the American people, is a far more appealing narrative to liberals than an anarchist deliberately attacking a corporation “for the lolz.”

Still, the least publically appealing aspect of Breanna Manning’s situation has been little dwelt upon: her placement as a trans woman. At first this was kept quiet out of respect for her privacy and her family’s wishes; people argued that we couldn’t know how she really identified, given her imprisonment and lack of communication. But now that the full chat logs and her personnel files have been released, now that we have read her words “i wouldn’t mind going to prison for the rest of my life, or being executed so much, if it wasn’t for the possibility of having pictures of me plastered all over the world press as a boy” ...now there is absolutely no excuse for misgendering her. So why does her official support campaign continue to do it, after all their confrontations with supporters who want to respect her gender? It seems clear that they are trying to accommodate the transphobia of others. This will not save her, and it is not worth it. When there is so little we can do to support her, the least we can do is talk about her with respect.

Legibility.

Regardless of the physical danger, being out at least to each other, if not the world, can feel necessary for our survival. Our parents and support campaigns, who just want to protect us from ourselves, often think this is against our best interests. Sometimes they’re right—for Turing, doing the secret work of breaking and ensuring secrets while living an at least semi-closeted life, exposure of any kind meant death. It is only in death that his life and work can be proudly represented and claimed by all who feel an affinity with him; he is no longer a threat, but a cracked code.

Now, the internet made possible by the work of so many technology workers like these three—sometimes military, sometimes anarchists, often queer—gives isolated queer youth the ability to access a community that helps them survive, a place where they can be real, even as it contributes to overall social alienation. For anarchists and such, online social networking is a tempting trap, one that helps us organize and stay in touch... but also provides fodder for our court cases. In an asymmetrical war, communication is all we have, but it is so heavily monitored and mediated that few of our interactions can be trusted. We are constantly torn between the need to be legible (whether it is to speak truth to power, or to convert new anarchists, or to signal disorder; our goals differ) and the need to be impenetrable to the authorities. It is their handling of this nuance that made

LulzSec (and some Anon attacks) so appealing—its deliberately anti-political stance, its refusal to have goals other than particular attacks. And, within our scene, anonymity is important as a means of decreasing unwanted social capital, or sharing power more equitably. So how can we disappear... and yet find each other?

Never talk, ever; don't keep dirty secrets.

Breanna Manning revealed the dirty secrets of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, illegally stealing information (which, hackers say, “wants to be free”) and sharing it with anyone who cared to look. From an anarchist perspective, this was an incredible and courageous act against the war. She also tried to be open about her sexuality and gender in a dangerous environment. As much torment as she endured for this, it seems from reading the logs, without knowing her, that most of her distress came from being forcibly closeted when she was trying to be out... and from trying to keep the secret of her leaks. She talked to Adrian Lamo because she had to for her emotional survival; but that attempt to find safety led directly to her downfall.

On the other hand, we applaud keeping some secrets, and turn our backs on those who do not. While Sabu's collaboration, although horrifying, was the result of intense personal pressure from the government, Lamo seems to have turned Manning in for no greater reason than to curry favor with the authorities. Jeremy Hammond made a decision that was either simply unwise or equivalent to snitching, depending on who you ask; Alan Turing's persecution was the indirect result of his attempt to use the police to address a problem.

When does transparency trump safety? When is it betrayal, and when does it serve our goals and ideologies? One thinks fondly of Os Cangaceiros' mass distribution of prison plans in 1989 and 90, a clever and provocative form of leaking as attack that didn't fuck anyone over, or lead to their own arrests. How can we speak openly, share information, connect with others in a manner that does not reserve itself only to the blandest community organizing—without endangering anyone? What risks are worthwhile? How can we internalize security culture without becoming our own police?

There is no excuse for snitching. However, practical questions emerge: if personal needs can never trump our commitment to absolute secrecy, what can someone in Sabu's situation do—or in Breanna's? We have to support those we expect to keep our secrets, provide them with the solidarity they need to know that they can survive without talking. Silence is an act of love, and it must be both answered and provoked by a loving solidarity.

Security & safety.

America fights wars and arrests hackers in the interests of national security. Turing was employed by the British government to break the security measures of the German military; his security clearance was removed because his homosexuality posed a threat to security. During Manning's trial, the government has repeatedly tried to direct attention away from the political questions at stake, and to instead focus the court's attention on the narrative of a soldier who deliberately violated security protocols needed to keep American soldiers safe. (No links, observers say, can be made between Manning's leaks and subsequent deaths in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.) Hammond destroyed the security of a private intelligence firm whose explicit purpose is to break and sell security; but his earliest exploits took as their premise, in classic “good” hacker style, the idea of exposing security flaws in order to eliminate them. The snitches in these cases broke security culture in the most blatant way—by passing on their information directly to the authorities.

In an inherently precarious world, when does the concept of security serve to actually keep us safe and when does it serve as a means of repression? How many blows do we refrain from striking in the name of safety? How do we use the peril that the most marginalized of us face to disclaim our own abilities, and to disregard the courageous actions those people so often choose?

The machine goes on.

Of these three, only Alan Turing can safely be the subject of endless speeches and documentaries and histories: a white cis man who worked faithfully for the government, guilty only of calling the police over a robbery during an era when the police did not yet work for him. He can no longer embarrass those in power, having already been murdered by them; all that is left of him is his continuing ability to produce value. We've come a long way;

Turing may have killed himself because of forced hormone treatments, but now, in our progressive era, Manning can be punished by lack of access to them.

I dream of an anti-heroic, queer hacker assemblage, a war machine that fights not for rights, not for the destruction of a company or a war—but of everything. I wish to hold absolute solidarity with those who are gesturing towards that destruction now, and to critically examine the strategies our enemies deploy against us... including those they are unconscious of. As gay Google employees create loving animated memorials to Turing—and as, perhaps, the most radical of them post an article about “the Bradley Manning trial” to their Facebook walls—I wonder if they consider not only the benefits they reap from the struggles of queers who’ve gone before them, but also the ways in which they are now being relentlessly used by the same machine. It is a softer, gentler, biopolitical machine now, one with benefits and an incredible cafeteria; it could nearly pass the Turing test.

In memory of Aaron Swartz.

Support sites

<http://freejeremy.net/>

<http://www.bradleymanning.org/>

Wikipedia pages

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Turing

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremy_Hammond

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradley_Manning

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_v._Bradley_Manning

Outside sites

<http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2011/07/manning-lamo-logs/>

<http://snitchwire.blogspot.com/2010/07/jeremy-hammond-statement-from-hackbloc.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/09/technology/hacker-informant-and-party-boy-of-the-projects.html>

<http://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/os-cangaceiros-a-crime-called-freedom-the-writings-of-os-cangaceiros-volume-one>

<http://www.google.com/doodles/alan-turings-100th-birthday>

<http://www.rememberaaronsw.com>

August 6th - Military Court Reduces Maximum Punishment That May Be Imposed Against Bradley Manning

A military judge partially granted a defense motion to merge specifications or offenses for “unreasonable multiplication of charges” in the sentencing phase of Pfc. Bradley Manning’s trial.

The defense for Manning filed three motions on July 30 seeking to merge offenses for findings (meaning as part of the verdict) and sentence. They requested that offenses related to the stealing, purloining or knowing conversion of databases containing Iraq and Afghanistan War Logs be combined as “one transaction.” They requested he offenses related to the communication of the two databases to WikiLeaks be merged because they were “one transaction.” They then requested that several offenses be merged for sentencing.

Judge Army Col. Denise Lind did not grant any of the defense motions to merge offenses for findings. Lind did not find that Manning had stolen the information in both databases on the same day. She also did not find that the access and extraction of information was one act. Rather, she concluded, “Pfc. Manning had to access separate databases to extract” them, and “these were successive access/extractions that constitute separate and distinct” offenses.

The judge did not consider the communication of the databases to WikiLeaks because they involved “separate matters of defense information.” The “transmission of each” constituted a violation of the Espionage Act and a general article of the United State Military Code of Justice (UCMJ). And, “Charging the volume of national

defense information transmitted” from both of the databases did “not misrepresent or exaggerate Pfc. Manning’s criminality or unreasonably increase his punitive exposure.”

The judge did, however, grant several of the defense’s motions to treat offenses as pairs for sentencing. She ruled that punishing the following offenses separately would “unreasonably increase Pfc. Manning’s punitive exposure”:

- adding unauthorized software (specification 2 of Charge III) with stealing of the “Gitmo Files” (specification 8 of Charge II)
- adding unauthorized software (specification 3 of Charge III) with stealing of “Cablegate” (specification 12 of Charge II)
- stealing of the Iraq War Logs (specification 4 of Charge III) with wrongfully storing classified information (specification 16 of Charge II)
- using an information system other than intended (specification 4 of Charge III) with stealing of the global address list (specification 16 of Charge II)
- stealing of the Iraq War Logs (specification 4 of Charge II) with Espionage Act offense related to Iraq War Logs being provided to WikiLeaks (specification 5 of Charge II)
- stealing of the Afghan War Logs (specification 6 of Charge II) with the Espionage Act offense related to the Afghan War Logs being provided to WikiLeaks (specification 7 of Charge II)
- stealing of the “Gitmo Files” (specification 8 of Charge II) with the Espionage Act offense related to providing “Gitmo Files” to WikiLeaks (specification 9 of Charge II)
- stealing of “Cablegate” (specification 12 of Charge II) with exceeding authorized access on a computer in violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (specification 13 of Charge II)

Partially granting this motion meant the maximum punishment Manning faces was reduced from 136 years to 90 years.

6 Aug - NATO 5 Updates

A lot has happened with the cases that collectively add up to the NATO 5. We've added a complete update below.

MORE:

August 6th - Mark of the NATO 5 Thrown in Solitary – Call/Write-In Campaign

Mark “Migs” Neiweem (of the NATO 5) has been in solitary since July 13th – without being charged with any violation and without a chance to defend himself. Call, e-mail or write the Director of the Department of Corrections to ask that he release Mark from solitary.

For Mark, being in solitary means reduced visitation, no phone calls, limited commissary, and isolation from all human contact. Mark had enrolled in GED classes and was attending Narcotics Anonymous meetings, invaluable resources that he is denied access to while in solitary confinement. Due to his limited ability to communicate with the outside world, Mark’s transfer to solitary was discovered when supporters paid an unannounced visit on July 18. We have been working with his legal team to try to resolve this situation ever since.

As a reminder, Mark accepted a non-cooperating plea deal in April after serving 11 months at Cook County Jail, where he was beaten and interrogated regularly. He is serving the minimum sentence of 3 years for his charges and, with time off for good behavior, will be paroled in November. He has spent the last several months in the medium security unit at Pontiac Correctional Center planning for his future after release.

You can read the communiqué Mark wrote while at Pontiac here:

<https://nato5support.wordpress.com/2013/07/01/open-communicue-by-migs-mark-neiweem/>

We are asking every concerned person around the world to call S. A. Godinez, Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, at (217) 558-2200 and Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois, at (217) 782-0244 and ask to speak with them, demanding:

Why is Mark Neiweem being held in solitary, despite his clean disciplinary record?

Why is Mark Neiweem being denied due process to defend himself against any allegations of misconduct?

Why is Mark Neiweem being denied access to resources for his upcoming release, including the GED class he enrolled in and the Narcotics Anonymous meetings he voluntarily attended?

Remove Mark from solitary now and send him back to medium security!

Additionally, you can email your concerns to their offices at the following links.

Director Godinez: <http://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/contactus/Pages/default.aspx>

Governor Quinn: <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Pages/ContacttheGovernor.aspx>

A sample letter is provided here:

Dear Director Godinez / Governor Quinn:

I am writing in regards to an inmate at Pontiac Correctional Center, Mark Neiweem (M36200). Until recently, Mark was housed in the Medium Security Unit after nearly a year of pretrial detention at Cook County Jail. His friends and family had noticed a positive change in his attitude since resolving his case and being transferred to Pontiac. He resumed his GED studies, began attending Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and was making detailed plans for his parole in November and his future beyond that.

As of July 13th, Mark has been moved to a maximum security division at Pontiac, where he is being held in solitary confinement. He has no disciplinary record for violence at Cook County Jail, Stateville, or Pontiac and has not been charged with any misconduct now. He and his legal team have been informed that he is “under investigation” with no further information available.

I would like to know:

Why is Mark being held in solitary, despite his clean disciplinary record?

Why is Mark being denied due process to defend himself against any allegations of misconduct?

Why is Mark being denied access to resources for his upcoming release, including the GED class he enrolled in and the Narcotics Anonymous meetings he voluntarily attended?

I am concerned that Mark’s well-being is in jeopardy for no valid reason and request that his case be reviewed. I would also like to request that Mark be moved back to medium security while he is under investigation, as he has not caused harm to any other inmates and is, in fact, focused on preparing for his own upcoming release. Transferring him back to medium security will allow Mark to continue working toward his GED and getting support for substance dependency through Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

We miss Mark and look forward to seeing him again in November. In the meantime, it is important to us that he have every chance to build a strong foundation for a new life after parole.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

By calling on Director Godinez and Governor Quinn to demand answers, we are holding them accountable for

the treatment of Mark and all other prisoners in Illinois. Using the force of our network, we will show them that arbitrary punitive measures will not be overlooked nor tolerated.

We won't sit down.

We won't shut up.

We won't forget about our comrade.

We will stand and speak for Mark. We will fight for him.

Call every day until Mark is released from solitary.

Share widely. Repost. Retweet.

For more information on the NATO5 cases, see <http://nato5support.wordpress.com>

You can write letters of support to Mark here:

Mark Neiweem M36200
Pontiac Correctional Center
Post Office Box 99
Pontiac, Illinois 61764

August 8th - NATO 3: Judge Orders Photos of Defendants' Tattoos, Confirms January 2014 Trial Date

The NATO 3—Brent Betterly, Jared Chase, and Brian Jacob Church—appeared in court again on Tuesday for a brief status hearing. The hearing began with the prosecution stating that they had filed the Fourth Supplemental Answer to Discovery and that most of the remaining evidence in the case has been given to the defense.

The prosecution also requested photographs of all the defendants' tattoos. The defense strongly objected since the tattoos were not relevant to the charges against the defendants, some of them had received tattoos during the time they have been incarcerated pending trial, and the relevance of any tattoos would be hard to show since it may be unclear which tattoos they had when. The judge granted the request and the photographs were scheduled to be taken in the holding area of the courtroom after the next hearing so the defense attorneys could be present.

Finally, the judge talked with the defense and prosecution to lay out this trial schedule:

- * Sept. 3: Next status hearing
- * Oct. 1: Discovery deadline
- * Oct. 15: Deadline for responses to discovery issues
- * Oct. 29: Deadline for submitting motions in limine
- * Nov. 12: Deadline for responses to these motions in limine
- * Nov. 26: Deadlines for submitting exhibit lists and trial briefs
- * Dec. 10: Final pre-trial conference
- * Jan. 6, 2014: Trial

Our full Court Notes are available on our website (<https://nato5support.wordpress.com/court-documents/court-notes/>). Now that a clearer trial timeline is in place, the defense team is kicking up its preparations to ensure the strongest defense for our comrades, who remain

behind bars.

August 9th - UPDATE: Call/Write-In Campaign – Get Mark Out of Solitary!

Mark “Migs” Neiweem (of the NATO 5) has been in solitary since July 13th – without being charged with any violation and without a chance to defend himself. We continue to request that you call, e-mail or write the Director of the Department of Corrections to demand that he release Mark from solitary immediately.

Earlier this week we posted a call to action asking activists and supporters to call and write in to Director Godinez of the Illinois Department of Corrections and Governor Quinn after Mark Neiweem, one of the NATO 5, was unjustly thrown into solitary confinement. He is “under investigation” by the gang intelligence unit for his political speech and an open communiqué he published from behind bars.

Mark is STILL in solitary confinement and STILL has not been charged with any misconduct to warrant this transfer. In retaliation for our efforts on his behalf, he has been moved to a filthier, more restrictive part of the solitary confinement unit and is now being held behind a steel door. He is now totally isolated as he cannot see or hear other prisoners or staff as they walk by his cell. Prison officials have installed a “feeding box” so he does not even have contact with the guard who brings him his food. This is the absolute highest security setting in Illinois, being used against someone who has not been charged with violating any prison rule.

Mark is feeling strong and in excellent spirits, but we must demand answers and action on his behalf. After describing the garbage and the rats in his new housing he says, “No biggie. Just didn’t realize how much better I had it 3 hours ago. :) Anyways, the state may be onto something – a little more abuse and neglect to my basic needs and I might very well start goosestepping to their ways, embrace their rule, and become a flag-waving, Republican-voting capitalist slob. Fingers crossed. A little more and I’ll be fully rehabilitated. :) “

As you can see, Mark is not intimidated by these punitive tactics but remains strong in the face of adversity. We need to keep pressuring the state to move him back to medium security and allow him to continue preparing for parole in November.

August 15th - Photo Drive for Mark of the NATO 5, Held in Solitary for Being an Anarchist

Mark “Migs” Neiweem of the NATO 5 has been in solitary for over a month. Please send him letters and photos (printed on plain computer paper) to give him something to look at in his cramped cell.

Prison officials have responded to the call-in campaign we hosted to demand that Mark be released from solitary confinement by bringing two charges against him. These charges are inherently political, claiming that Mark’s reading, writing, and speaking with others about Anarchism, as well as being in possession of Anarchist symbols, is dangerous to the facility. Although Mark is due to be released in November, if these charges are upheld he faces up to two more years at Pontiac – all of it in solitary confinement.

For an example of Mark’s political writing, please see the Open Communiqué we published on his behalf.

Now that charges have been brought against Mark, his legal team is working to defend him against them. In the meantime, Mark is in the worst part of the prison with virtually no human contact. He describes his cell as “a tiny box”:

I reach my arms out and touch both walls with room to spare. I don’t know the dimensions but it’s by far the smallest cell I’ve ever been in. The front is steel plates with some holes drilled in them and the tiny view is of a brick wall 8 feet away. No light but the one they leave on nearly 24 hours a day.

I’ve got my head rested up against a pillow on one wall and my legs straight out, elevated and kicked up on the other wall. My ‘man cave’ has shrunk to a ‘man hole.’

Please send pictures of people, places, and things. These walls are ugly.

While Mark and his lawyers fight these charges, please join us in sending letters and photos to brighten up his ugly little cell. Photos should be printed on regular computer paper, not photo paper.

You can also send a customized postcard with a picture of your own via FlikShop <<http://www.flikshop.com>>.

August 15th - Sabi of the NATO 5 Deported to Poland

Sebastian “Sabi” Senakiewicz of the NATO 5 has been deported to his native Poland after spending several weeks in immigration detention. Last November, Sabi took a non-cooperating plea deal to charges of falsely making a terrorist threat after being targeted by two undercover Chicago cops who had infiltrated activist groups in Chicago. He ultimately completed a 4-month boot camp sentence to execute his sentence with the understanding that he would be deported afterwards since he does not have US citizenship.

As Sabi and his mother were driving away from his boot camp graduation last month, their car was pulled over and he was taken into ICE custody to begin his deportation proceedings. He was expecting to be on house arrest for about a month prior to deportation.

We do not know when we will hear from him about how he is doing, but we will keep you updated.

6 Aug – New Writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal

We're including transcripts of Mumia's latest commentaries.

MORE:

August 6th - RAPPER-IN-CHIEF

It is tempting to view the nation’s first Black president, after 5 years in power, as George W. Obama.

Former president, G.W. Bush, was the very essence of neo-conservatism; quick to war, averse to peace, a holiday for the rich, a nightmare for the poor.

President Obama, the essence of neoliberalism, has echoed Bush’s martial spirit, and has been the benefactor of Wall Street, and the banks, while millions – millions! – have suffered from foreclosures.

In his recent speech after the painful denouement of the Trayvon Martin trial, the president hit some good points about the case, then came up empty when it came to action, saying, essentially, ‘there’s little I can do’!

Amazing.

The presidency of the U.S. Empire is, among politicians, the most powerful and most coveted post on earth.

‘There’s little I can do’!

The problems facing Black America are massive and, frankly, overwhelming, and, from cradle to a quick grave, the nation is at war with Black boys. The schools are primers for prison, and streets are doorways into danger and, far too often, disaster.

Notice the words that never passed his lips: mass incarceration; the prison-industrial-complex; the historic and unprecedented loss of over half of the nation’s Black wealth via unjust and illegal foreclosures.

The President does what the President wants to do.

George W. Bush made that clear every day of his presidency, and except for his social security reform (which, thankfully, never came to pass), he hit many of his policy objectives.

He fought for what he and his supporters wanted. Period.

This president, cool as a rule, has said what he couldn't do.

See the difference?

Black America is on fire.

Isn't it time someone put it out?

August 6th - BRADLEY MANNING: Private Democrat

The mania that followed the release of a flood of military papers, videos and consular communications by U.S. Army Private and Intelligence officer, Bradley Manning, hasn't been seen since the height of the anti-communist scares of the 1950's.

Bradley Manning, recently convicted of a plethora of charges before a military judge, faces over a century in prison, for, among other things, espionage.

Manning is about as much a spy as Mickey Mouse.

But he was so grossly overcharged that it was virtually inevitable that some judge, somewhere, feeling the pressure of prosecutorial and political zeal, would convict him of charges that no serious observer could support.

And although a military judge threw out a charge that would have meant a life sentence (for "aiding the enemy"), the remaining charges expose Manning to over 100 years in prison.

Manning released classified videotapes showing U.S. troops shooting unarmed civilians and at least one journalist, armed with a camera.

Needless to say, none of these killers of innocents face 100+ years in jail. Nor are they ever likely to.

Manning believed that in a democracy, the People should be able to see what their military and political leaders do in their name.

For that, he was thrown into solitary, naked, and taunted – until international protests became too loud to ignore.

Under International Law, Manning was subjected to torture; for daring to act on the belief that Americans have a right to know.

Bradley Manning awaits formal sentencing.

August 8th - In the Name of AL QAEDA

For well over a decade, since the events of 9/11, the group Al Qaeda has performed quite a service for the West and its Imperialist ambitions.

Since then, the Mid-East has been hurled into hell, and Iraq has joined Afghanistan as places to flee from, to get away from as quickly as humanly possible.

No one can dare to honestly say that things are even remotely better in any occupied state; nations split asunder by Western arrogance, paranoia, greed and fear.

Since the invasions by the U.S. and its so called allies, communities have fallen into sectarian wars, and Western

backed 'leaders' have given puppetry a bad name.

Iraq has become a bloody curse; a den of hatred and corruption.

To the imperialists, this is 'progress', for it is easier to exploit.

And now, in the name of the so called 'war on terror', new wars are being bred, in the Arab world, and in North and East Africa. New intrusions on the rights of Americans, the right to the explosion of the national security state, complete government surveillance of every American communication, of every privacy.

Just several months ago, the Obama administration announced that al Qaeda was on its heels; its leaders droned into eternity, its followers scattered.

Today, the whole of North Africa, an area larger than the U.S., is on high alert, because of al Qaeda 'chatter'.

Are they on their heels, or on the run? It doesn't look like it, as 22 embassies close their doors.

Al Qaeda came into being, researchers say, because of the training and money of British, Saudi and Pakistani (not to mention, American), intelligence. They needed them to fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

They are what they made them.

Yet they remain, instruments of Empire.

August 14th - Trayvon Who?

If the media is any measure of the mood of the masses, then the sound and fury of the Trayvon Martin case is over.

In place of the rage of protest is now silence, and 'the Beast' (the media), moves on. In search of new prey. A missing white female? A windfall from the state lottery? An Obama-Putin dust-up?

Cool.

The rage of millions now gets pushed under the dark, roiling waters of yesterday, to bubble briefly, and drown in the muck and mire of memory.

As for 'leaders', both civil and political, aside from lame efforts to repeal laws, they have no idea how to attack this situation, and they return to their primary jobs to keep the masses cool, to tamp down their furious anger; to keep a false peace.

And things just get worse and worse.

National civil rights groups, tied at the hip to the Democratic Party, work in tandem to keep the many cool, lest true resistance arises.

The late, great scholar-activist, Manning Marable, in his 2002 work, *The Great Wells of Democracy*, noted how local activists, often at odds with national groups, pushed for change, and used imagination, insight, and grassroots power to build movements against police and their racist violence against Black people.

Wrote Marable: "Such struggles bring into the public arena diverse and sometimes contradictory ideological and social forces. In the Cincinnati grassroots resistance movement, a wealth of new ideas were brought out in public brainstorming sessions, especially in the areas of public policy issues and economic development" {p.205}

Marable concludes, "...[virtually unnoticed at the local level, in hundreds of black communities across the nation; successful models of resistance are flourishing.]"*

Trayvon Martin's life and sacrifice is too precious to be left in the hands of politicians.

People must 'organize, organize, organize' (to quote the late revolutionary, Kwame Ture), to build resistance movements to protect and defend Black life.

It must begin, as all life begins, at the grassroots.

6 Aug - Message from Jaan Laaman regarding Aug. 6th & 9th + Black August

We're passing on messages from our comrade Jaan Laaman.

MORE:

Hi -- hope all of you are feeling at least alright today. Last night, talking about Black August issues and realities with some people and about the month overall -- today, Hiroshima, the burning memory for all humanity -- and on the 9th, Nagasaki... And of course Aug 7th and Jonathan's heroic stand and call out --- and the struggle and death of George on the 21st. A lot of death and dying I guess, but, even more, so much for us to consider how this living is and should be, going on into the future. Dynamic Peace and Justice - jaan

9 Aug - Lynne Stewart update

Sadly, on August 9th, Lynne Stewart was denied compassionate release by a cowardly federal judge.

MORE:

August 9th - Dying Lawyer's Request for Release From Prison Is Turned Down

Benjamin Weiser (*New York Times*)

A federal judge in Manhattan declined on Friday to order the release of Lynne F. Stewart, an outspoken former defense lawyer who is dying from cancer in a federal prison in Texas.

The judge, John G. Koeltl of United States District Court, said he could not order such a release under a federal Bureau of Prisons program for terminally ill inmates without the bureau's first making a motion seeking such action. But the judge suggested that he would look favorably upon such a request if it were presented by the bureau.

"The court would give prompt and sympathetic consideration to any motion for compassionate release filed by the B.O.P, but it is for the B.O.P. to make that motion in the first instance," he wrote.

Ms. Stewart, 73, defended Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind cleric convicted in 1995 of conspiring to blow up the United Nations and other city landmarks. She was later convicted of smuggling messages from the imprisoned sheik to his violent followers in Egypt, and in 2010, Judge Koeltl sentenced her to 10 years in prison.

Ms. Stewart, who was found to have breast cancer in 2005, is serving her sentence in a prison hospital at the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth, where doctors last year determined that her cancer had spread to her lungs, lymph system and bones, court papers show.

In April, she asked the Bureau of Prisons for a compassionate release, a request that the prison warden recommended be approved. In June, the bureau's director rejected the request, leading Ms. Stewart's lawyer, Jill R. Shellow, to ask the judge to vacate her sentence.

In denying the request, Judge Koeltl rejected the argument that keeping Ms. Stewart in prison, given her serious illness, violated the ban on cruel and unusual punishment. "There is no right that requires the release from prison of terminally ill inmates," he wrote.

Ms. Stewart has since asked the bureau to reconsider its decision. Ms. Shellow said: "While we are disappointed, this is hardly the end of this fight. Lynne is going to continue to actively pursue a compassionate release through the B.O.P., and we expect to be back in court, and hope it will be sooner rather than later."

The Bureau of Prisons declined to comment, as did the United States attorney's office in Manhattan.

August 10th - Letter from Lynne: "send a 'shout' out to the BOP, AG Holder and Pres. Obama"

Friends, Supporters, Comrades:

Well, we are once again being educated in the meaning of "protracted struggle", not that anyone wanted or needed this. It was clear yesterday in Court in NYC that Judge Koeltl was not going to act solely within the "spirit" of the law but would instead rely upon the Bureau of Prisons to make a "legal" motion on my behalf. Although the lawyers valiantly argued that justice does not allow for a "right" without a "remedy", in my case, the right to die at home and the fact that there is no appeal (remedy) from the Bureau's decision.

There are new and compelling facts now before the BOP—the prognosis now of 18 months and the fact that the PET scan revealed that the most serious cancer (of the lungs) is getting worse. The Judge yesterday, asked the Government to concede (as their papers did by not contesting any facts) that I qualified in every respect for the release. They, of course, remained silent. For that reason I am asking once again that all of you send a "shout" out to the BOP [Federal Bureau of Prisons], AG Holder and pres. Obama and express any outrage you might feel that the days and months are ticking by and I remain in Texas. The DC Prison Bureaucracy clearly would just as soon see me die here.

So, not to be discouraged or disheartened by this latest legal impediment—the walls of Jericho DID come tumbling down, eventually!

9 Aug - FCC Passes Order To Lower Prison Phone Rates

On August 9th, The Federal Communications Commission issued an order to lower the cost of prison phone rates.

MORE:

It's an historic move by the Commission and years in the making. More than a decade ago, Martha Wright and several families of inmates petitioned the FCC to regulate the price of prison phone rates that can sometimes cost more than \$15 for a 15 minute call.

Today's order requires phone companies to base rates on actual costs and cap them at 25 cents per minute while the Commission collects more data. The order also prohibits companies from charging deaf and hard-of-hearing customers extra for the use of relay services.

11 Aug - Campaign to Transfer Marie Mason from Special Isolation

The campaign to have Marie moved from her special isolation unit is underway! Please write a letter today.

MORE:

You can download the brochure at <http://supportmarie.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/move-marie-brochure.pdf>

Here's a sample letter to the director of the BOP:

Charles E. Samuels, Jr., Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons,
320 First St., NW, Washington, DC 20534

Dear Director Samuels:

I write on behalf of Marie Mason # 04672061, a federal prisoner, who is incarcerated at BOP FMC Carswell to ask that she be transferred to a minimum security prison as close as possible to her mother in Michigan where she can also visit more easily with her children.

The highly restrictive nature of the Carswell administrative unit she is currently confined to is inconsistent with the fact she has never broken any prison rules.

Her sentence would best be served in a facility consistent with her peaceful personality and constructive nature. Thank your for your attention to this matter. If a reply is possible, it would be appreciated.

Sincerely, [Your Name]

12 Aug - FBI Harassment in NYC

In the week since July 30, 2013, there have been at least three incidents of FBI/Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) harassment aimed at anarchist and radical circles in Brooklyn.

MORE:

While we can only speculate as to the State's specific intent, it is nonetheless obvious that this intimidation is a part of the State's ongoing campaign to criminalize political ideas and associations. It is of the utmost importance that we, as a movement, stand together, stay strong, and protect ourselves. If you come into contact with an FBI agent or other law enforcement, be aware:

1) Lying to a federal agent is a crime, for which you can be incarcerated for up to five years for each charge. The safest response to anything an agent says is therefore to remain silent. Ask for the agent's business card and explain firmly that all questions are to be directed to your lawyer. Immediately call the National Lawyer's Guild at 212-679-6018.

2) Don't let federal agents or any law enforcement into your house without a valid warrant, and do not consent to any search.

3) If you have been contacted by law enforcement regarding your political associations, please contact the National Lawyer's Guild's hotline: 212.679.6018 and Stop Anarchist Witchhunts (SAW):info@anarchistwitchhunt.org / <http://anarchistwitchhunt.org/>

Our best weapon against repression is solidarity!

August 14th - FBI's Classic Divide-and-Conquer Tactics Tried Again in NYC

In the past week, individuals in New York City have been visited by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations. They say that they are investigating the 2008 bombing of the Times Square military recruitment center, and have been asking about many different individuals.

According to the FBI's recent June 2013 report, the bomb used in the incident, described at the time as unsophisticated, was made out of an ammunition can commonly used in the fields of Iraq and Afghanistan. The bombing occurred at around 3:30 in the morning. No one was near to get injured and it caused only minor damage to the center. The height, weight, age, sex and race of the suspect are unknown. Let's keep it this way.

It is possible that this FBI investigation is only peripherally related to the open grand jury investigation that has imprisoned anarchist Jerry Koch. While Jerry has been granted immunity from the bombing incident, he is currently imprisoned at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in order to coerce him to inform on others who are suspected.

The FBI's current focus on specific people exploits ongoing rifts in activist circles, in an effort to glean information to persecute and imprison individuals. During the recent spate of FBI visits, agents have been suggesting that multiple people have been identified as responsible for the Times Square recruitment center bombing, using methods such as insinuating that those accused are themselves already informants for the state. All of this is an obvious effort to encourage others to inform on each other. Law enforcement agents are legally allowed to lie to accomplish their missions. This is a simple divide-and-conquer tactic exploiting the already fractured anarchist scene. It is understandable that the FBI would choose weak points in our community to try to

sever the spirit and resolve of all who might come together to fight against oppression. We hope that each one of us can see the benefit of fighting activist repression in whatever form it takes.

Stay strong, understand your rights, and remember what we have in common. We can galvanize our communities and fight against the wedge tactics of the state. If they had enough evidence to charge anyone then someone would have already been arrested and charged. The FBI needs us to make their case. It's up to us not to give them what they want.

If faced with questioning by any police or FBI, you do not need to talk to them. You do not need to let them in your home without a valid warrant. They are legally allowed to lie to you. Ask for a business card and call the National Lawyers Guild at 212.679.6018.

13 Aug - The government wants media gag for Barrett Brown

Barrett Brown, the once self-appointed Anonymous spokesman and journalist, who faces over a century in jail for — among other charges — reposting links containing credit card information gleaned from the Stratfor hack, has attracted a fair amount of media attention during his year in pre-trial detention.

MORE:

Natasha Lennard (*Salon*)

There is good reason to pay attention to Brown and his case, which could set a troubling precedent for liability when reposting information online were he to be found guilty. However, the government prosecution has filed a motion for a “Gag Order” (to disallow media).

Brown’s defense has pointed out to the presiding judge that despite writing from jail and speaking to a handful of journalists, Brown has made no justice-obstructing statements. The government’s argument is that they want to ensure Brown’s case is tried in court rather than put on public trial in the media, with Brown’s and his defense team controlling the narrative.

However, at a time when Bradley Manning faces decades in military prison, Jeremy Hammond faces a ten-year sentence for his role in the Statfor hack and Edward Snowden is hiding in Russia for fear of persecution for revealing uncomfortable truths about government surveillance, Brown’s case also reflects a general epoch of troubling crackdowns; his voice as both journalist and activist in the midst of one such crackdown is an important one to publicize. If default messaging comes from the government, the media must be allowed access to dissenting (and incarcerated) voices like Brown’s.

As filmmaker Vivien Lesnik Weisman (who is making a documentary featuring Brown about government persecution of leakers, activists and hackers) wrote for HuffPo:

The Gag Order is for all parties to refrain from talking to members of any television, radio, newspaper, magazine, website (including bloggers), or other media organization about this case, other than in matters of public record.

The government believes that Brown and counsel intend to use the expanded time to try the case in the media, as implied in linking the denial of a continuance and the request for a Gag Order. The government contends that the attorneys are coordinating and soliciting media coverage of the case.

... As to the government’s assertion that Brown and his counsel are soliciting media coverage of the case, in respect to myself, this is utterly false. I am making a movie about the targeting of hacktivists and journalists. He is a well-known journalist who has been published in *Vanity Fair* and *The Guardian*, to name a couple. Why would it be surprising that we find it news that one of our own is facing 105 years in federal prison for doing his job?

14 Aug - Abdullah Majid Medical Emergency: Call the Superintendent!

Political Prisoner and former Black Panther Abdullah Majid, to whom we are sending a card tonight, needs our help.

MORE:

Brother Abdullah is in debilitating pain and unable to walk without assistance, due to an acute case of sciatica.

Abdullah has suffered in this state for over a week and has, to no avail, submitted to all prison procedures, which are required in order to get medical attention, namely the "sick-call process."

We are asking that you call the superintendent at Elmira Correctional Facility and demand that Abdullah Majid get immediate and proper medical attention.

Please call:
Superintendent Paul Chappius
607-734-3901

Regarding the prison's negligence as concerns the health and well-being of
Abdullah Majid
DIN # 83-A-0483

You can also write the Warden:

Elmira Correctional Facility
1879 Davis St
P.O. Box 500
Elmira, New York 14901-0500

Please also call and write the DOCCS Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Carl J. Koenigsmann
Deputy Commissioner/Chief Medical Officer
The Division of Health Services
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
The Harriman State Campus--Building #2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12226-2050
Tel.: 518-457-7073

August 16th update

Jericho National Secretary Paulette Dauteuil spoke to Abdul Majid's mom this morning and she had a 5 min call from Abdul last night, waiting for another longer one tonight.

Majid said that he got the MRI and is waiting to hear from the doctor, they also suddenly found his pain pills, and he was given one or 2 last night. It is wonderful what happens when they get so many call and his mom, and he asked Paulette to thank everyone for helping her son.

We need to now direct our call to get him a visit from a surgeon and the surgery to take the pressure off his sciatic nerve. The Jericho medical team is working to get him a medical representative so that outside doctors will be able to review his medical records.

If anyone knows down medical doctors and would like to know more about Jericho Medical please send an e-mail to nationaljericho@gmail.com

15 Aug - Suspect in eco-arson case to plead guilty

Here's a corporate news article about alleged ELF and ALF member Rebecca Rubin.

MORE:

Jeff Barnard (*Seattle Post Intelligencer*)

A woman who surrendered after a decade as a fugitive in the nation's largest eco-terrorism case is expected to enter guilty pleas on Oct. 10, court records show.

Rebecca Rubin, 39, was accused in a federal indictment of being a member of cells of the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front known as The Family.

Investigators blame the Eugene group for 20 fires across the West from 1996 to 2001 that did \$40 million in damage.

The documents say Rubin will be in U.S. District Court in Portland to change her previous not guilty pleas to charges of conspiracy and arson.

She has been in custody since surrendering in November to the FBI at the Canadian border with Washington state. At the time, her lawyer said she wanted to get the case behind her.

The cells are suspected in fires at a ski resort in Colorado, wild horse corrals in Oregon and Northern California, and lumber mills and U.S. Forest Service offices in Oregon.

Rubin was charged with helping set fire to buildings at a Vail, Colo., resort to prevent expansion into habitat for the threatened Canada lynx, and to U.S. Bureau of Land Management corrals in Eastern Oregon and Northern California holding wild horses rounded up from federal rangelands.

She also is accused of trying to set fire to a lumber mill office in Medford, Ore.

Ten people pleaded guilty in 2007 to conspiracy and arson charges and were sentenced to prison. Two others indicted in the case remain at large.

Rubin was not specifically charged with terrorism, but the indictment alleges she and other members of The Family tried to influence businesses and the government and attempted to retaliate against the government.

At the time of the fires, the FBI characterized the Earth Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Front as the top domestic terrorism threats in the nation.

Attorneys Richard J. Troberman and Ronald H. Hoevet, who represent Rubin, did not immediately return telephone calls for comment.

15 Aug - Chris French sentenced to one year for Chicago NATO actions

And here's a corporate news article about Chris French, arrested during the 2012 NATO protests in Chicago. He's going to serve a year in Cook County Jail for a misdemeanor.

MORE:

A Wisconsin man arrested during last year's NATO protests pled guilty today to a misdemeanor charge and was sentenced to just shy of a year in jail, according to prosecutors and court records.

Christopher French, 22, of Beaver Dam, Wisc., pled guilty to resisting arrest after prosecutors dropped felony aggravated battery of a police officer charges, said Cook County state's attorney spokesman Steve Campbell

said.

French had tried to break through a line of officers on bicycles near Van Buren Street and Wabash Avenue on May 20 last year, according to prosecutors.

French pushed an officer who was detaining a protester in the Loop about 8:45 p.m. that day, and then scuffled with police who tried to arrest him, slightly injuring three officers.

Cook County Criminal Court Judge Carol Howard sentenced to 364 days in jail, and given credit for the 84 days he spent in jail last year before posting a \$10,000 bond, according to court records. He also was ordered to pay \$254 in fines and fees, according to court records.

15 Aug - JTTF Approaches Anti-Fracking Activists

This week in Maryland, the the Joint Terrorism Task Force visited the home of an activist in Maryland, regarding the Momentive anti-fracking action on July 8 in North Carolina, and attempted to speak with their family.

MORE:

“On the afternoon of Thursday August 15th, two members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force visited the homes of anti-fracking activists in the Frederick, MD. This is related to recent actions against fracking that area activists participated in during the EF! rondo. If you are also visited please let your local legal support know. More importantly, if they come to your home please do not speak to them, and of course we will do the same.”

-Some local activists

This week, the FBI has also been poking around Northeastern anarchist communities. They have also approached climate activists in the Northwest. If you act or advocate against fracking, or are tied to communities that do, there is a chance that federal agents may approach you or someone you know in attempt to find out more information about radical communities. Often, agents will also attempt to target peripheral people who they believe they can easily manipulate in order to find information to build cases against others. As a precaution, speak with your household, friends and family about what to do if agents come to your house, and how important it is to not interact with them at all. You have no legal obligation to speak with them, and any interactions you do can only serve to harm you or someone else.

Here's a .pdf of If An Agent Knocks put out by the Center for Constitutional Rights that you can download and send to friends and family: <http://ccrjustice.org/ifanagentknocks>

You can also use this guideline as a reference: Never Talk to Police Officers, FBI etc. Train yourself, other activists, and your friends on these guidelines.

- If they come to your house to ask questions, do not let them in. From inside your door, or from outside with your door shut behind you, politely say “I wish to remain silent.” Ask them if you are under arrest or if they have a search warrant. If they say no, go back inside your house and close your door politely. If they come in anyway, say “I do not consent to a search.” Take note of who they are and what they do.
- It doesn't matter whether you are guilty or innocent. It doesn't matter how smart you are. Never talk to Police Officers, FBI, Homeland Security, etc. It doesn't matter if you believe you are telling police officers what they already know. It doesn't matter if you just chit chat with the police. Any talking to police officers, FBI, etc. will almost certainly harm you or others.
- If you talk to a police officer, you give him or her the opportunity to testify against you based on what you said or what they say you said.
- Don't talk to police officers, federal agents, or intelligence officers at all about anything. Simply and politely

say you wish to remain silent. Ask if you are being detained or are under arrest. If you are not, then walk away. If you are arrested or detained, repeat to everyone who asks you that you wish to remain silent and that you wish to speak to a lawyer. Say nothing else but your name, address, and birth date. Most convictions, whether people are guilty or not, come from people talking, not from investigative work.

- Learn about interrogation tricks and threats.
- Never Allow a Police Officer, FBI etc Into Your Home if They Don't Have a Search Warrant

16 Aug - The Effects of Long Term Imprisonment by Herman Bell

We're including the latest by Herman Bell, to whom we are sending a card tonight, below.

MORE:

Loneliness is a prominent fixture in a long-termer's life. He wakes with it and beds with it. It can lead to mental depression that is marked by sadness, inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, to a significant increase or decrease in appetite and time spent sleeping, to feelings of dejection and hopelessness, and sometimes to suicidal tendencies. In such a state the will is fragile: your hair might come out in clumps. You might pick at your skin, at your nose, or at both. Your lack of hygiene may cause noses to flair, people to talk about you, and even to avoid you. Another prominent feature of prison life is tension, which is so rife in prison that it is worn like an extra layer of skin. Anger is yet another feature: an unpaid debt, a slight - real or imagined - a look, an unguarded word, and it flares-up like a volcanic eruption. A person could well take a life or lose his own, or wear some hideous disfiguring scar because of it.

I write this not as a critique of the practice of imprisoning human beings, which I believe is an unacceptable form of punishment, but as a commentary on my observations and experiences in prison. Years ago I read a behavioral science report that said to confine a person in prison beyond five years is potentially damaging to his mental health. I knew this pig would not fly. Given the stiff prison sentences meted out to the poor and people of color in america, a five-year stretch is like doing a day. A twenty-five-to-life sentence is more like the norm than the extreme. When judges sentence people, they have no discretionary sentencing power. For the most part they read from a legislated script. (Not to say they would be more lenient. In some cases judges rely on a legal-proviso called "enhanced sentencing" and add even more time to the sentence imposed.) The scale of American justice tilts toward political and corporate interests rather than toward social justice or rehabilitative ones.

Getting out of prison is far more difficult than getting in. From the streets to detention centers, to the courts, and finally to prison. Your rights, or what you imagined them to be, were unquestioned. Now everything is different. Even your family, friends, children, wives, girlfriends, former employers and the like are different. The noblest intention may have inspired you to commit your crime. You may have not even committed a crime or think yourself undeserving of the sentence imposed. It matters not. You are here now, alone, behind bars, and you may be here for the rest of your life.

As I think about the psychological effects of long-term imprisonment, I can only think of it in terms of day-to-day existence. Some days are better than others, none are ever great. In truth I hate writing about prison. I hate reading or seeing movies about prison. Yet people need to know what goes on in them. Many prisoners and people on the outside fail to discern the political and economic interests that prisons serve. Unfortunately, the economics of prison will not be part of this discussion. While some prisoners see prison as a way of life, people on the streets see it as a necessary evil. But in the main, regarding prison, education, and health care in particular, the nation's citizenry has grown woefully lax in its civic duty. And regarding the administrations, the current one has embarked on a unilateralist doctrine coupled with a misguided foreign policy that has embroiled the nation in an unjustified war which depletes precious economic resources, and pressing domestic needs go unfulfilled. Our nation, as well as our uniformed young men and women who stand in harm's way, deserve better. We all get in trouble and suffer when we fail to fulfill our duties and responsibilities.

I have been in prison 31 years. (Note: This article was written by Herman in 2004.) I am not sentenced to "life

without parole," yet I can be here for life. Denied parole at my first parole hearing, I reappear in 2006, and if I am denied then, I reappear every two years after that until I am released on parole or by death. How does one grapple with a predicament like that and still feel optimistic? It is as much a physical blow as a psychological one. I cannot think about it. I cannot feel it. I can only "keep it moving."

I am keenly aware of time spent in this menagerie, aware of each step I take and of having to decide what to do next. Through the years I have witnessed behavior reminiscent of my youth: the bully, the posse - both inmates and guards, the strong preying on the weak. I have known days when depression sagged my spirits, days when men gave themselves to violent acts against their fellow man, days when law of the jungle superseded all others. Days that I considered a success because I made it through the day.

Often I have found myself having to choose between what I believe to be right as opposed to what is expedient. The choice taken defines me as who I am and what I think of myself. Because the conditions of confinement take everything else, all we have in here is our self-respect and "good word," and to lose one is to lose the other. Life in jail is comprised of one decision-making episode after another, some large, some small.. In this confusing, intricate network of pathways, the choice we take, what we decide to do in each one, leaves a lasting impression on the psyche. And the individual is compelled to choose how he will live his life in here (or someone will do it for him). Fence-straddling is a non-option.

Locked behind gates and bars too numerous to count, the contact we have with the outside world sustains our sanity. Visits from family members and the occasional attorney provide a respite from the tedium. As our visitor provide mental snapshots of life on the outside, people you know -- an ex-wife, an old girlfriend, an ailing relative, your son or daughter -- we live in the moment with them. A visit is like a dream, and when it's over you wonder if it ever happened. But the "life-giving" force inside you affirms that the smiles, the tears, the holding of hands, the style of dress and perfume were real. You hate to see your people go, and they hate having to go. But the portal connecting one reality to another remains open only for a short while. Then suddenly, like ripples from a stone cast into water, they disappear as though they never were.

When my cell door suddenly unlocks and guards stand in front of it, hands sheathed in rubber gloves, ordering me to step-out for a cell search, crashing waves, instead of ripples, rush over me. The search is routine they tell me; it's never routine to me, regardless the number of recurrences. My private space is violated each time I go through this. It transforms me into a non-person, as if I were an object to be lifted up and set aside during the search, and the disconnect magically vanishes when I am allowed back inside.

We prisoners are "trained" to be obedient to authority and "conditioned" to obey it. Trained, which suggests: "however long it takes to achieve the desired mental state," bears more of a sinister connotation than does conditioned. The "training" process is fixed in the management of prison operations: "Hands on the wall and don't move until ordered to do so." "I order you to ..." "For violating rule ... I hereby sentence you to segregation ... with loss of phone and commissary privileges." The "conditioning" process presents itself through prison operations: that is, through rules, enforcement of rules, giving and withholding of privileges and the like. With everything else remaining equal, the jail runs itself. Authority and obedience to it plays big in jail. In absence of one's liberty, obedience or non-compliance to authority is the main bone of contention inside of prison - how much do you concede to authority weighed against how much it demands of you.

Because of its violent and coercive nature, authority, in prison, is tolerated at best. A prisoner soon recognizes that a certain look from a guard, hand gesture, facial expression, jangle of keys and the like is a language that is as coercive as a verbal order. He even learns the unspoken "I'll get you later" look. In this light, how much you concede to authority, weighed against its demands, is no small deliberation in the mind of a prisoner. Depending on the choice he makes, a slow, methodical "weeding-out" process begins. At this point a prisoner affirms or gains some sense of who he really is as a person. Because at that point whatever part of himself that he wishes to hold onto, he has to fight to keep it.

For a black prisoner, his choice is like the Sword of Damocles suspended over his head by a hair. The historic

enslavement of blacks in America and their maltreatment by white slaveholders is well documented, though much of it still remains to be told. When Lincoln freed u.s. slaves, vestiges of the slave system remained firmly in place, and blacks remained subordinate to white authority. And while the intervening years and subsequent battles won black civil rights victories, some would argue that the more things would seem to change for blacks, the more they remain the same. For blacks, taking this history into account - arrested by white policemen, prosecuted by white prosecutors, sentenced by white judges, confined in american jails and overseen by white guards and administrators - how much to concede to authority weighed against its demands is no small consideration indeed. This very construct evokes strong imagery of overseer and slave on the plantation and its psychological underpinnings.

Against this backdrop are people inside u.s. prisons who have fought long and hard against American social and economic injustice. They are political prisoners ("pps") whose spirit is cast in the tradition of Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, John Brown, and Malcolm X, to name a few. In some quarters they are called Freedom Fighters. They display cat-like independence in prison, which is taboo in an environment that cultivates dependence and insecurity. Therefore, special treatment for them is pre-ordained. They are imprisoned not for social crimes - robbery, murder for hire, extortion, drug sales and the like - but for fighting racist unjust laws, and insensitive social and economic policies that ignore the needs of the poor, disenfranchised, and marginalized.

Already sentenced to the maximum allowable time and severely penalized for prison rule violations, the "pp" as well as everyone else is damaged by the prison experience. And the longer they are in, subjected to years and years of unremitting anguish, the deeper the scars and hopefully the stronger the resolve...

27 Aug - NYC Black August Film Festival

This year's Black August Film Festival is being held at the Brecht Forum. We've included the films, dates, and times below. More information at brechtforum.org

MORE:

August 27th: 6:00pm, *Broken On All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration, & New Visions for Criminal Justice in the U.S.*

29 Aug - Monthly event for Oscar Lopez Rivera

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign has decided to dedicate the 29th of every month to Oscar Lopez Rivera.

MORE:

On the 29th of each month, ProLibertad will sponsor an activity, one day campaign, workshop, forum, or direct action to raise consciousness about the work to free Oscar Lopez Rivera! This campaign will culminate on Thursday May 29th, 2014, the 33rd anniversary of his arrest, with a vigil for Oscar Lopez Rivera!

We ask all of our allies and supporters to get involved! We must keep Oscar's name and story alive within all Communities! Support this new campaign and help us. Visit <http://prolibertadweb.com> for details.

1 Sept - Running Down the Walls 2013

WHAT: Running Down the Walls - 5k Run/Walk/Jog/Bike

WHEN: 2:00-7:00pm, Sunday, September 1st

WHERE: Prospect Park-- Lincoln Road/East Lake Drive, east of the Terrace Bridge (see the below map for exact location)

COST: \$10 registration (includes food and drinks afterwards)

MORE:



Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity events with Running Down the Walls. Last year, we had runs in Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Denver (CO), Elmore (AL), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), New York (NY), USP Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Tucson (AZ), and Toronto, Ontario. This year we hope to expand the amount of runs in prisons and other cities, as well as increase the amount of funds raised for community projects. NYC ABC's goal with this year's run is \$2,000.

This year's run will take place on Sunday, September 1st at 2:00pm in solidarity and conjunction with runs that will take place in cities and prison yards across the country at the same time.

REGISTER AS, OR SPONSOR, A PARTICIPANT

To raise our goal of \$2,000, we need your support.

* Run/walk/bike/roll in the 5k – We need participants who can run/walk/bike/roll the 5k and are able to collect financial pledges to offer as donations to the run. Download the brochure, complete with registration and sponsor form at http://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/running-down-the-walls-2013-participant_sponsor-brochure.pdf

* Volunteer for the run – We need folks who are willing to staff a registration/literature table, hand out water, bike the route as street medics, and help chalk the route beforehand.

* Donate to the run/sponsor a participant – If you are not able to attend, but want to support this fundraising effort, please mail donations to:

NYC ABC
Post Office Box 110034
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Your donation of \$10 or more entitles you to the celebratory picnic after the event.

Each year, we split proceeds between the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Warchest Program and a local organization. This year's partner group will be The Base.

The Warchest Program:

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest program was initiated in November 1994. It's purpose is to collect monthly funds from groups and individual supporters, and send that money to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW) via monthly checks. For more information, visit: <http://www.abcf.net/abcf.asp?page=warchest>

The Base:

The Base is a new sociopolitical space in Bushwick, Brooklyn, committed to the dissemination of radical-left ideas and organizing. The mission of the space is to spread ideas and practices to the broader populace and provide a place where individuals can learn, grow, and organize outside of traditional activist and educational institutions. For more information, visit: thebasebk.org

Directions:

From the B or Q train, get off at the Prospect Park stop. Walk to Lincoln Road and turn right into the park. We'll be about 700 feet away.

13 Sept - Bluestockings Prisoner Letter Writing Group

WHAT: Prisoner Letter Writing Group

WHEN: 5:00pm, Friday, September 13th

WHERE: Bluestockings - 172 Allen Street (between Stanton and Rivington) New York, New York

MORE:

“The communication between two humans concerning their hopes, ideas and their plights is what allows them to bond in resistance against a system that affects everyone in many different ways,” says Colorado prisoner Rachel Galindo (in a letter published in Resistance Behind Bars). Join a new Bluestockings-based group committed to communication and resistance by writing to prisoners. We'll be focusing on folks who tend to receive less attention and mail, including LGBTQI-identified prisoners, women, and youth. Pens, paper, writing guidelines and encouragement will all be provided!