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Updates for September 3rd

12 Aug - Hacker who led Anonymous-sponsored hacks against police agrees to plea deal

A member of "CabinCr3w," an Anonymous splinter group, has agreed to a plea bargain with federal prosecutors, according to court documents newly made available on August 11th. We were waiting to confirm that his deal is non-cooperating before reporting on his case.

MORE:

by Cyrus Farivar (*Ars Technica*)

John Anthony Borell III of Toledo, Ohio (also known as @ItsKahuna) had been charged last year for using SQL injections to attack the websites of various law enforcement and public agencies., including the Utah Chiefs of Police, the Salt Lake City Police Department, and the City of Springfield, Missouri.

According to Borell's plea deal, which was signed on April 15, 2013, he agreed that his actions violated a section of federal law addressing computer fraud, that he will serve 36 months in prison, and that he will have to pay nearly \$230,000 in restitution to the various institutions that he hacked. The 22-year-old is slated to appear before a federal judge in Utah on August 21, 2013, who is expected to give final approval to the plea bargain.

The law appears to be catching up to Anonymous activists in recent weeks and months. Earlier this month, a 26-year-old Kentucky man named Deric Lostutter outed himself as KYAnonymous and provided a written account of an FBI search on his property in Winchester, Kentucky in April 2013. That search stemmed from online activism pertaining to the Steubenville, Ohio rape case. Lostutter's search marks the latest in a string of occasions where Anons have been caught and unmasked and have pleaded guilty for their actions.

20 Aug - Ballot or Bullet by Jalil Muntaqim

We've reprinted Jalil Muntaqim's latest writing and encourage folks to use it as an opportunity to engage him and start a correspondence.

MORE:

I remember when El Hajj Malik Shabazz (Malcolm X) gave a speech in which he projected our struggle moving forward would be defined by either the ballot or the bullet. He explained that if it was not possible to change America for the good, subject to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act, and Black people not being hindered in casting their vote, it would be necessary to engage in revolutionary armed struggle.

Since that time, there have been revolutionary armed initiatives (BLA, WUO, FALN, SLA, NWLF, AIM, etc.), and there have been electoral initiatives, (Eldridge Cleaver running for President, Bobby Seale's running for Mayor, etc.). Presently, a good friend in Rochester, New York, Emily Good, is running for Sheriff under the Green Party platform, challenging the status quo methodology of law enforcement. The issue of electoral politics as part of a revolutionary determination has often been questioned in terms of efficacy for real change, and principle in revolutionary tactics. In essence, while some would argue a contradiction in employing electoral politics to obtain real change, it should be held that electoral politics can be tactical to create a progressive environment to broaden the base for future struggle.

In this regards, I would personally like to congratulate Chokwe Lumumba in being elected Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi. If there was ever a time in which progressives should applaud a victory, it is this electoral win. In contrast, I reflect upon the national accolades for the election of Barack Hussein Obama, which I personally felt were displaced (see: [www.freejalil.com/poetry/The Obama-Nation and Obama-Mania](http://www.freejalil.com/poetry/The%20Obama-Nation%20and%20Obama-Mania)). I believe that many today recognize Obama has proved undeserving of such national accolades, especially from progressives. However, the election of Obama proved to what extent young people and progressives believe in the electoral

process to change the ideological and political nature of the United States. I dare not proclaim electoral politics will substantially change the socio-economic and political character of U.S. capitalist-imperialism. However, the potential exists to create an environment to strengthen the resolve of revolutionary determination. Hence, the election of Mayor Chokwe Lumumba in a city that was a bastion of Southern racial segregation speaks volumes to such potential.

Unlike Obama, Lumumba's political history has been one of a revolutionary nationalist, who apparently sought to manifest the words of Al-Hajj Malik Shabazz. Given this reality, it is incumbent upon progressives across the country to support Mayor Lumumba's term in office. The support of progressives from across the country is essential to Mayor Lumumba's success, especially considering the unfortunate prospects of economic white flight from Jackson, Mississippi, a city already designated as one of the poorest in the state. Progressives should make every opportunity to bring their conventions, conferences, and national meetings to Jackson. Efforts should be made to establish innovative economic projects in Jackson, and build a base for autonomous socio-economic cooperative communities to exemplify our collective vision of a revolutionary future.

Of course, I am not under any illusion the election of one person to the office of Mayor automatically proves electoral politics is a panacea, or in and of itself revolutionary. In fact, I argue that progressives should learn from their dashed hopes for Obama's presidency. Meaning, it is extremely important that Mayor Lumumba is held to fulfill all of his promises pursuant to his political "People's Assembly platform." Despite the greater likelihood state and federal authorities will employ every dirty trick in the book to undermine and disrupt Mayor Lumumba's and the citizens of Jackson's success; this victory is an opportunity for progressives to join in a united and uniform determination to build a substantial and sustainable movement. Obviously, the success of the "Jackson Plan: A Struggle for Self-Determination, Participatory Democracy and Economic Justice" as a possible blueprint needs to be replicated throughout the South and in Northern urban cities across the country. In this area of struggle, we certainly have nothing to lose!

20 Aug - First Prison Statement from Jerry Koch

We recently received the first public statement from grand jury resister Gerald "Jerry" Koch.

MORE:

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who has supported me in so many ways these past three months. It has been a hell of a ride thus far, full of sudden transfers and inexplicable delays. In the face of all that, I'm doing all right, although I'd like to see the sun more and truly miss the color green. I miss my friends and my loved ones, and I'm looking forward to the day when I can finally rejoin you all in the land of the living. But I am holding strong. I do not know how much longer the State plans to keep me separated from my family and friends, but I will not bend.

Compared to the vast majority in this prison, I'm lucky. I'm not facing the very real possibility of spending the rest of my life in this place, as so many of the men in my unit are. I am really fortunate to have such strong support on the outside. The solidarity everyone has shown is helping me through this and constantly reaffirms my resolve.

The Federal Grand Jury that put me here is only the most recent facet of an assault on those who wish to be free of state surveillance and intimidation. This legal onslaught has already targeted and claimed the freedom of many anarchists, but we will keep fighting. I will keep fighting. My politics, principles and ethics stand in direct opposition with this legal tool that is used to further enable the government in its assault on anarchists, and I will not lend it any legitimacy, nor will I comply in any way.

Thank you again to everyone for your truly beautiful acts of support. Your letters especially are helping me get through this, and I look forward to talking with many of you soon, on this side of the bars and beyond.

Last, please take the next few minutes to write someone who is locked up—believe me, it will make their day.

With love, with dignity, in solidarity, for anarchy,

Jerry Koch

20 Aug – New Writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal

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

MORE:

August 20th - Mumia Abu-Jamal on the anniversary of the Zapatista movement in Chiapas: a legacy of education, freedom and struggle

Mexican and international supporters of the Mayan-led Zapatista movement are returning from the indigenous villages where they spent the past week participating in an initiative known as the Escuelita, or “Little School.” The purpose of the school was to share insights and methods about the Zapatista’s autonomous government. The Zapatistas sent special invitations to a short list of distinguished guests, among them imprisoned journalist and FSRN commentator, Mumia Abu-Jamal. With assistance from Prison Radio, FSRN spoke to Abu-Jamal this week about the escuela and the anniversary of the Zapatista’s so-called Good Government Councils.

“Far too often, Norteamericanos, even so-called leftists, adopt a superior, in fact, an imperial attitude, as if we should teach others how to struggle or resist. Instead, experience is the best teacher and in the last decade at least, we’ve seen autonomy sprout into communities rich with equality and the dignity of self-governance, in a word: freedom in Chiapas. And Chiapas is the belly-button of empire in Mexico.”

Zapatista good government councils also administer their own system of basic services, including schools and clinics. While the “Little School” for teaching outsiders about their governance system began this week, the Mayan rebels have been running their own education system independent of government funding for years.

“Education in the empire teaches hegemony, false history, racism and that imperialism is a good thing. The Zapatista communities are relearning the knowledge of the first peoples, so-called indigenous people, and teaching a powerful and subversive way of living in the world, of community, of commonality, of balance with all living things, of respect for Mother Nature. Of course, we get the exact opposite in the Empire. We get isolation, materialism and really war against Mother Nature and the whole world. That’s worthy of learning, that’s worthy of teaching. In the words of that great historian, C.L.R. James, every cook can govern, all of us can learn.”

January first will mark the 20-year-anniversary of the uprising in Chiapas. Abu-Jamal noted that it coincides with the passage of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, which the rebels called a “death sentence” for Mexico’s indigenous peoples.

“Both Mexico and the US unleashed the dogs of war, Mexican oligarchs in Chiapas, the US in the Middle East. The imperial forces cannot tolerate any spark of resistance to their ownership of the entire world. The Zapatistas are a thorn in their side and they are growing.”

August 24th - CELEBRATING CELEBRATING?

Soon, TV screens, newspaper pages and radio stations will replay, reprint and rebroadcast dark, grainy black and white film, photos and audiotape of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s speech – his “I Have a Dream” speech – in a hypocritical celebration of the 50 years since that fateful day in 1963, in Washington, D.C

I’m always troubled at such occasions, for it is on days such as these, when it becomes clear as crystal, how things have gone so badly, for far too many.

We celebrate a speech, but not the man.

We celebrate an event, while ignoring and disappearing our horrendous present, one of such vast inequality that it stuns the imagination.

The prison system is a shame of global proportions – and we need not even address our secret prisons – black sites of torture and death – our state and federal prison systems, and the immense array of solitary confinement units, are bad enough.

The school system is crumbling quicker than icebergs in an Antarctica summer. Teachers are demonized, disrespected and driven out of schools, to make room for ‘private’ (read: corporate) charter schools – and private profit. School systems are but training grounds for prisons, and places children go to where their brains die.

And housing? The corporate thieves and crooks of national banks and Wall Street financiers stole more wealth by their illegal manipulations of mortgages than any criminal enterprise in history. According to Laura Gottesdiener, author of the new book, *A Dream Foreclosed**, over 10 million people – 10 million! - have been thrown out of their homes in recent years due to the foreclosure crisis.

In economic terms, this means that some \$19.2 trillion – trillion – was destroyed, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

Black Americans have lost more wealth in the last decade than at any era since Reconstruction. Similarly, Latina homeowners have suffered disproportionately from the housing foreclosure crisis.

Martin King spoke about economic justice, not merely about dreaming. His economic message has been drowned in the drama over dreams.

Black politicians, many of whom have been well paid off to buy their silence about the massive house stealing scheme (or scam?), have turned their eyes from the carnage whipping through Black America.

Yet, there will be celebrations. There will be smiling faces. There will be bells and whistles, pomp and praise.

But King will have become a silenced puppet of the very political forces that opposed him while he breathed.

King was an ardent foe of materialism, militarism, global imperial war and racism.

Those forces are wreaking havoc on his people and the nation’s poor.

For we have spent 50 years, going in the wrong direction.

[*Source: Gottesdiener, L. *A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home* (Brooklyn: Zucotti Park Press, 2013) {pp.1811.}]

August 25th - Father Paul

Brothas! –Sistas! Ona Move! All Power to the People!

Thank you for sharing some of your precious time with me.

I can’t think of Father Paul Washington and the Church of the Advocate without thinking of freedom, justice, and equality.

Many years ago, I think it was 1968 (It may’ve been 1966), the Black Power Conference was held there. A gathering of people from every corner of Black political life, trying to find a way to freedom.

Father Paul made all feel welcome, by opening his doors, and his heart, to people from across the Black nation – like Stokely Carmichael (later to be known as Kwame Ture), Kathleen Cleaver, and Sis. Falaka Fattah. People sought ways to breathe a little freer in Philadelphia and Black America.

Several years later, the Black Panther party would be welcome there, as they organized their Revolutionary (Peoples) Constitutional Convention for activists from around the nation, to create a new, anti-imperialist constitution for a new America yet to be born.

Party members stayed at the Church, writing leaflets, making phone calls, resting after cross-country trips, or days spent organizing.

Father Paul made them welcome, when few other places would've dared.

Father Paul Washington, with his stentorian, thundering voice, welcomed all to the Church of the Advocate, for he cared deeply for his 'other sheep'.

After the MOVE attacks and the police bombing of MOVE's house on Osage Ave., Father Paul Washington opened his doors again – and again – and again.

“Other sheep have I”, he said.

I remember him with respect and affection as a special man, and remarkable clergyman.

He opened the Church for women when he ordained them – finding the divine equality in women as in men.

“Other sheep”, he said.

I am honored to be among his flock, to receive this award.

I thank you!

Ona Move! Long Live John Africa!

Long Live the Memory of Father Paul Washington!

August 27th - Fire on the Nile

Once again, power is in the hands of the Egyptian military; and once again, the military has distinguished itself by its brutal ruthlessness against Egyptian citizens.

They, the armed mainstay of the now fallen dictatorship of Hosni Mubarak, have never accepted nor adjusted to the political rise of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Now we see the hand of their awful vengeance.

According to Western news accounts relayed from the military dictatorship, hundreds of Egyptians have been slain by the so-called 'security forces'.

In truth, few outside of Egypt know the real number: it may be in the thousands.

Months ago, when Tahrir Square was the epicenter of the Arab Spring, I called the situation “Mubarakism without Mubarak”.

It looks clearer now.

Tanks, automatic weapons, snipers and secret police unleashed on Egyptians! A government trying to use state terror to silence legitimate dissent.

We've seen this before when Islamic political parties won elections in Algeria several years ago. They too, were silenced by Western supported military forces, determined to use anti-democratic means to form farcical pseudo-governments.

Democracy is a sham in Egypt – and beyond.

It was trampled under the boots and tank treads of the Egyptian military.

August 29th - DuBois Country

It is my view, after considerable reflection, that we, all of us: Black, white; male, female; gay, straight, bi or tri --; Hispanic, Pacific Islander, African born – of whatever complex human stew, dwell in Dubois Country.

Why do I say this?

Because William Edward Burghardt DuBois, undoubtedly the premier Black scholar-activist of the 20th century, with the sheer power of his brilliance, and his advocacy, shaped the thinking of generations with his presence, his performance and his persistence.

Simply put, DuBois, at every significant phase of his near-century of life, grappled with, grasped, and utilized the most progressive, forward thinking and indeed, controversial ideas of his era, and, to the best of his ability, pushed them further, no matter the cost. His work therefore, moved movements, and sharpened contradictions – and thereby sparked struggles both here and abroad, for freedom, for national liberation, for women's equality, for Black excellence, for socialism – and for a deeper meaning and definition of democracy.

In these brief moments before us, I shall seek to pinpoint and example his many contributions to the gargantuan global and national movements raging throughout the 20th century – and ones which continue to beckon us in the 21st, for DuBois was many things – not least, a man of the future, which he faced with hope, but a hope leavened by that prodigious intelligence, critical, unblinking, hones, reflective – ever urging us onward over the mountains of ignorance.

Although it is certain that DuBois had an enormous influence on the 20th century, it is also true that, as a man born in 1868, a few dozen months after the smoke cleared from the blood-soddened fields of Antietam, Gettysburg and Shiloh, DuBois grew to manhood in the 19th century, and some of its age, its promise and its betrayals, its terrors and its triumphs, never left him. Indeed, his formal prose, rich and evocative, had a style and rhythm that quite distinguished him from his contemporaries.

That's because DuBois, in my view, was ever an optimist. He believed in logic, in reason, in argument, in light over prejudice, bias, hatred and narrow-mindedness. Part of this was the legacy of Harvard, a college of the elites which prized intellect above all. Part of it was DuBois, who saw the slow, yet relentless struggle of his people, and the working toilers of the world, pushing the world to a better, higher ground.

But part of it was bigger than this remarkable man: it was the evidence of all around him from his birth to his impending death, of such social and scientific transformations as few human generations have ever seen.

When DuBois was but a boy, most Americans used horses, or a horse and buggy for transportation. DuBois's lifetime saw it go to the locomotive, the auto, the plane and rockets to the moon. He saw World Wars I and II, and other such imperialist adventures as “the doctrine of the divine right of white people to steal” and dehumanize dark people. World War P (called “The Great War” by DuBois and many of his generation before the rise of the 2nd World War) he termed a “jealous and avaricious struggle for the largest share in exploiting the darker races” (DuBois 1920, 48,9)

He could hardly do otherwise, for the wars were for a scramble of colonies in Africa and Asia, from which militarized colons from various European countries suctioned out wealth in unprecedented quantities, sums not

seen since the heights (or perhaps more accurately, depths) of slavery.

The wars convinced DuBois that the dark peoples of the world, the billions in China, India and throughout Africa and the Latino/Caribbean regions, would indeed inherit the earth – and would be free.

DuBois and Dark World

W.E.B. DuBois meditated on the hundreds of millions of people outside of the U.S., who were the vast majority of humanity. In his 1941 essay, “The Future of the Negro State University” [published in ‘The Education of Black People (1972)']; DuBois makes this explicit, stating, “Most men in this world are colored. A belief in humanity means a belief in colored men” (DuBois 1972:138). (And lest we make invisible that vast segment, indeed, majority of humanity that is female, doubt not that he was inclusive of that number, as shall be seen below)

For DuBois, his firmest hope was that the oppressed millions of Africa, Asia and the Latino/Caribbean world would make common cause with their Black American relatives (then known as Negroes) and that these forces would people and remake the world.

It was in this spirit that he published his first major work of fiction in 1928, his 60th year of life: *Dark Princess: A Romance*.

Here, DuBois imagines a love match between a Black American and an Indian royal, who join not only in love but in struggle against British conquest and imperialism. It is, by any measure, a remarkable work, as it gives scope to DuBois’s erotic life, and his love of the beauty of dark women.

It is, also, propaganda in the long war against oppression, for under the eroticism lies the union of two dark peoples, ones held in thrall to Britain and the Americans, and who resent and struggle against this binding, repressive grasp.

When mainstream reviewers attacked the work as ‘propaganda’, DuBois could offer a ready retort. In *The Crisis* (1926) (which he edited from 1910 – 1934 and then 1944 – 48) he explained his position, one which could hopefully find fruit in today’s rap and hip-hop artists and producers:

[A]ll art is propaganda and ever must be, despite the wailing of The purists. I stand in utter shamelessness and say that whatever Art I have for writing has been used always for propaganda for gaining the right of black folk to love and enjoy.

Not content with that general statement of his position, DuBois slammed down the exclamation point: “I do not care a damn for any art that is not used for propaganda” (Berry/Blassingame 1982: 354-55).

One needs to look far and wide today for such an expression of art’s role, driven, as it is, by corporatism and gluttony for profit.

For the *Dark World*, near and far, DuBois’s pen was at its service, in fiction, editorials, in essays, and criticism – for generations.

From 1900, intermittently to 1945, DuBois helped organize Pan-African Congresses which drew some of the finest minds and stalwart hearts from the continent and diaspora. He, by the 1940s, saw the beginnings, the stirrings of a unity of mind that could support liberation movements to come. In an address to Black college students, DuBois explained his views:

There is as yet no great single centralizing of thought or unification of Opinion, but there are centers which are growing larger and touching Edges. The most significant centers of this new thinking are, perhaps Naturally,

outside Africa and in America; in the United States and in the West Indies; this is followed by South Africa and West Africa and then, more vaguely, by South America, with faint beginnings in East Central Africa, Nigeria and the Sudan.

The Pan-African movement when it comes will not, however, be merely a narrow racial propaganda. Already the more far-seeing Negroes sense the coming unities: a union of the working classes everywhere; a unity of the colored races; a new unity of thinking men. (DuBois 1972: 137)

Now, what precisely did DuBois mean regarding ‘a unity of the colored races’? He explains:

In a conscious sense of unity among colored races there is today only a growing interest. There is a slowly arising not only a curiously strong brotherhood of Negro blood throughout the world, but the common cause of the darker races against the intolerable assumptions and insults of Europeans has already found expression... The future world will, in all reasonable probability, be what colored men make it (ibid.).

Thus we see, DuBois saw the emergence of the Dark World as the antidote to colonialism, imperialism and as a necessary ingredient in the Black Liberation movement. He worked long and hard to bring it into being.

DuBois: Feminist

W.E.B. DuBois, much like his distinguished predecessor, Frederick Douglass, believed firmly, one may say, deeply, in the equality of women. Indeed, reading his work, we find an adoration, a deep love of Black women, and other dark women for their beauty, strength and character.

In *Darkwater* (to this reader his finest, most passionate and most militant non-fiction work), DuBois writes extensively of women’s oppression by backward social forces and ideas. In this “proto-feminist” essay, “The Damnation of Women”, DuBois writes:

...[I]n microcosm and with differences emphasizing sex equality, is the industrial history of labor in the 19th and 20th centuries. We cannot abolish the new economic freedom of women. We cannot imprison women again in a home or require them all on pain of death to be nurses and housekeepers.

...The Uplift of Women is, next to the problem of the color line and the peace movement, our greatest modern cause. When, now, two of these movements – women and color – combine in one, the combination has deep meaning. (DuBois 1920).

Again, in *Darkwater*, DuBois writes of “the primal black All-Mother of men down through the ghostly throng of mighty womanhood, who walked in the mysterious dawn of Asia and Africa” (id.).

DuBois then does a roll-call of dark female eminence, from antiquity to the 20th century, thus:

...[F]rom Neith, the primal mother of all, whose feet rest in hell, and whose almighty hands uphold the heavens; all religion, from beauty to beast, lies on her eager breasts, her body bears the stars, while her shoulders are necklaced by the dragon, from black Neith down to “That starr’d Ethiop queen who strove to set her beauty’s praise above the sea-nymphs,” through dusky Cleopatras, dark Candaces, and darker, fiercer Zinghas, to our own day and our own land – in gentle Phillis; Harriet, the crude Moses; the Sybil, Sojourner Truth; and the martyr, Louise De Mortie.

The father and his worship is Asia; Europe is the precocious, self-centered, forward-striving child; but the land of the mother is and was Africa (DuBois 1920)

Here, then, is DuBois, at the apex of his middle life, writing of women with a rare, uncommon voice; with reverence. He doubtless foresaw the rise and emergence of women as a liberating force of social power to truly transform society.

A DuBoisian Future?

DuBois was far more than a scholar; he was an activist; a revolutionary, who used his considerable gifts to bring a new future into being, through ceaseless agitation and critique of the State, its political representatives and his contemporaries whom he thought in error of betrayal of the highest aspirations of the Dark World.

He therefore thought seriously about the future of Black Americans and what role they would, or should, play in the world to come.

At the dawn of the 1960s, in the shattering aftermath of World War II, many of Europe's former colonies had slipped her grasp, and begun the long trek toward independence.

Internally, then-American Negroes were moving toward their long coveted citizenship almost a century after constitutional promises.

For DuBois this presented as many problems as opportunities, for what did citizenship really mean for Black folk in the heart of a White Empire? In many ways, these are issues we have still not resolved.

For DuBois viewed U.S. Blacks as an "inter-national" people; part of America, to be sure; but part of Africa too.

What would he make of a dark President, son of a continental African, unleashing death and destruction on dark lands, indeed, on African soil itself?

DuBois, in his bones, was a "race man", in that he ever saw the world, as he put it, "through the veil", i.e., through Black eyes.

But he also was, especially in his later years, a staunch anti-imperialist who opposed U.S. adventures abroad for its unmitigated violence against dark nations.

In the last decade of his life he took up the mantle of world peace, chairing the Peace Information Center in New York, where he fought for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In one of his last essays, written 3 years before his death, he makes clear that citizenship of Black folks doesn't mean surrender of one's racial identity, one's views or one's political convictions.

In "Wither Now and Why" (1961), DuBois asks what does this new, legal citizenship mean, and answers, through his own tortured experience. For 45 years, on and off, DuBois organized and supported Pan-African Congresses, but by 1960 he admitted that he "could get little support and cooperation [from] American Negroes" (DuBois 1972; 150)

Among his people, he found "resentment" and weariness of what such global struggles could entail. Interestingly, this was not the response one found among the most enlightened segments of African thinkers.

Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of an independent Ghana, as early as 1958, could name two major figures in Black America as instrumental and inspirational in the African freedom movements: Marcus M. Garvey and W.E.B. DuBois. Said Nkrumah; "Long before many of us were conscious of our own degradation, these men fought for African national and racial equality: (Berry/Blassingame 1982; 410-11)

As Pan-Africanist, anti-imperialist, socialist, communist and internationalist, it is inconceivable that DuBois, were he alive today, would or could support the Iraq wars, the Afghanistan invasion, or the U.S./NATO bombings of Libya. (Of course, if he were alive today, he'd be about 144 years old! – but....)

A DuBoisian future would see less wars, less imperial adventures into the dark world, and of course, less colonialism.

DuBois saw the rise of dark world – of China, of India – and hoped for far more African progress in economic and political spheres.

In this age, marked by the emergence of the Occupy Movement against imperial wars, and the rapaciousness of capital, DuBois would be right at home. Consider his pungent critique of U.S. rulers, who were, he said, “Instead of being individuals are organized corporations who suppress freedom, by monopolizing wealth” (DuBois 1872: 157)

Are you disturbed or angered at the vast sums of money raised for national presidential elections? DuBois was too – and scored the Eisenhower election for wasting between \$100 to \$200 million dollars in pursuit of power. Although these sums are today seen as almost infinitesimal, DuBois’s questions are as relevant today as they were ½ a century ago:

Why does America need such an election fund? A democratic election doesn’t need it and the United States needed and used it only for bribing voters directly and indirectly or frightening men from acting and thinking. (DuBois 1972: 157)

Decades ago, DuBois saw the looming deficits of the American public school system, which, although “the gift of black folk” in the Reconstruction South, in later years would drop out incredible numbers of dark children, many of whom would live miserable half-lives, with college not even a serious consideration (DuBois 1972: 151).

And, as far back as 1938, DuBois would boldly call for “socialized medicine”, and condemn the American Medical Association which “fights with huge funds every effort to bring free government-supported social medicine to the service of the people” (DuBois 1972: 125, 153).

Imagine what his stance would be on today’s so-called ‘health-care controversy’!

Across the ocean of time, we see DuBois; a fighter for the poor, the oppressed, the Dark World, the Black World; fighting for a better, larger future.

The DuBoisians

Since his passage into the realm of ancestor in 1963, DuBois has had his fair share of spiritual descendants (of course, his son, David DuBois has been an author, scholar and activist). Perhaps none has more fully embraced that role as has Angela Y. Davis.

Her life, as scholar, activist, revolutionary, communist leader, radical icon, political prisoner and prisoner abolitionist may indeed exceed his, in its rich depth and intensity of dissent.

A study of her work reflects the deep influence of DuBois, the indentation of a trail that Davis has trod, and taken further.

The same may be said of Cornel West ,who, like DuBois, a Harvard man, writes, speaks and acts in social movements far beyond the ivied towers of academia. An though West may depart from DuBois in his expressions of religiosity (West is, among other things, a theologian), his use and embrace of culture is a classic hallmark of DuBois.

What brings West closest to DuBois, however, is his disposition for dissent, both in his public and principled critique of the Obama administration’s foreign, domestic and economic policies, and his willingness to contrast

contradictions in the realms of academia.

The late Manning Marable also had some of the flair and panache of DuBois, for, as an administrator of a major American, ivy league university, he established African American and African study programs that touched and expanded many Black, dark and American lives. He was also a scholar of the first rank, who lived a life both of scholar-activism and Black academic excellence.

His work (some consider this his masterpiece) *How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America* (1983), although an homage to West Indian scholar, Walter Rodney, was a DuBoisian task in spirit, if not in name.

And last, and certainly not least, your professor, Tony Monteiro, is as DuBoisian as they come. From his youth as a radical activist, to his political opposition and candidacy during the dark days and nights of the Rizzo era, to this very hour – indeed – this very even in this university –we see the potent influence of DuBois.

And there are men and women, laboring in the vineyards of academia and beyond, who are continuing DuBoisian work, as independent scholars, committed activists, bearers of an ancient flame that continues to give light in the darkness.

The Undiscovered Country

There is a saying: ‘No man (nor woman) knows what tomorrow may bring.’

DuBois, as brilliant as he obviously was, as historian, sociologist, scholar-activist, journalist, columnist, editor, critic and revolutionary, did not know the future, yet he tried to turn its tide to his will.

He sought, with all his heart, his magnificent mind, and his fearsome will, to turn time’s trajectory in favor of the Dark World – the vast majority of humanity.

To that end, his pen and his tongue were weapons, to protect and defend the Black, Brown and Yellow worlds from assault and attack from the West.

Yet, ‘it takes two to tango.’

And if you attack the empire, the empire strikes back.

When noting the DuBoisians, I remarked on Angela Y. Davis’s “deeper,” “richer” experience, in large part because of her political imprisonment and hounding (by the FBI, for example), stemming from the San Rafael Courthouse shoot-outs of 1970, in which the younger brother of George Jackson, Jonathan, and several other Black revolutionaries were killed. Although acquitted of all charges, she experienced imprisonment, which DuBois did not.

Yet, this was not for lack of the State trying.

I have said DuBois led the International Peace Center in New York in 1950, an anti-nuclear weapons group. From his acceptance of that role he was targeted by the Justice Department, and had his passport seized for nearly a decade.

He was indicted on charges of being an agent of a foreign government and tried in 1951. And although acquitted, the trial cost him over \$30,000 in legal and court costs. As DuBois writes, “this sum I and my wife had to beg from state to state.” of the case itself and its aftermath, DuBois added:

The court threw the case out for lack of proof. Despite this, I was refused a passport for travel abroad until the Supreme Court finally decided that the Department of State had no legal grounds to refuse me a

passport. (DuBois 1972: 155)

I have said DuBois did not suffer the pains of imprisonment as had Dr. Davis, yet, for this global figure and world traveler, the denial of a passport led to what DuBois described thusly: "...[F]or nine years I was imprisoned in the confines of the United States by the unauthorized dictum of those who were ruling" (id.)

So, it seems, there are various kinds of imprisonment.

That said, the experience taught DuBois who his real friends were. Hounded by the government, battered by the press, in the midst of the Red Scare, his fair-weather 'friends' of rank, wealth and class deserted him, virtually en masse.

For working people, for the poor but literate people, who read him in barber shops and taverns, DuBois was their hero, and they loved him. They raised the money that he needed to battle in court.

Among many of us, radicalism is the emblem of youth, and conservatism is the preserve of elders.

Not so DuBois, who became more radical as his life lengthened.

His legal struggles radicalized him as it distanced him from polite society. Like his colleague, Paul Robeson, their names appeared less and less in both the corporate and Negro press.

Yet, DuBois marched on.

In his 1933 essay "The Field and Function of the Negro College", DuBois ended with the challenge: "Let us be insane with courage!"

He put his money where his mouth was.

In 1961, he moved to Nkrumah's Ghana, in West Africa, and renounced his American citizenship. He became a citizen of Ghana in 1963, the same year he joined the Communist Party.

And even though it was the year of his transition to Ancestor, it marked his courage and his willingness to join and merge with the Dark World.

His life became a prodigious example of radical and revolutionary commitment to the building of a new day and a new world against Empire.

Rightly has his work continued to influence and inform us to this late age.

We dwell in a world that he labored for and dreamt of.

There are many, many struggles left un-won, but in DuBois we have much more than mere inspiration.

For he was the 'black' -print.

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20 Aug - Barrett Brown and Jeremy Hammond May Be in Prison, But Their Work Continues

Daniel Stuckey from VICE writes about the overlap in support of two imprisoned information leakers-- Jeremy Hammond and Barrett Brown.

MORE:

Last night, I went to a benefit for Barrett Brown and Jeremy Hammond, who have both become symbols of the government's decade-long assault on information freedom since going to prison. Held on the 15th floor of a chilly office building in New York City's Flatiron district, the event was billed as a "variety show," featuring an acoustic music performance, recorded video messages from the likes of Alexa O'Brien, and real-life speeches from big-time whistleblower and hacker defense attorneys Michael Ratner (WikiLeaks), Margaret Kunstler (Hammond), Stanley Cohen (Anonymous), and weev's attorney, Tor Ekland.

To cap things off, a close friend of Jeremy Hammond also delivered a speech on behalf of the hacktivist behind the Stratfor leaks. I figured I'd be among a choir being preached to, but I didn't think the evening was going to get started with a Buffalo Springfield sing-along. Well, it did.

This was a benefit, after all. And despite my love of listening to lawyers give a good lecture to the laymen, the event's musical connection stuck out most on the e-vite. The auction even included a signed guitar from Dave Navarro!

Alongside the guitar, "Free Barrett" and "Free Hammond" prints and other memorabilia were lined up on a table in a conference room. A bundle of A/V cables bisected a room of about 60 chairs, forcing late arrivals to stand and/or talk loudly in the foyer. There was plenty of wine, a spread of hummus, cheese, salsa, with a couple hungry activists eating and drinking most of it. The foyer filled with chatter until the Neil Young stopped, the lights flickered, and it was time to file in and grab a seat.

First was the young Kevin Gallagher, director of Free Barrett Brown, who explained that Brown's Project PM had become a "crowdsourced research project or 'think tank,' with a wiki that was devoted to investigate the world of private intelligence cyber security contractors."

"Using leaked e-mails leaked out of HBGary Federal and Stratfor in 2011, he and others were able to identify the connection between the companies, uncovering a number of scandals in which things were being planned that were certainly against public interest and potentially illegal," Gallagher said.

Gallagher then talked about Brown, who is currently sitting in prison facing a century's worth of charges, and his ongoing impact following the government's continued crackdown on whistleblowers and journalists.

"Last year many were content to dismiss the warnings about Trapwire and Persona Management, but now, after Snowden, now after the tragically deceased Michael Hastings was showed to be taking interest in this case, people are listening," Gallagher said. "In some respects, Barrett is now regarded as a prophet of surveillance dystopia: A person who knew what was going on before the rest of us did. Someone who has been massively vindicated and redeemed. It's an abject shame, that he doesn't have his freedom, because I think he could do a lot to educate us about the incestuous revolving door between the private intelligence firms and the government these days."

Independent journalist Alexa O'Brien showed up in the room via QuickTime. Posted at Fort Meade and awaiting Tuesday's sentencing in the court martial of Pfc. Bradley Manning (the case she's been following for three years), she spoke to the political aspect of the trials of Brown and Hammond.

"Here we have Jeremy Hammond, responsible for the Stratfor leak. Jeremy Hammond is a political prisoner,"

she said. "When we look at top secret America in the post-9/11 world, there is no boundary between corporate intelligence, companies that make up our national security state, and government. They have essentially led to a lack of oversight, have led to policies based on the interests of bureaucrats, and politicians."

"It is upon our shoulders to make sure that their cases do not [settle] into obscurity, or that we just sit and cheerlead for them," she continued. "We have to show what the government is doing, how it's doing it, who is doing it. It's the only way to push back against what's happening."

Next, Michael Ratner, general counsel to WikiLeaks, took the podium, and spoke more broadly about the impact of internet activism and pushback from authorities. First, he spoke about Hammond.

"I saw Jeremy Hammond yesterday, and you know I sat there thinking as I thought all along, 'What is Jeremy Hammond doing in this prison? Why isn't George Bush in here, why isn't Dick Cheney in here, why isn't Condoleezza Rice in here, why aren't the people in here who tortured my clients and others' clients at Guantanamo and around the world?'"

Calling out the Bush administration remains a popular staple in activist circles, but as Ratner explained, the aggressive clamping down on leaking and whistleblowing perpetrated by the Bush and Obama administrations is rooted in their quest to operate without oversight.

"We're talking about someone who went after the very instruments of repression in our society, and yet he is sitting in prison," Ratner said of Hammond. "And then, after that moment he writes a statement, it said, 'I believed in what I did.' Just think about that. He's facing 10 years and he said, 'I believed in what I did.'"

The core message was simple: the government is doing everything it can to shut down critical voices, and has managed to erode traditional protections of the press.

"And then there's Barrett Brown. First off, I want to say, again and again, he's a journalist," Ratner said. "Let's understand him, Barrett Brown is a journalist, and he's in prison for carrying out acts journalism. And when you think about the dividing line that there was at least for a while in this country between whistle blowers and journalists; that line is being closed like this (gestures), by the Obama administration. I happen to think neither truth tellers nor whistle blowers should be prosecuted, nor should journalists."

"To the extent that government felt it could prosecute truth tellers and whistleblowers, they are now going after the journalists."

Ratner painted a rather stunning portrait of the ire all aspects of the government have towards journalists, including the courts.

"But to the extent that government felt it could prosecute truth tellers and whistleblowers, they are now going after the journalists," Ratner said. "Barrett is one of them, Julian Assange and WikiLeaks are another. And then you even look at people like James Risen at Fox News, who had his records subpoenaed, because they wanted to find out his source for a story. And in the search warrant what they said is, 'He is a co-conspirator with his source, a co-conspirator in espionage.'"

"This is a journalist," he continued. "Again, closing any line between a source and a journalist. Likewise, James Risen, who has refused to testify about his source is in a current trial that's going on. The court of appeals orders James Risen to testify, and what do they say? They say that the source could not have committed this crime without the journalist; they're essentially co-conspirators."

The auction and acoustic guitars aside, that was the heaviest takeaway from the evening. We were all in attendance at a fundraiser for a whistleblower and a journalist who'd been jailed by the government for shedding light on that government's wrongdoing.

To drive the point home, Grace, a friend of Jeremy Hammond's, read aloud a statement he'd prepared for the benefit from his confinement.

"The hackers and leakers from the NSA, CIA, and FBI illegally spy on everybody, and wage cyber-espionage, viruses and hacking on foreign government systems," she read. "They put signs everywhere that say, 'If you see something, say something.' As if their extensive surveillance camera systems aren't. They want us to become additional eyes and ears for the police against our own neighbors."

"They break their own laws to try and stop us, because we're exposing the truth," Hammond's statement continued. "They're scared that if people know the truth, they will come, and they will have to answer for their own crimes. But can we trust whatever independent review panel they put together to investigate the NSA, after all lies and egregious illegality? Do you think any of them will be charged or do time? Will we ever be satisfied with any reforms they promise? The answer is obviously: No."

Hammond's statement was, at times, unwaveringly angry, which is likely a product of his current solitary confinement.

"Jeremy's isolation is complete. And it is a great honor that I get to see him, and that his lawyers get to see him," Margaret Kunstler, part of Hammond's defense, explained. "But he doesn't get social visits, so it's very important that everybody write to him. He's isolated, and it's a terrible experience. So it's important not only that we write letters to try to get him out of jail, but that we write to Jeremy as well. He needs to get books. His favorite books are autobiographies of great political leaders. That's his favorite thing to read, and that's what we should get him."

She touched on Ratner's earlier sentiment of the government's desperate attempts to silence the whistles. That as citizens, we can't take such radical pursuits as our defeat. "It's a changing world," she added. "Individuals like these great heroes make changes and can threaten the government of the United States to such an extent that they respond in this way. So all we have to do is support these people, and the world can possibly change."

Stanley Cohen, who defended Anonymous in the PayPal 14 case, wasn't the final speaker, but he definitely stole the show. His speech, which could have been a monologue in a coming-of-age movie if not for all the swearing, was so intense that I transcribed it in full, and you can also listen to it—for full effect—by clicking here.

Cohen's point boiled down to a weighty one: Regardless of what the government tries to do, it can't stop people from saying what needs to be said.

"And that's why they're so afraid of the so-called 'hackers,' or the whistle blowers, or the truth speakers," Cohen said. "That's why they are so all fucked up over those people who say, 'Yeah, I'll go to prison. Okay, but I'm gonna out you fuckers. I'm not going to let you keep the pearly wisdom to yourselves, because we don't trust you. We do not believe you. We do not listen to you, we do not follow you.' There's an old saying I learned in law school, 137 years ago: 'In the marketplace of discourse the truth will always rise.'"

"There is no such thing as protected speech, there is no such thing as hate speech, there is no such thing as suppressed speech. Speech is speech," he continued. "You let it come out, you let people make their decisions, if they don't fuckin' like it, they can turn off Fox, they can turn off CBS, they can shut down and stop listening to Cohen, and walk out the door; it's speech. Now it's easy for me to say here tonight, that 'it's just speech.' I'm not facing ten years, it's only five years or whatever the hell it is."

"It is about refusing to nod your head as others tell you, not just how to live your life, but how an entire society and world should function."

"But there are women, there are men, there are people among us that have crossed the line and said, 'We will

make a stand, we will fight back, we will take the risks because it is all about truth.' And that's what tonight's event is about. It's about Jeremy, it's about Barrett, it's about Bradley Manning, it's about Mr. Assange, it's about Mr. Snowden. It's about the PayPal 14."

Cohen concluded with a crescendo that fittingly shared turns of phrase with Bill Pullman's legendary Independence Day speech.

"It is about refusing to go silently unto the night. It is about refusing to bow down to the industry of silence," he said. "It is about refusing to nod your head as others tell you, not just how to live your life, but how an entire society and world should function. And on behalf of Barrett, on behalf of Jeremy, on behalf of Mercedes, Mr. Assange, Mr. Snowden, and Bradley Manning, we have a very simple, two word answer, 'Fuck you.'"

Cohen's speech was a highlight, and drove home a message that all of the speakers shared: As much as the government has tried to limit what whistleblowers and journalists can say, it is ultimately fighting a losing battle. Edward Snowden may end up in jail, but that won't reseal the PRISM leaks. The British government may head to the Guardian to smash hard drives, but that data is already stored offline.

"Someone asked me earlier tonight, 'Michael, who do you think is winning?'" Ratner said. "I don't know if it was the right question, but let me tell you this: The government is not winning. And you can see it by the drastic use of their actions. The fact that they had to detain Glenn Greenwald's partner, the fact that they had to force down the Bolivian presidential jet. What does that tell you about desperation? Utter desperation."

21 Aug - Bail request filed by Herman Wallace's legal team

On the evening of August 20, the Angola 3 legal team filed a request for bail in Herman's habeas case.

MORE:

This comes only days BEFORE a recommendation is expected from the Magistrate Judge reviewing the case. Judge Jackson has the authority to issue bail at any time while the case is under consideration, but especially when the facts are compelling and failure to release on bail could "leave the petitioner without remedy."

In addition to an overwhelming body of evidence pointing to actual innocence, his habeas claim presents not one but 4 strong constitutional violations each sufficient on their own to trigger release. According to the prisons own mechanisms of review, he does not pose a danger to himself or others and has not had a disciplinary write up for any incidence of institutional violence in over 30 years. Most crucially at this time, his health continues to deteriorate rapidly, in no small part due to "the sub-standard care of the Louisiana Department of Corrections," and if bail is denied, he may not survive the weeks or months possibly needed to complete the litigation of his claim, even if the Court rules in his favor.

According to the legal team, this sort of request for bail pending habeas review was once relatively routine 20 years ago but is only very rarely granted now. However, as we all know well, and as the attorneys do an excellent job of summarizing for the Court, Herman's case is "exceptional," and "deserving of special treatment in the interests of justice."

Let us hope Judge Jackson agrees.

21 Aug - Manning Sentenced to 35 Years for a Pivotal Leak of U.S. Files

We're including a roundup of news regarding PVT. Manning's conviction and assertion of her gender identification.

MORE:

by Charlie Savage and Emmarie Huetteman (*New York Times*)

A military judge sentenced Pfc. Bradley Manning on Wednesday to 35 years in prison for providing more than 700,000 government files to WikiLeaks, a gigantic leak that lifted the veil on American military and diplomatic

activities around the world.

The sentence is the longest ever handed down in a case involving a leak of United States government information for the purpose of having the information reported to the public. Private Manning, 25, will be eligible for parole in about seven years, his lawyer said.

In a two-minute hearing on Wednesday morning, the judge, Col. Denise R. Lind of the Army, also said that Private Manning would be dishonorably discharged and reduced in rank from private first class to private, the lowest rank in the military. She said he would forfeit his pay, but she did not impose a fine.

Before the sentencing, Private Manning sat leaning forward with his hands folded, whispering to his lawyer, David Coombs. His aunt and two cousins sat quietly behind him. As Colonel Lind read the sentence, Private Manning stood, showing no expression. He did not make a statement.

The materials that Private Manning gave to WikiLeaks included a video taken during an American helicopter attack in Baghdad in 2007 in which civilians were killed, including two journalists. He also gave WikiLeaks some 250,000 diplomatic cables, dossiers of detainees being imprisoned without trial at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and hundreds of thousands of incident reports from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Immediately after the judge left, military guards flanked Private Manning and hustled him out the front of the courtroom as a half-dozen supporters in the back of the courtroom called out words of encouragement.

“We’ll keep fighting for you, Bradley,” one shouted. Another said, “You are a hero.”

Mr. Coombs later told reporters that he would apply for a presidential pardon next week and read a statement from Private Manning that he said would be included in his request.

“I only wanted to help people,” Private Manning’s statement said, adding, “If you deny my request for a pardon, I will serve my time knowing that sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society.”

A White House spokesman said a request would be considered “like any other application.”

Mr. Coombs also said that he had wept after they left the courtroom and that Private Manning told him, “It’s O.K.”

Private Manning downloaded the materials from a classified computer network to which he had access as a low-level Army intelligence analyst while deployed in Iraq in 2010. The documents he gave to WikiLeaks set off a scramble inside the government as officials sought to minimize any harm, including protecting foreigners identified in some documents as having helped American diplomats or the military. No evidence emerged that anyone was killed because of the leaks.

Among other things, the files also exposed the abuse of detainees by Iraqi officers under the watch of American forces and showed that civilian deaths during the Iraq war were most likely significantly higher than official estimates.

“It’s outrageous,” one supporter who had been in the courtroom, Laura Watkins, 63, of Alexandria, Va., said of the sentence. “What I’ve seen is a travesty of justice.”

The judge’s decision to impose a 35-year sentence roughly split the difference between what the prosecution had requested — 60 years — and the 20 years that Private Manning had exposed himself to before the trial began when he pleaded guilty to a lesser version of the charges he was facing.

Under the military system, convicts sentenced to more than three decades in prison are eligible for parole after

10 years, and Private Manning is receiving 1,294 days credit — a little more than three years — for time in custody and for a 112-day period in which the judge ruled he was mistreated during pretrial confinement. He is expected to serve his time at the Army prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

There have been only a handful of previous convictions in cases involving leak accusations, none resulting in a comparably severe sentence.

In 1985, for example, a former Navy intelligence officer, Samuel Morison, was sentenced to two years for giving classified satellite surveillance photographs to Jane's Defense Weekly, making him the first government employee imprisoned for giving classified information to the press. In 2001, President Bill Clinton pardoned him.

As part of a surge in leak-related prosecutions under the Obama administration, Shama Leibowitz, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation linguist, was sentenced to 20 months; Thomas Drake, a former National Security Agency official, was sentenced to a year of probation and community service; and John Kiriakou, a former Central Intelligence Agency official, received a 30-month sentence.

Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy specialist with the Federation of American Scientists, said Private Manning's 35-year sentence reflected how much his case — involving leaks of entire archives, not singular documents or discrete pieces of information — differed from what had come before it.

"It reflects the gravity of the case and the government's perception of the damage that was done," Mr. Aftergood said. "Among other things, it is also the most voluminous leak ever, and also the broadest in scope including diplomatic, military and other records. So it was a qualitatively new kind of leak, and the government responded aggressively."

Colonel Lind could have sentenced Private Manning to up to 90 years. She found him guilty last month of most of the charges against him, including six counts of violating the Espionage Act, but acquitted him of the most serious charge, aiding the enemy, which had never before been filed in a leak case. Private Manning's sentence must be reviewed by the so-called convening authority, a general who oversees the Military District of Washington and has the power to reduce the term but not add to it. The case will then automatically come before the Army Court of Criminal Appeals.

In seeking a 60-year sentence, prosecutors argued that Private Manning had betrayed the trust of the government and said they hoped a severe punishment would discourage future leaks. They also had asked the judge to impose a fine of \$100,000 to repay some of what was spent on efforts to mitigate damage, including identifying individuals who officials said had been put at risk by the disclosures.

Mr. Coombs argued that Private Manning had leaked the files because he wanted to start a public debate and bring about change, portraying his client as a well-intentioned, if naïve, whistle-blower.

But Mr. Coombs, seeking leniency, also argued that his client was confused at the time by stresses, including a crisis over his gender identity while in a combat zone. He elicited testimony showing that the military played down serious and recurring signs that Private Manning's mental health was deteriorating, allowing him to maintain his access to classified information.

August 22nd - Manning: "I am a female"
by Tal Kopan (*Politico*)

Army Pfc. Bradley Manning wants to live as a woman, his [*sic*] lawyer announced Thursday morning.

Manning, who was sentenced on Wednesday to 35 years in prison, asks to be called Chelsea Manning in a statement Manning's lawyer read Thursday morning on the "Today" show on NBC.

In it, Manning expresses a desire to begin hormone therapy “as soon as possible.”

“As I transition into this next phase of my life, I want everyone to know the real me. I am Chelsea Manning. I am a female. Given the way that I feel, and have felt since childhood, I want to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible. I hope that you will support me in this transition. I also request that, starting today, you refer to me by my new name and use the feminine pronoun (except in official mail to the confinement facility). I look forward to receiving letters from supporters and having the opportunity to write back,” Manning’s statement reads.

The statement also thanks supporters for letters and encouragement, donations and being at the trial.

Manning’s lawyer, David Coombs, said Manning wanted to wait until after the trial to release the statement so it wouldn’t “overshadow” the case, and said if Fort Leavenworth, where Manning is expected to serve time, doesn’t provide the treatment, they are prepared to fight for it however is necessary.

“I’m hoping that Fort Leavenworth would do the right thing and provide that. If Fort Leavenworth does not, then I’m going to do everything in my power to make sure that they are forced to do so,” Coombs said.

Fort Leavenworth told Courthouse News on Tuesday that it does not provide sex-reassignment surgery or hormone therapy, but it does provide psychiatric care.

Manning’s attorney also denied that Manning’s public statement was an example of the narcissistic tendencies testified to at trial by psychologists. Coombs said Manning never intended for the secrets about his [sic] gender confusion that he told a computer hacker during online chats to come out.

“This is really trying to let people have the answer that they wanted,” Coombs said of Manning’s motivations. “She never really wanted this to be public to begin with, when the information came out, you need to understand that she gave it to Adrian Lamo in a very private setting, in a one-on-one chat, never expecting this to be public. Now that it is, unfortunately, you have to deal with it in a public manner.”

Coombs said he hasn’t spoken with Manning about sex-reassignment surgery and said Manning is not seeking to join a female prison population.

“I think the ultimate goal is to be comfortable in her skin, and to be the person that she’s never had an opportunity to be,” Coombs said.

A military judge on Wednesday sentenced Manning to 35 years in prison for leaking thousands of secret government documents to WikiLeaks, but with time served, Manning could get parole in seven years.

Coombs said he expects Manning would get parole, but the ultimate goal is a pardon from President Barack Obama.

“I actually expect him to get pardoned, at least that’s what my hope is, that the president will in fact pardon Pfc. Manning,” Coombs said.

A White House spokesman said if Manning wants to apply for a pardon, it will be considered like any other clemency application.

August 27th - The trial of Bradley, the punishment of Chelsea

by Natasha Lennard (*Salon*)

As I wrote during the sentencing portion of the Manning trial, while the court-martial proceedings were ongoing, the status of Manning’s gender identity was, for the public, in a Shrodinger’s Cat state of indeterminacy: Unable

to speak outside the strictures of the case, Manning could not speak as Chelsea. For this sad reason, it makes sense to talk about the trial of Bradley Manning (the spectacle) and the punishment of Chelsea Manning (the trans woman facing decades in a male prison).

In fact, to talk about the trial of Chelsea Manning would be to perpetuate a certain violence: the failure to recognize that during the trial proceedings, Manning was unable to speak from her own chosen gender subject position — this was a violence carried out against the whistle-blower by the state and one we ought not echo. To speak of the trial of Chelsea Manning would be to underplay the persecution the soldier faced, including living publicly as male and Bradley, at the hands of the military and government. Indeed, as Manning’s lawyer David Coombs said this week, following Manning’s identification as female, the whistle-blower avoided announcing her gender identity and chosen name during the trial as “People might think it was an effort to get further attention,” said Coombs.

However, for any reporters or commentators who had followed Manning’s story with a modicum of diligence, Manning’s announcement that she wished to “live as a woman” named Chelsea should have come as no surprise. As Matt Sledge pointed out on HuffPo today, aside from references in court testimony by military psychologists to Manning’s “gender identity disorder” (a now defunct pathology that has been replaced in the DSM-5 with the less pejorative, but still problematic, “gender dysphoria”), there were signs dating back years and publicly available that Manning may have identified as female. For this reason, there is even less excuse for media outlets to continue to refer to Manning as “Bradley” and “he” when discussing Chelsea in the present. Publications and writers should have been long prepared for the possibility that Manning would identify as female when given the voice to do so — the three years of pretrial public indeterminacy should have given journalists ample preparation time to work out how to respectfully refer to a trans individual.

But while Chelsea Manning has spoken out, she will in many ways remain silenced in a state of exception: Held in a men’s military prison, not provided hormone therapy, and — for all legal intents and purposes — interpolated as male in her surroundings. Chelsea will be punished as Bradley according to the vagaries of military justice.

As NBC noted, “Coombs said Manning acknowledges there will be some confusion surrounding his [sic] wish to be known as Chelsea, and that she expects to be known as Bradley as the court-martial is appealed. In order for her to receive prison mail is must be addressed to Bradley Manning.

“There’s a realization that most people know her as Bradley,” Coombs said. “Chelsea is a realist and understands.”

21 Aug - Chris Lagergren case continued to September

Chris appeared in Court on August 12, 2013 and the case was continued.

MORE:

We’re now scheduled for a pre-trial hearing on September 9th with jury selection on September 16th, the trial will occur within two weeks of 9/16/2013.

Today marks two years from the day of Chris’ first alleged incident. This has been a long and tiring ordeal with ups and downs for too many people. Chris wants to thank everyone that has helped him personally, and to all those who support him, thank you! This draws to end an end next month. Until All Are Free and Every Cage is An Empty Cage, In Solidarity always!

22 Aug - 99% Gang Signs: An Update on Migs

As we reported last time, Mark “Migs” Neiweem faces continued repression and torture in jail, partly for having anarchist literature, including some from anarchist black cross.

MORE:

By Kit OConnell (*Firedoglake*)

First he was placed in solitary confinement with just months remaining in his sentence at Pontiac Correctional Center. When members of Operation PenPal started a campaign demanding his return to general population, prison officials moved him to an even worse solitary cell infested with rats and roaches and where he is denied even the brief human contact solitary victims expect at feeding time.

This week, Rachel Unterman of #OpPenPal called me to share the latest news.

Though he's due to be freed in November, prison officials are bringing additional charges that could add to Migs' sentence and endanger not just his freedom but that of future Occupy-associated political prisoners as well. "They accuse him of being an anarchist, which he is," says Unterman. That's not against the law — "but this is prison, so they are using it as a gang charge. The gang charges are worded so that you can apply it to almost anything."

One of his charges is being in possession of symbols and insignia that are unauthorized — 'gang signs' — but here the ones they specify are Circle-A and Circle-E.

Similar to the Circle-A, the internationally famous symbol of anarchism, the Circle-E is a newer symbol which represents radical equality. In defining this symbol in prison intelligence documents pertaining to Migs' case, officials specifically cite that it represents "the 99%."

Migs is also being charged with possessing "unauthorized literature," even though these books were allowed through the mail room. Migs' own writings against the prison-industrial complex are being used in claims he has plans to undermine prison security. Prison officials are claiming, despite Migs denials, that he and another avowed anarchist in the prison are organizing for an uprising. According to Unterman, all Migs wants to do is keep his head down and get free in a few months.

He'll hear the formal results of these new charges within about a week. Officials are considering transferring him to Menard Correctional Center, a prison with a dangerous reputation that is an almost six hour drive from his Chicago support network. They could also take away his "good time" — meaning he'd spend almost two additional years behind bars instead of getting released this year. Once the charges are formalized, his legal team will begin filing appeals.

Prison officials were holding his mail for over a week but, when she visited on Wednesday, he'd started receiving it again. "He's taking it better than I am," she told me. "He was very positive and optimistic but also realistic. He knows that they are out to get him but he said 'they can take all these aggressive measures on me and I could take it passively, but it's not going to make me treated any better.'"

Migs wants people on the outside to keep fighting for him by sending mail until it overwhelms the prison with support. "He wants to fight the charges, to fight for better treatment, and to make sure he's released in November."

She adds:

We need to keep in mind that this is very much political. They don't like him because he's an anarchist. We have a lot of people in the system who are anarchists or support the 99%. If they can make us into gangsters, as far as the system is concerned, it's going to be harder on everybody who's going to jail.

We know they don't like the 99%, but to put it under gang intelligence and to say that they're somehow a threat to the prison population just for their political views, without any evidence that they intend to act violently — it's a bad precedent to set.

How to Send Photos to Migs

Migs is just one of many political prisoners who need our support. Operation PenPal maintains an extensive list of political prisoners and guidelines for how to write and what to send.

Because Migs is being held in solitary, he's requested photos of the outside world. Postcards are great for any political prisoner, both because of the glimpse they provide of normal life and because their short content is harder for prison censors to justify withholding. An iPhone and website app called FlikShop offers one simple way to send photo postcards to Migs or other prisoners if you don't want to mail one yourself; Unterman says she's used FlikShop successfully for several months now. If you print photos at home, you should use regular printer paper and not photo paper.

28 Aug - A request from Alex Stuck (Tinley Park Five)

By way of Sacramento Prisoner Support and Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross, we've received a request from Tinley Park Five prisoner Alex Stuck. Alex is looking for books and articles.

MORE:

The requests read:

"Alex Stuck of the Tinley Park 5 wanted it to be spread around a little that he'd very much appreciate any book by Milton Erickson or Moshe Feldenkrais. He'd also like articles on hypnotherapy. He did not request any specific titles, just anything by Milton Erickson and anything by Feldenkrais or by others about the Feldenkrais method. he is also interested in transpersonal psychology and kinesics."

Anything you can do to help this antifascist comrade is appreciated. If you do decide to send a book, please contact folks from the Hoosier Anti Racist Movement (H.A.R.M.) or Bloomington ABC and let them know. This will help insure that Alex isn't receiving multiples of the same titles. E-mail H.A.R.M. at harm@riseup.net or Bloomington ABC at ellicit@riseup.net.

Here are some suggested titles:

Milton Erickson

Hypnotic Realities (With Ernest L. Rossi)

~~Healing in Hypnosis~~ SENT

Hypnotherapy – An Exploratory Casebook (With Ernest L. Rossi)

Experiencing Hypnosis (With Ernest L. Rossi)

Time Distortion in Hypnosis (With Linn F. Cooper)

Moshe Feldenkrais

The Elusive Obvious

The Master Moves

~~Awareness through Movement~~ SENT

The Potent Self

Practical Unarmed Combat

Judo: The Art of Defense and Attack

Higher Judo (Groundwork)

Books, articles, and letters can be sent to Alex at:

Alex Stuck M34020

Dixon Correctional Center

2600 North Brinton Avenue

Dixon, Illinois 61021

29 Aug - Jason Hammond out on bail

We have great news! Jason Hammond is no longer behind bars!

MORE:

Yesterday, Jason Hammond entered a plea of 'Not Guilty'. His lawyer did an excellent job of listing reasons why his bail should be reduced. The prosecuting attorney countered with listing details of the action that Jason is accused of being involved in. In the end the judge decided that the bail was fair and should remain the same with no restrictions. Enough funds were raised by Jason's Support Network to pay his bail.

As of this morning, August 30th, Jason Hammond is no longer in jail.

Jason's next court date is October 9th.

The Free Jason Hammond Support Network can be found here:<http://freejasonhammond.blogspot.com>

29 Aug - Kalamazoo pipeline protester could get two years in jail

One oil spill in his community was more than enough for Kalamazoo resident Christopher Wahmhoff. Now he's facing two years in prison.

MORE:

By John Upton (*Grist*)

To protest Enbridge's replacement of the pipeline that burst along a Michigan riverbank in 2010, Wahmhoff spent 10 hours of his 35th birthday inside the new pipe, slowing construction for a single day in June.

Now Wahmhoff, a member of the Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands, has been charged with two felonies and a misdemeanor, charges that could see him put behind bars for more than two years.

"It was worth it, without a doubt," he told the Battle Creek Enquirer on Tuesday following a preliminary hearing before a district judge. "We got awareness out."

The prosecutorial overreaction is all the more striking because of the peacefulness of Wahmhoff's protest. Though he refused to come out of the pipeline until 5 p.m., Sheriff Department Detective Steve Hinkley told the court, "He was very cooperative."

Wahmhoff's wrongdoings certainly pale in comparison to Enbridge's. When the company's improperly maintained pipeline ruptured in 2010, it led to the nation's largest-ever onshore oil spill. More than a million gallons of goopy, toxic tar-sands oil spilled into the Kalamazoo River and a tributary, and up to 180,000 gallons are still contaminating the river bottom today. So who's the criminal here?

2 Sept - NYC ABC Running Down the Walls recap by Daniel McGowan

NYC Anarchist Black Cross wants to take a moment to thank everyone who came out to support Running Down the Walls 2013. The turnout was great, we far exceeded our fundraising goal, and folks had a good time. A special thanks to those who volunteered and those who took time to bake for the event. It is moments like yesterday that keep us thinking the future holds potential.

A full recap of RDTW 2013 is forthcoming. Until then, check out this write up by our comrade, former political prisoner Daniel McGowan.

MORE:

I just want to thank everyone who sponsored me for this year's Running Down the Walls 5K run for Political Prisoners. Many people donated their time, energy and money to support me and the NYC Anarchist Black Cross. This year's run was wildly successful and a really fun day.

Almost 30 people ran, walked and biked this year making it one of the bigger ones. The rain was threatening all week but held out and although it was muggy, there were copious amounts of beverages and food provided by

ABC. The vegan deviled eggs, jackfruit/pulled pork sandwiches, cupcakes, cookies and such helped me finish the race, for sure!

I would thank you all by name if I knew it was ok, but over 50 people generously donated to sponsor me this year and I appreciate all your love and support, knowing full well this was the first big event I was involved in since I got out. I trained for a month and it was not easy-running at 39 is a totally different animal than at 22! The early morning time alone was remarkably helpful in helping me sort out the puzzling set of emotions and thoughts that come with re-entering society after 6 years inside.

Thanks to my non-corporate sponsor Bluestockings Bookstore, Café, & Activist Center who provided me with a shirt to run in, a generous donation and lots of moral support. Thanks also to my extraordinarily patient race-day supporter, Turtle, who helped make everything way easier than it would have been. I am sure NYC ABC will be coming out with a report-back and there are photos to be seen here thanks to Tom Martinez who donated his photography services.

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!

21 Sept - An afternoon for Leonard Peltier, the Puerto Rican political prisoners, and the Cuban 5

WHAT: 14th Anniversary of the Release of Most of the Puerto Rican PPs/POWs, Happy 39th Birthday, Leonard Peltier, Free the Cuban 5: 15 Years of Unjust Incarceration

WHEN: 2:00pm-5:00pm, Saturday, September 21st

WHERE: TBA

COST: It's a benefit, so dig deep!

MORE:

Location to be announced

Speakers to be announced

Culture to be announced

Light refreshments will be served

This is a fundraiser for commissary for the Political Prisoners/POWs

Be prepared to be generous

For more information:

nycldoc@gmail.com nycjericho@gmail.com 646 429-2059