

Updates for November 12<sup>th</sup>

### **28 Oct - NYC: Banner Drop in Solidarity With Jerry Koch**

*A banner was hung in solidarity with grand jury resister Jerry Koch, to whom we are sending post cards tonight. Below is the communique submitted to anarchistnews.org*

#### **MORE:**

"On the night of Monday, October 28th, we dropped a banner at the intersection of Allen and Hester in New York City to express our solidarity with Anarchist grand jury resister Jerry Koch. Our dear comrade has now been imprisoned for over 5 months but he continues on in his refusal to cooperate. For the past month the state has been withholding all letters addressed to Jerry with at least 150 undelivered. In response to our inability to communicate with our comrade, we thought we'd write him a more public message. The banner reads: (A) FREE ANARCHIST PRISONERS (A) - SOLIDARITY WITH JERRY KOCH.

Total uncompromising solidarity with Jerry and all Anarchist prisoners.

- NYC Anarchists"

### **28 Oct - New Writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal**

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

#### **MORE:**

#### **October 28<sup>th</sup> - Cat's Cries**

Several days ago, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting in Philadelphia, delivered a shocking decision in the continuing case of Lorenzo Johnson, the New Yorker recently released from 17 years in prison after the very same court found the evidence was insufficient to uphold a conviction.

Lorenzo (known by family and friends as Cat), spent just over 4 months in freedom, until a U.S. Supreme Court per curiam opinion, without arguments or briefing, summarily ordered his return to a life sentence for a murder that the evidence shows he did not, and could not, have committed.

In the year since his return to PA prisons, his lawyers have uncovered a wealth of evidence that reveals not only his innocence, but that of his co-accused. Indeed, they have shown that the State knowingly used false evidence to secure a conviction from Day One. Moreover, it appears the state's star witness, a notorious crack fiend, may herself have been an accomplice in the slaying of a small-time Harrisburg drug dealer.

But back to the shocking decision. The 3rd Circuit, after receiving an extraordinary writ that proved every facet of the original trial was corrupt, said the petition didn't meet the standard for a second habeas corpus writ.

A few days ago, Cat sat with the recently freed NY exonerated prisoner, Jeff Deskovic, and both men quietly wept.

In the face of such bold injustice, what more can men do?

No sober judge, reading such pleadings as his lawyers filed, could in good conscience say it didn't prove the injustices claimed. But judges today are seldom sober.

They are political actors who wear robes, instead of suits. And their job is to protect a system of corruption, lest

the whole system collapse under its monstrous weight.

For Cat, the struggle continues.

In fact, a serious post-conviction petition is now pending in the county court in Harrisburg, PA.

We're watching.

Note: for more info: [www.freelorenzojohnson.org](http://www.freelorenzojohnson.org)

### **October 29<sup>th</sup> - Puerto Rico: Under U.S. Colonial Law**

Greetings to Members and Delegates of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) IN San Juan, Puerto Rico for the Law for the People Convention.

As I thought about this event, I could not avoid thinking of the status of Puerto Ricans as part of the American empire.

Puerto Ricans are, of course, American citizens by birth, but what kind of citizens? By U.S. law and custom, they are something other than most Americans, for though they may freely join the Army, they are forbidden (while on the island) from voting for a president; or, for that matter, for having their delegate to the U.S. House vote on matters outside of committee.

This distinction of Puerto Rico, as a people separate from Americans, surely had its genesis in its seizure from Spain in 1898, and thereafter, that idea was concretized in the U.S. Supreme Court's *Balzac v. Porto Rico* [258 U.S. 298] (1922) decision, which denied the right of Puerto Ricans to jury trials, saying, in essence, that they weren't ready for such an innovation.

Lest any doubt my reasoning, please heed the following account from the opinion [p.310]:

The jury system needs citizens trained to the exercise of responsibility of jurors. In common law countries centuries of tradition have prepared a conception of the impartial attitudes jurors must assume. The jury system postulates a conscious duty of participation in the machinery of justice which it is hard for people not brought up in fundamentally popular governments at once to acquire. One of the greatest benefits is in the security it gives the people that they as jurors actual or possible, being part of the judicial system of the country, can prevent its arbitrary use or abuse. Congress has thought that a people like the Filipinos or the Porto Ricans, trained to a complete judicial system which knows no juries, living in compact and ancient communities, with definitely formed customs and political conceptions, should be permitted themselves to determine how far they wish to adopt this institution of Anglo-Saxon origin, and when.....[pp.310-311]

Apparently, Puerto Ricans (and Filipinos, it seems), weren't Anglo-Saxon enough to handle jury trials.

And while time has certainly changed (we note that the court now boasts a Puerto Rican justice), the Imperial perspective, of distinction, of difference, of deference, owed the empire by the colony, yet remains.

For millions of Puerto Ricans, especially her political prisoners from the early 20th century to today, the right of national independence rates higher than second-class citizenship within the U.S. Empire. In 1950 and 1954 Puerto Rican independence fighters opened fire at President Harry Truman and members of Congress to emphasize their support for independence.

Lolita LeBron and Rafael Cancel Miranda, among others, spent decades in American prisons for their efforts.

A new generation of Independendistas emerged after the '60s, and the '80s, and 11 were freed during the Clinton era, to buy support for Hillary Clinton's NY Senate campaign.

Some, on principle, like Oscar Lopez Rivera, remain in prison today, one of the longest held political prisoners in the world.

We should not kid ourselves. Puerto Rico, though bedecked in finery, is a colony; moreover, as a jewel seized after an exhausted Spain was forced to withdraw after a losing effort to hold on to Cuba, it still isn't free.

Perhaps, they are still not Anglo-Saxon enough.

### **November 1<sup>st</sup> - Music of the Soul**

From the first arrival of Africans on the shores and islands of the Americas as captives, music, and often acapella (or without instrumentation) became the central tool of communication.

Chained together like two-legged cattle, under the fierce gaze of gun-toting guards (called 'overseers'), working from sun-up to sun-down, only the songs of those among us kept us alive in mind and body. W.E.B. DuBois, in his classic *The Souls of Black Folk*, called this music, which gave birth to the gospels, "sorrow songs."

It gave a human pace to our toil of building the nation from the ground up, and feeding it, even while we, and our children, slowly starved to death. We starved, not just for healthy foods, but for fairness, for dignity, for justice, for love.

And in this barren wilderness, we looked within to bring forth the music of our soul; in gospel, in blues, in rhythm 'n' blues, in jazz, in funk, in early rap.

These musics were our collective wails made melodious.

Unlike any other national group or ethnicity, Blacks have created a new art form almost every generation, reflecting our passage throughout this society.

Each form, each genre, reflected not just our continuing hunger for fairness, dignity and justice, but it also served to give us a place to be fully human, to refute the deadly lies of white supremacy, and to showcase Black genius.

In a nation that proclaimed freedom while it practiced apartheid, Black music was the rare space that Blacks could use to express the rolling volcanoes churning within us.

Some artists became iconic figures of the Black musical tradition, notably in jazz. Among the finest were people like John Coltrane, a saxophonist who was able to transmit deep spiritual yearning in pieces like "A Love Supreme."

Rahsaan Roland Kirk was more earthbound and his work reflected the enormous virtuosity of the artist (who often played three wind instruments at the same time!), as he sung of "B-L-A-C-K-N-U-S-S!"

Straight out of North Philly, (to be precise, Richard Allen Projects), came Lee Morgan, whose trumpet displayed control, tone and strength that transfixed his listeners, even at an early age.

Jazz, often offering pure improvisational instrumentals, communicated to diverse, global audiences our depth and our profundity. Like early gospels and sorrow songs sung in shackles, jazz went deep to communicate both our pain and our presence. It also signaled our survival.

The music of jazz, an expression of our heights, has been transformed into yet another commodity, largely drained of its early revolutionary spirit. The same might be said of rap, which began as urban expression of our discontent: "Don't mess with me, 'cuz I'm close to the eddgge! I'm tryin', not to lose my head!" Remember?

From that to “Gold on my neck”, a paean to sheer materialism, devoid of any social commentary, is a deep fall indeed.

Corporate forces, which have ever exploited and dogged the tracks of our creativity, have leached toxic poisons into the wells of our culture, contaminating all it touches.

Our music, which once gave life to the entire earth, is now shallow sounds with which to sell cars.

The soul is gone.

Yet, it need not be so for long.

We are the creators of our music.

We must restoreth our Soul.

We must sing the songs of our People: and not sing for those who toss poisoned pennies into our cups.

### **November 5<sup>th</sup> - Allies Like These**

With news emerging of widespread US spying on several dozen European leaders and populations, we see the rise of the national –no, international security state.

Spy craft has long been a tool of states, especially between rivals and enemy nations.

But with the release of the Snowden files (snatched and released by former CIA and NSA security analyst, Edward Snowden), we learn that the US considers spying on allies of equal, or even greater importance.

Not since the shady days of ex-president Richard Nixon, who was infamous for his wiretaps of American dissidents (like the Peace Movement, the Black Freedom Movement and the American Indian Rights Movement), have we seen spying on such a vast scale.

Indeed, the Bush administration, which had Nixonian appetites, especially in their total information awareness campaign, had to reduce the range of their domestic snooping when civil libertarians yelled and screamed.

Fast forward half a dozen years, and total information awareness seems like an understatement.

Under President Barack Obama, national security has been unleashed, to include domestic spying on millions of Americans, and on millions of Europeans in so-called ‘Allied’ countries. Leaders of France, Germany, Brazil and Britain have had their personal communications hacked and wirelessly tapped, by American Intelligence.

Are Germany’s Angela Merkel, France’s Francois Holiande, and Brazil’s Dilma Rousseff suspected of conspiring with Al Qaeda? Seriously?

An empire has no allies. It has subordinates. Satraps. Tools. Nothing more.

An empire is subject to no law, other than its own will.

All it knows is expansion. More – of everything.

Boy, that sounds perfectly American to me!

### **November 5<sup>th</sup> - The Fletcher Rule**

I write today of a man on Death Row, a man known to many as “2 Gunz.”

For many, perhaps most, the words “Death Row”, and the nickname, “2 Gunz”, when used in the same sentence, are seemingly all that needs be said, for they paint a picture tinged with guilt.

But this is not the case.

Anthony Fletcher is his birth name, and his nickname was his boxing moniker. The guns? His fists, which took him to the brink of greatness in the ring, where he fought – and beat –some of the greatest fighters of the game, like Ray ‘Boom-Boom’ Mancini, and Livingstone Bramble (both light-weight champions)

Until 1993, when a Philadelphia jury convicted him of shooting a man, whom Fletcher argued was shot in self-defense. Under today’s law, Fletcher would’ve been acquitted, if charged at all, but this was ’93.

In 2004, a Philadelphia judge granted him a new trial, after a pathologist admitted he gave erroneous testimony at his trial as to whether a struggle occurred. In most states, that would’ve been the end of it.

But not in Pennsylvania. In 2007, the state Supreme Court threw out the new trial, used a dubious claim that Fletcher represented himself –and-, denying false testimony used at the original trial –testimony admitted by medical examiner Dr. Ian Hood – and reversed the post-conviction judge, reinstating a first degree murder conviction and a death sentence.

Anthony “2 Gunz” Fletcher was sent back to Death Row.

If the mistaken pathologist and crack addicted so called witness (who herself faced serious felony charges at the time of trial) hadn’t presented false, misleading testimony in the first trial – there wouldn’t even have been a conviction.

But there you are.

In Pennsylvania, self-defense isn’t self-defense, if they don’t want it to be.

In fact, jailhouse lawyers here think “2 Gunz” got sent back to Death Row for the most greasy of reasons.

He refused to plead guilty to third degree murder, and thereby allowing the DA to keep an unjust, unreliable conviction to stay on the books.

2 Gunz is still swinging.

### **November 5<sup>th</sup> - Assata: Guilty of Survival**

For those who know the life and struggles of former Black Panther and Black Liberation fighter, Assata Shakur, the US government attacks on her, by ludicrously labeling her a terrorist, and posting a bounty on her, is the surest sign that the government has succumbed to sheer madness.

Assata, in her self-named memoir, Assata, and more clearly in her aunt’s legal recitation, entitled Inadmissible Evidence, by attorney Evelyn Williams, show how the US government, in deadly conspiracy with state and local governments, waged an illegal, unconstitutional and criminal war against the the Black Freedom Movement, with particular attention to the Black Panther Party.

The US government, in collusion with the locals, broke every law, and torched every precedent, to “get” Panthers. They attacked Panthers in their offices, and when that didn’t work, they framed them in court; and when that didn’t work, they drugged and assassinated them in their beds – as what happened to Chicago Black Panther leader, Fred Hampton.

Who were the terrorists: those who attacked people who were fighting for their freedom, or those who tried to defend themselves against such attacks?

Assata joined the Party for the same reason she joined the Army; to defend the lives of a people under monstrous attacks by the State.

Ask yourself this: Why was Assata Shakur ever imprisoned, when those who conspired, and undertook the night raids to murder Fred Hampton – in his sleep – never were even charged with anything?

Over 20 Panthers were killed across the country – and nothing.

Assata was targeted because she was a bright, beautiful and bold symbol of the Black Freedom Movement. She was ambushed, shot and arrested to stop that movement – and that's why she is attacked still.

Believe it or not, she was charged with killing her mentor, Zayd Malik Shakur (NY's Deputy Minister of information of the Black Panther Party) who was shot to death by cops on the Jersey Turnpike.

That Black politicians signed on to this slander is a sign of the rottenness of Black political classes today. Meanwhile, the Black poor endure conditions today that would've been unthinkable in the '60s and '70s. Ye on their targeting, their repression, their mass incarcerations, their daily humiliations – their hell – the Black politicians are silent.

Black homeowners lost more wealth in the past 7 years to racially targeting foreclosures than at any time since Reconstruction, and Black politicians, paid by the same hands that picked Black pockets, are silent on solutions.

Since the very foundation of America, Black people (and Indians) have been the primary targets of terrorism.

They have trouble Driving While Black, Shopping While Black, Schooling While Black and even Walking While Black; and the Black political class has neither solution nor voice.

Be honest: What people in America are more in need of an army to defend and protect them than Blacks?

Assata should never have been targeted; indeed, she should be awarded the Nobel Prize (for surviving)

### **29 Oct - Anarchist Black Cross Sounds Alarm on Prisoner Healthcare**

*At a gathering of Anarchist Black Cross groups, prison support activists raised the alarm about mistreatment of America's prisoners: a pattern of denial of necessary medical care and compassionate release amounts to state-sanctioned torture.*

#### **MORE:**

By Kit OConnell (*Firedoglake*)

Here on *Firedoglake* we've covered the death of Herman Wallace and the denial of medical treatment to whistleblower John Kiriakou, but these are just two of many victims.

The Anarchist Black Cross movement is a coalition of loosely allied groups which support prisoners. Many of them came together last month for the third annual national gathering of North American Anarchist Black Cross groups in Denver, attended by organizations from as far away as Mexico City.

They identified medical treatment of political prisoners as a key issue, and the North American Anarchist Black Cross Medical Justice Committee issued this statement at the time of Wallace's death:

Herman was just one of many, aging political prisoners (and prisoners of war) in the United States who are currently being denied adequate medical care and the compassionate release for which they qualify.

These people are incarcerated for their opposition to actions or policies of the US government that are in violation of human rights, and as such should be afforded the protections of international law. It is the opinion of the North American Anarchist Black Cross Medical Justice Committee that these captured dissidents and combatants be granted compassionate release and dignified medical care, with respect to their age, health and sacrifice in service of legitimate struggles against oppression and exploitation. It was too little, too late for Herman; that must not be the fate of our other elder comrades.

...

The Geneva Conventions contain the internationally recognized standard of care for prisoners of war. The standard of care for Political Prisoners in the United States ought to be at least as sound as the Geneva Conventions. It currently is not. We have many aging comrades struggling for the most basic health care while incarcerated. Even the Office of the Inspector General found that the existing [Bureau of Prisons] compassionate release program has been poorly managed and implemented inconsistently, likely resulting in eligible inmates not being considered for release and in terminally ill inmates dying before their requests were decided, as noted in the Department of Justice April 2013 review of the [Bureau of Prisons] compassionate release program. We cannot allow this to keep happening. What's happened to Herman Wallace should never happen again. No one should die in prison. Least of all, perhaps, those who have spent their lives fighting oppression and injustice.

The statement goes on to detail the suffering of over a dozen current or past political prisoners from Lynne Stewart, the activist lawyer dying of cancer behind bars, to American Indian Movement member Leonard Peltier, suffering from serious health issues.

"The US concentration camps [prisons] are notorious for subjecting people to unofficial, indirect slow death and torture," said Joseph Jordan of the Denver Anarchist Black Cross when we spoke by phone. "One of the ways is through conscious, medical neglect and profit being prioritized over human care."

I asked Jordan what he thought my readers could do to help political prisoners. "Write, call, email anybody relevant — particularly the wardens of the prisons that these people are held in, and for federal cases the Federal Board of Pardons and the Bureau of Prisons." The Bureau of Prisons is responsible for recommending compassionate release and, in cases like Stewart's, will frequently deny the validity of medical claims about the prisoner's health.

Jordan also said anyone can help raise awareness about political prisoners. "What should the average person who's compassionate but not an ABC member do? Write to political prisoners, talk about them to your friends and coworkers. Make it an issue. Writing to a political prisoner takes just minutes and as a show of support it means a lot."

Jordan stressed that the Anarchist Black Cross movement differs from groups like Amnesty International because it supports not just political prisoners, but those he called prisoners of war — people who actively opposed what he sees as an oppressive government and now face mistreatment behind bars. "This government is illegitimate," he added. If our government lacks legitimacy, then its laws are also illegitimate, designed to maintain power or build the prison-industrial complex and the school-to-prison pipeline.

But regardless of how you feel about their actions, all prisoners deserve humane treatment.

"We're fighting not even for civil rights but for human rights. For healing to happen, especially if you're aging, you need access to good food. You need access to clean water. You need access to sunshine and exercise and fresh air. All of those are necessary for healing — our ancestors have known this for thousands of years. It's not officially considered torture, but that's what it is." —Joseph Jordan

Keeping a sick prisoner like Leonard Peltier from accessing his native culture and its traditional healing methods is a form of cruel and unusual punishment.

## **Helping Political Prisoners**

If you'd like to appeal to the Federal Bureau of Prisons on behalf of a Federal Prisoner, you can write:

Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First St., NW  
Washington, DC 20534

You can also reach out to the U.S. Pardon Attorney, Ronald L. Rodgers by phone at 202.616.6070.

### **29 Oct - Update on Tyler Lang and Kevin Olliff**

*Below, we're including all of the updates on the case of Tyler Lang and Kevin Olliff. Most importantly, Tyler was released on a non-cooperating plea deal; Kevin's plea deal was denied by the judge and he now potentially faces up to six years in prison; and the book ban that was lifted after Kevin's hunger strike has still not been honored by the jail.*

#### **MORE:**

#### **October 29<sup>th</sup> - Illinois prisoners stage hunger strike for books**

From *Al Jazeera*

Imprisoned animal rights activist Kevin Olliff is on his sixth day of a hunger strike to regain access to books in Woodford County Jail in Illinois. A support website for Olliff and fellow animal protection activist Tyler Lang says it has been six weeks since the jail has banned books from entering the prison. Using the hashtag #Right2Read, an online campaign was launched asking supporters of the inmates to call the prison and county sheriff to ask that access to books be restored.

In a phone interview with *The Stream*, Woodford County Sheriff James Pierceall said, "The reason books are not being allowed into the prison is because the library is full." Pierceall said every three to four months a year, library books are "replenished" by replacing old or torn up books. Supporters of Kevin and Tyler's campaign, however, refute the argument that library size is an issue, noting books are no longer allowed to be mailed directly to prisoners.

Olliff and Lang, both from California, were arrested on August 14 for possession of burglary tools. However, supporters of Olliff believe the arrest might have had more to do with his previous animal rights activities.

The police have not made any statement as to what they believe the intended "burglary" target was, and Kevin & Tyler were not arrested on anyone's property. Their history as activists appears to be the sole basis for the charges.

In 2009, Olliff was arrested in California and charged with six stalking felonies related to his animal rights activism. He served 18 months in prison and was released in November 2010 with five years probation.

Asked if he wanted to comment on the inmates' actions, Sheriff Pierceall said: "No, except that they're getting what they want - a whole lot of attention over something that isn't 'kosher.'"

#### **October 29<sup>th</sup> - An Open Letter to IL Governor Quinn & Eureka Mayor Punke**

Dear Governor Quinn and Mayor Punke,

We are writing to make you all aware of an inmate hunger strike that is currently happening at the Woodford County Jail in Eureka, IL, and to ask you to immediately intervene in this dire situation.

Kevin Johnson, an inmate at Woodford County Jail who is awaiting trial, began a hunger strike on October 23, 2013, to protest the jail's newly-instated ban on allowing inmates to receive books that are mailed to them from supporters. The jail placed this ban on books in early September, hours after Kevin's book wish list was posted on a support website. Kevin has made internal complaints about the book ban and supporters have called the jail

to ask that the book ban be lifted, but Woodford County Jail Superintendent Michael Waterworth has refused to allow Kevin and other inmates to receive the books that they desperately desire in order to make their time in jail educational. As an inmate with few ways to protest jail actions that infringe on inmates' rights, Kevin decided that the next step he would take in protesting the book ban would be to go on a hunger strike, and he has said that he will remain on the hunger strike until the book ban is lifted.

Kevin is several days into the hunger strike and already experiencing the difficult effects of not eating. As the hunger strike continues, he will be risking permanent damage to his muscles, bones, organs, and brain in a matter of weeks; death is a risk that is present at every stage of a hunger strike. Furthermore, Superintendent Waterworth has told Kevin that, if he does not resume eating, he will be force fed, which amounts to torture in a jail setting. Kevin is putting his physical and mental health—as well as his life—on the line, and this requires urgent action on his behalf.

As the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Eureka, you all have a responsibility to intervene when an inmate in your state and city is engaged in a hunger strike, particularly when the hunger strike is in response to a jail's treatment of inmates. We implore you to call Superintendent Waterworth and ask that the jail immediately resume allowing inmates to receive books that are mailed to them and bring Kevin's hunger strike to an end. This is an extremely dangerous situation that requires this swift and compassionate action from people in your influential leadership positions.

You can call the Woodford County Jail at 309-467-2116 to speak with Superintendent Waterworth and bring relief to this critical situation. Thank you for caring about the lives, health, and rights of inmates in your state and city.

#### **October 30<sup>th</sup> - Kevin moved to isolation unit: Day 7 of hunger strike**

Jail threatens to begin force-feeding as Kevin is moved to solitary confinement.

Yesterday, Kevin was moved to an "isolation unit" at the Woodford County Jail. He is now on day 7 of his hunger strike to challenge the jail's ban on books, which has created a life of insufferable boredom for both Kevin and Tyler.

The ostensible purpose of the isolation unit is for "medical observation" as Kevin enters a very precarious second week without food. The cell is on the ground floor, where he is able to be watched more closely by jail staff.

Kevin has lost 10 to 15 pounds since his hunger strike began 7 days ago. He is drinking water (and coffee), and ingesting salt (sodium is said to stave off the worst effects of starvation).

The jail has been attempting to bait Kevin into eating by offering food of a quality far beyond what is normal, including baked potatoes, vegan chili, and more in an attempt to entice him into eating.

They have repeatedly threatened Kevin with "medical intervention" if he continues to refuse food. Specifically, they have said he will be strapped down and force-fed.

Another threat Waterworth has made to Kevin is that he will be personally charged for all medical bills related to his hunger strike.

As the days tick by, Kevin's health is likely to worsen and he will need all the support we can offer him. It is an absolute disgrace that a pointless book ban has inflicted such desperate psychological stress on prisoners that they feel forced to starve themselves in response.

#### **October 31<sup>st</sup> - VICTORY: The book ban has been lifted! Kevin ends hunger strike**

*[ABC note: "Political" folks outside of animal rights communities often keep them on the margins and as a result fail to acknowledge or even take note of effective tactics. Those of us involved with prisoner support*

*should analyze how this short, focused campaign worked. Organizing public pressure brought victory.]*

After 8 days on a hunger strike, jail head Michael Waterworth told Kevin Olliff he was lifting the book ban. This huge victory comes after Kevin lost close to 20 pounds over the 8 days. Kevin has now ended his hunger strike, effectively immediately.

Thanks to everyone worldwide who made calls, wrote articles, and organized support during Kevin's hunger strike. While it is always unfortunate when someone is pushed into starving themselves to receive a basic human right, we can say that from everyone's hard work and Kevin's sacrifice, this episode has a happy ending.

Kevin at his first meal in over a week at lunchtime on Thursday, and was given a book. He was told the books that have been sent during the book ban will be given to him by the end of the day.

### **Lifting of book ban comes after major publicity and hundreds of calls.**

The lifting of the ban came after a full week of hunger strike, and huge publicity from places such as Aljazeera America and Twitter, where the "#right2read" hashtag was seen by millions over the previous two days.

If we let one jail get away with taking away a basic human rights from prisoners, they can soon take them from everyone. Thanks to everyone who stood up to this unjust denial of a prisoner's basic right to read. This is a victory not just for Kevin and Tyler, but to everyone confined in Woodford County Jail and beyond.

### **Waterworth's agenda backfires**

This reversal did not come from Waterworth's conscience. He was clear to specify to Kevin that lifting the book ban was not his decision, and came from higher up the chain. There is no question he is embarrassed over having his pointless book ban given worldwide scrutiny, resulting in more reasonable people over his head setting him straight.

Many comments he made to Kevin indicated the book ban was about control, not practical measures. He also maintained he would not lift the book ban because it would empower prisoners and their outside supporters, and show that he could be influenced by them.

This attempt to look like a tough lawman has backfired on Waterworth, who has now been publicly embarrassed by the people above him, and shown that even in the culture of jailers his conduct was out of line, inhumane, and unacceptable.

### **The lesson**

Don't ever think that simple actions to shine a spotlight on injustice don't work. This victory would not have been achieved if we had not spoken up.

### **Send Tyler and Kevin books!**

How to send a book: <http://supportkevinandtyler.com/send-books>

### **November 6<sup>th</sup> - Update from the pretrial: Tyler is out! Kevin's plea deal rejected by judge.**

After exactly three months of life in Woodford County Jail, Wednesday marked Kevin and Tyler's second pretrial. Here are the updates:

First the good news. Tyler was offered a plea deal that granted him time served and conditional release without probation. HE'S FREE! And we're not surprised. Between Tyler's clean record and the dubious nature of the vehicle search that led to the charges, it was only a matter of time before he was released. It's an injustice and a

shame that Tyler had to waste three months of his life and his activist career sitting in Woodford County Jail because his bail was set exorbitantly high by Judge Huschen—who also initially rejected Tyler’s plea, but was finally persuaded to accept it. We’re outraged that it happened, but so happy to have our friend back. Welcome home, Ty. (And speaking of home, Tyler is staying in Chicago with his attorneys right now, but will be back en route to L.A. in the next week.)

And now onto the bad news. Obviously Kevin is still not out. Prosecuting attorney Gregory Minger offered Kevin a plea deal of 24 months, which the defense team rejected. They returned with a counter-offer of 18 months, and the two sides eventually settled on 22 months. But Judge Huschen showed his true colors once again and rejected Kevin’s deal. This time he could not be convinced otherwise, and was overheard saying to the prosecutor that Kevin is “extendable.” This means that while the normal sentence for a Class 4 felony is one to three years, since Kevin has a criminal record related to his activism, the state can seek up to a six year sentence if he’s convicted at trial. In Illinois “good time” and time served count towards reducing the overall sentence. However, this would still mean roughly two and a half more years in a state prison.

Two and half years. For having tools.

We’ll let you draw your own conclusions. Repression is nothing new for the activist community, and is in fact on the rise lately. But is anyone else getting the distinct impression that our friend has a target on his back?

As soon as a trial date is set, we’ll let you know. In the meantime, stay free, stay strong, stay loud, stay committed, stay angry. And keep up the support for Kevin!

**November 11th - Jail refusing to comply with orders to lift book ban**  
**Jail continues to enforce a de facto book ban by holding all incoming books.**

Last week, Kevin Olliff ended his hunger strike after orders came from above that Michael Waterworth must lift the book ban.

Now, the jail is seeking a loophole to continue to deny books to Kevin. As of today, Kevin has still not received any book sent to him since the ban was supposed to have been lifted.

Here is the update:

The jail has perpetuated (to the media and outsiders) the myth of a “jail library.” The library doesn’t exist. What the jail calls a library is a cart of books, which prisoners are given access to only once a week.

As of now, the jail is attempting to skirt orders to lift the book ban by placing all books sent into a room where they sit until a jail guard decides they want to put them on the book cart (which is then wheeled around to prisoner’s cells). The books are not being given to the prisoners they are sent to.

How is this any different than the ban? Functionally, its no different. Books sent to Kevin – instead of being placed in his personal property and given him upon his release – are placed in a room where the jail guards have the option of putting them on the book cart. Or not.

Kevin has not seen any books sent in since the ban was “lifted” over a week ago.

**Who is responsible?**

Currently this de facto book ban is “under review.” Michael Waterworth and the sheriff's office is pushing for the ban to remain. The “jail inspector” is opposing the ban.

**A lie told in plain sight**

For the two months of the original book ban, Michael Waterworth's explanation to the media was that the (non-existent) library was "full." Now that he has been ordered to lift the ban, he miraculously has found room for all the incoming books.

And he didn't just find room for them, he suddenly has so much room that he can actually hold every book mailed in and not pass them along to the prisoners. The purported space limitations haven't just been relieved, Waterworth suddenly has an unlimited amount of space to hold books, rather than give them to prisoners directly.

### **A violation of the book ban lift**

This loophole to skirt the ban is a violation of both the spirit of the agreement – that Kevin would be allowed access to books – and the letter of the agreement – that he would be given books mailed in to him.

As it stands, books sent to Kevin have little-to-no chance of making it to him. The sadistic Michael Waterworth would rather the books collect dust in a room than be read.

### **Kevin's response**

Kevin is unsurprised, but intends to attack this betrayal vigorously. While this de facto book ban is "under review", he will be going without books for 10 days waiting for a resolution. If there is no decision at that point, he will resume his hunger strike.

As part of the hunger strike, he will no longer negotiate with Waterworth or the sheriff's department, and will only communicate with the jail inspector (who opposes the book ban).

We will send any updates as we learn of them.

### **31 Oct - Free Marissa Now statement on court hearing**

*Once again, State Attorney Angela Corey has decided to prosecute Marissa Alexander for defending herself from her abusive ex-husband, despite the fact that the original guilty verdict was overturned, and despite the fact that Marissa injured no one when she fired a warning shot and has no criminal record.*

### **MORE:**

At the status hearing today in Jacksonville, a bond was scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> and a new trial was set for March 31, 2014.

Marissa Alexander, an African American mother of three, has been victimized twice -- once by her abusive ex-husband and again by the state of Florida, which has stolen nearly three years from her life for an act of self-defense that injured no one. While the Free Marissa Now mobilization campaign is deeply disappointed in the on-going targeting of this survivor of domestic violence by prosecutors, we remain steadfast and more committed than ever to keep organizing until we see Marissa Alexander freed from prison.

We stand with all of the thousands of incredible supporters who have written letters, organized teach-ins, created art, marched, made phone calls, made signs, tabled, sang songs, endorsed the call, written poetry, produced videos, debated haters, blogged, prayed, made donations, rallied in public and meditated in private. Your raised voices continue to be the key ingredient to secure Marissa Alexander's freedom because you refuse to let this violence stay invisible, which it is for so many people who are abused behind closed doors and disappeared into prisons.

Our work in the Free Marissa Now campaign has brought broad awareness of how black women and other marginalized people are likely to be criminalized, prosecuted, and incarcerated while trying to navigate and

survive the conditions of violence in their lives. Domestic violence survivors are frequently deprived of sympathy and solidarity, particularly if they fight back.

This is especially true for black women who are criminalized and subjected to racist stereotypes that paint them as overly aggressive and unworthy. In fact, black women face a disproportionate share of fatal domestic violence in America, according to the new Violence Policy Center (VPC) report *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data*. In 2011, 492 black females were murdered by males at a rate of 2.61 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 0.99 per 100,000 for white females. Where the relationship could be determined, 94 percent of black females killed by males knew their killers.

The systemic injustice of Florida's mandatory minimum sentencing system is being fully exposed as a mechanism leading to the mass incarceration of black people, other people of color, and poor people. Mass incarceration must be dismantled.. Transformative strategies to end domestic and sexual violence -- including community organizing; culturally specific services to prevent violence; community-based efforts to promote accountability, healing, and redress; and efforts to achieve economic justice -- must be meaningfully engaged in order for our communities to achieve real safety.

Marissa is no longer guilty in the eyes of the law, but she is still in prison. We demand that the state of Florida release her on personal recognizance immediately. Also, now that Marissa and her family face another trial, we will pivot to a major fundraising push for the rest of the year to help cover extensive legal costs. Marissa's outstanding legal team is working pro bono, but there are still costs to cover such as flying in expert witnesses to testify, collecting and processing evidence, etc. We intend to raise \$10,000 by the end of the year.

Finally, we call on feminist organizations, racial justice and civil rights organizations, and other social justice advocates to bring strong support and resources for this fight. We call on anti-violence advocates everywhere to fearlessly defend those survivors who are targeted by police, prosecution, and prisons. We need your support more than ever in this next phase of the movement to free Marissa Alexander.

Our movement is strong and we will keep going! We have a trial to help win and we will continue to organize for the end of domestic violence and mass incarceration.

#### **November 4<sup>th</sup> - Marissa Alexander supporters launch Freedom Fund**

Since State Attorney Angela Corey refuses to drop the case against Marissa Alexander, continuing a pattern of unjust targeting and prosecution, the Free Marissa Now campaign is turning to education and fundraising to support Alexander in winning her freedom through a new trial.

Marissa Alexander is an African American mother of three and survivor of domestic violence from Jacksonville, FL. In 2010, she fired a warning shot upwards into a wall to defend herself from a life-threatening beating from her estranged husband. Despite the fact that Marissa caused no injuries and has no previous criminal record, and despite the fact that Florida's self-defense law includes the right to "Stand Your Ground," she was subsequently arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced to 20 years in prison. In September 2013, a Florida Appeals Court secured her right to a new trial due to serious errors by the prosecution.

Marissa's legal team is working without pay. But conducting an excellent defense is still very costly. Marissa's supporters intend to raise \$10,000 by Dec 31, 2013 for the Marissa Alexander Legal Defense Fund to help cover these costs.

The Indiegogo site receiving donations is <http://tiny.cc/freedomfundraiser>

Marissa's new trial is scheduled to begin March 31, 2014. In addition to raising urgently needed resources for a new trial, Free Marissa Now will do community organizing to make sure her support movement keeps growing. It will also continue to raise awareness about domestic violence and mass incarceration.

This fundraiser is accountable to Marissa Alexander and her family. All proceeds from the fundraiser go to the Marissa Alexander Legal Defense Fund which is administered by Marissa's family on her behalf. Information about the fundraiser is also available on the family's website.

Contact the Free Marissa Now campaign at [freemarissanow@gmail.com](mailto:freemarissanow@gmail.com) for more information.

Marissa Alexander is an African American mother of three and survivor of domestic violence from Jacksonville, FL. In 2010, she fired a warning shot upwards into a wall to defend herself from a life-threatening beating from her estranged husband. Despite the fact that Marissa caused no injuries and has no previous criminal record, and despite the fact that Florida's self-defense law includes the right to "Stand Your Ground," she was subsequently arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced to 20 years in prison. This past September, Marissa Alexander won her appeal, her guilty verdict was overturned, and she secured the right to a new trial.

### **FULL ACQUITTAL: A Movement Behind The Trial**

Free Marissa Now, an alliance of organizers and thousands of people all around the world, have been organizing for Marissa's freedom from prison and intend to keep going until she is free. Because State Attorney Angela Corey refuses to drop the case against Marissa Alexander, continuing a pattern of unjust targeting and prosecution, our movement turns to supporting Marissa, her family, and her legal team in winning her freedom through a new trial.

### **This fundraiser is CRITICAL for at least two reasons:**

1. Marissa's excellent legal team is working pro bono, which is wonderful. However, launching an effective defense can run up significant costs, such as securing expert witnesses, travel costs, depositions, processing evidence, etc. Marissa's supporters can mobilize to raise funds that will ensure that she has resources for the trial, increasing her chances of securing her freedom.
2. Our continued organizing will make sure that Marissa's name is not forgotten and that our commitment to her freedom remains active. It also creates opportunities for us to continue to raise awareness about domestic violence and mass incarceration.

### **ORGANIZE FUNDRAISERS!**

We appreciate all individual donations! We also encourage people to organize community fundraisers to connect with each other and bring more people into the movement. Organize community potlucks, local concerts, raffles, talent shows, holiday parties... Fundraising is a huge part of movement building!

### **WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?**

This fundraiser is accountable to Marissa Alexander and her family. All proceeds from this fundraiser go to the Marissa Alexander Legal Defense Fund which is administered by Marissa's family on her behalf. You can find the link to this fundraiser on the family's website: <http://justiceformarissa.blogspot.com/>.

Contact us at [freemarissanow@gmail.com](mailto:freemarissanow@gmail.com) if you have questions.

### **THANK YOU!**

Marissa's supporters are the greatest! Every step of the way, you have shown up and given deep support and love. Your donation is just one more way that you give life to the movement to free Marissa and highlight the need to support all survivors who have been criminalized while trying to navigate the conditions of violence. Thank you so much for your donation!

**PS:**

If you want to send a donation via check, you can mail the check to:

**Global Alliance, Inc.  
For: The Marissa Alexander Legal Defense Fund  
Global Alliance, Inc.  
Post Office Box 290956  
Columbia, South Carolina 29229**

But please e-mail a note to us at [freemarissanow@gmail.com](mailto:freemarissanow@gmail.com) so we can include your donation in our fundraising total!

### **31 Oct - Chelsea Manning willing to take gender identity to court**

*Manning, 25, says she wants to live as a woman and receive hormone replacement therapy – and she'll go to court if needed.*

**MORE:**

*From The Guardian*

Chelsea Manning says she'll go to court, if necessary, to get treatment for gender identity disorder, also called gender dysphoria.

The army private formerly known as Bradley Manning wrote in a letter to the Private Manning Support Network that her court-martial defense attorney, David Coombs, is helping her seek treatment for the disorder at the US Disciplinary Barracks, a men's military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The support group posted the October 28 letter on its website Wednesday.

Manning is serving a 35-year sentence for sending more than 700,000 secret military and State Department documents to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks while working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq.

Manning, 25, wrote that she wants to at least be allowed to live as a woman and receive hormone replacement therapy. She said Coombs will represent her in those efforts "by assisting me in matters related to exhausting my administrative remedies and, if denied outright, in filing a writ before a court with jurisdiction."

Coombs didn't respond immediately to queries from the Associated Press. After Manning announced her request in August, he said he hoped the military prison would "do the right thing" so Manning wouldn't have to go to court.

The military has said it does not provide treatment for gender dysphoria. Pentagon policy dictates that transgender soldiers are not allowed to serve, but Manning can't be discharged until she's released from prison and exhausts appeals of her criminal convictions. The Army Medical Command has said prisoners cannot receive hormone treatment at Fort Leavenworth, though Manning is apparently the first to request it. And prison officials have said Manning won't be allowed to dress as a woman.

Manning was diagnosed with gender dysphoria by two army behavioral health specialists before her trial, but the Army has said prisoners must be re-evaluated.

Manning also wrote that Coombs will help her file a petition for a formal name change from Bradley to Chelsea. Prison officials have said name changes are allowed.

The letter was one of four from Manning that the support network published. In one delivered to the Guardian, she apologized for an earlier public statement delivered to the Guardian in which she rejected the "pacifist" label after receiving the 2013 Sean MacBride Peace Award. Manning wrote in her apology that her decision to leak

classified information reflected her "dedication to transparency" and a concern for human life and equality.

### **31 Oct - New effort to free Omaha Two from Nebraska prison gains momentum**

*At a conference in Omaha, Nebraska, in August, an all-star panel of scholars and activists announced concurrent efforts to gain freedom for Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice). The two men have been jailed since August 1970 for the bombing murder of an Omaha policeman.*

#### **MORE:**

by Linda Kennedy (*Examiner*)

The gathering was held at the Malcolm X Memorial Center but was largely ignored by local news media. However, the San Francisco Bay View published an account of the conference where several different strategies to obtain the release from prison for the two former Black Panther leaders were announced.

Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa were convicted in April 1971 for the murder of Larry Minard, Sr. who was killed by a booby-trap bomb in a vacant house. Officer Minard was answering a 911 call about a woman screaming but only found a suitcase full of dynamite. The two Panther leaders were targets of J. Edgar Hoover's illegal counterintelligence war on the Black Panthers, code-named COINTELPRO. Hoover gave a secret order to withhold a FBI Laboratory report on the identity of the 911 caller who lured Minard to his death. Instead of seeking Minard's killer, Hoover wanted Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa convicted for the crime but this was unknown until years after their trial. Serving life sentences at the maximum-security Nebraska State Penitentiary, both men continue to deny any role in Minard's death and have repeatedly sought a new trial.

Lennox Hinds, former counsel for the African National Congress, who also teaches Criminal Justice at Rutgers University, told the audience he would be filing an affidavit in support of Mondo we Langa's request to be heard by the Nebraska Supreme Court in a petition filed by Omaha attorney Tim Ashford. The appeal challenges the de facto life without parole sentences being served by the two prisoners. Hinds said the men are serving "illegal" sentences.

State Senator Ernie Chambers, who represents Omaha's Near-Northside, has been a long-time supporter of the Omaha Two and was with Mondo we Langa when he turned himself in to police in 1970. Senator Chambers, who also attended the trial and other court proceedings, announced he would introduce legislation mandating parole for the Omaha Two. Although such legislation would be difficult to pass, if Chambers could get legislative hearings on the case the public would likely be shocked at all the revelations about prosecution misconduct that have emerged over the years but never got a thorough public airing.

Charles E. Jones was the keynote speaker at the Malcolm X Memorial Center event. Jones is University of Cincinnati professor of Africana Studies and editor of *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered*, who spoke of government and police efforts to crush and exterminate the Black Panthers "across the country and here in Omaha." Professor Jones is presently working on a book about the Omaha Two case to be titled *Forgotten Comrades*.

In 1975, U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom, and later a three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, ordered a new trial for Mondo we Langa. However, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the merits of Mondo's appeal and sent the case back to the Nebraska Supreme Court on procedural grounds during Chief Justice Warren Burger's effort to undo rulings of his predecessor, Earl Warren. The Nebraska Supreme Court denied a new trial request despite the rulings of the four federal judges.

Former Nebraska Governor Frank Morrison, who defended Ed Poindexter at trial, made a public apology to Poindexter in 1994 for failing to adequately defend his client. Morrison said both he and the system let Ed Poindexter down.

### **1 Nov - New evidence hoped to free Holy Land Five**

*A motion citing new evidence has been filed to exonerate five humanitarians who are imprisoned in the United*

*States for providing aid to Islamic charities in Palestine, the Muslim Legal Fund of America announced on November 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**MORE:**

By Maureen Clare Murphy (*Electronic Intifada*)

The five defendants were prosecuted for their work with the Holy Land Foundation, which was the largest Islamic charity in the US before it was shut down without due process by an executive order issued by President George W. Bush in late 2001.

US attorneys argued that the men had provided material support for foreign terrorist organizations by funding charitable committees in the occupied West Bank which the government says are controlled by Hamas, a Palestinian political party and armed resistance organization which the US designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 1995.

The Muslim Legal Fund of America, a civil liberties group which has funded the defense of the Holy Land Five since 2007, summarized the lengthy court saga faced by the men after the Supreme Court declined to hear their case last year:

The defendants faced two trials. The first ended in no convictions, but the judge ruled it a mistrial and granted prosecutors another opportunity to put the five men on trial. The second trial ended in convictions, with the key witness for the prosecution being an anonymous expert who defense attorneys were unable to adequately cross examine – a fact at odds with the Sixth Amendment. MLFA funded the defense, appeal and US Supreme Court petition due to the significance the case has on the future of civil liberties for everyone in America. Representatives from the legal fund are gravely concerned over the court’s decision to not hear the case.

The defendants are serving prison sentences ranging between 15 to 65 years and some are being detained in Communications Management Units. These are incarceration facilities opened in secret in 2006 and 2008 and which are mainly populated by Muslim prisoners who are closely monitored and severely restricted from communicating with the outside world.

**Motion for exoneration**

The motion filed in federal district court in Texas last month argues that the Holy Land Foundation defendants should be exonerated of all charges on the basis of new evidence as well as the evidence presented at trial.

The motion argues that there was no factual basis to the government’s claims that Hamas controlled the Zakat Committees listed in the indictment and that the testimony of the government’s witnesses relied on “pure speculation.”

“Neither the government or the defense presented any testimony from any person with actual personal knowledge as to how the committees operated that would have addressed the question of whether Hamas controlled the committees,” the motion states.

Newly submitted affidavits from Palestinians who were members of the Zakat Committees named in the indictment during the time that they were supported by the Holy Land Foundation establish that Hamas did not control the committees, according to the the motion.

**Suppressed evidence**

The motion refers to expert testimony by George Washington University political science professor Nathan Brown who was called by the defense for the first trial but not the second trial and whose “testimony refuted the government’s argument that Hamas controlled the Zakat Committees.”

The motion further states that defense attorneys provided inadequate counsel by failing to pursue a motion to suppress evidence obtained from the Holy Land Foundation’s offices without a warrant.

Further evidence suppressed by the prosecution, including materials seized from the Zakat Committees' offices in Palestine currently housed in an Israeli military warehouse, could have proved the defendants' innocence during the trial, the motion argues.

According to the motion, evidence suppressed by the prosecution demonstrates that the government entrapped the defendants. This includes comments made by the defendants during secretly recorded phone conversations which "indicate a desire to follow the law and a belief that they [were] following the law. The government, through their classification of these calls, denied the defendants' access to the calls in order that all of these exculpatory conversations could be located for use at trial."

### **Entrapment**

The motion further argues that the defendants' counsel was ineffective "for not requesting an entrapment defense instruction or pursuing an entrapment defense."

Defendant Ghassan Elashi, on behalf of the Holy Land Foundation, along with representatives of other American Muslim organizations, met with the US Department of Treasury to seek guidance shortly after Hamas was designated a terror group in January 1995. The US government declined to provide the Holy Land Foundation and the other organizations with a "white list" of acceptable charities, the motion notes.

"These facts establish that the HLF defendants were attempting to comply with the law and that the government deliberately misled them into thinking they were doing so. This demonstrates no offense would have been committed but for the government's conduct," the motion states.

The motion also calls for vacating the sentences of the Holy Land Foundation defendants because of the constitutional vagueness of the application of the laws prohibiting material support to foreign terrorist organizations, given that the Zakat Committees named in the indictment were never designated as such.

### **Prosecuted for being Muslim**

"An examination of the evidence, with a proper application of the law, will show that Hamas did not control these committees any more than the fact that a person is a member of the Republican party, and is an officer of Walmart, means that the Republican party controlled Walmart. The evidence simply shows that Zakat Committees were composed of community leaders, some of whom were Hamas sympathizers and some of whom were not," the motion states.

The motion also claims that "The defendants in the Holy Land Foundation case were prosecuted for one reason, and one reason only: that they are Muslim" and that virtually all of the prosecutions under the statute barring material support to foreign terrorist organizations have targeted Muslims.

The attached exhibits supporting motion's selective prosecution argument include "Various news articles showing non-Muslims alleged to have committed similar acts that were not prosecuted."

The motion states regarding the selective protection of Muslims:

A hearing should be held, and discovery ordered on this issue. If allowed this discovery and a hearing, the ugly underbelly of this prosecution will be revealed. These defendants and the Holy Land Foundation were targeted, prosecuted, and imprisoned based on their religion. The United States government has made policy decisions to ignore and not prosecute similar conduct by non-Muslims. The prosecution in this case was motivated by a discriminatory purpose and had a discriminating effect.

### **1 Nov - Alex Stuck (Tinley Park Five) Paroled**

*Well, Some of you may already know by now but Alex Stuck of the Tinley Park Five was paroled on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. We're including a statement from Alex below.*

**MORE:**

Sorry it's taken me so long to put this out. I've been working on my transition back in to the world and so far everyone has been great with helping me out with everything. I kinda feel like a new born, HA. Anyway, I just wanted to write something and post it up for everyone to see that I'm out now and am doing ok. Most of all I want to say thank you to everyone for helping me with everything during my incarceration. It's still so very surreal. Prison was the hardest thing I've ever done, but people like all of you who exist with your endless love: I couldn't have done any of this without you. I would also like to thank you for all the help you've been giving my four friends during their stint in Dante's Inferno. It's really hard to put into words how much all of you mean to me. Because of you I've been able to survive and stay strong. Your solidarity continues to leave me speechless. I want to thank you for all the books and amazing letters that I received. I hope my letters made it to you. I did my best to personally write everyone back and if you didn't here back from me it's prolly because the gestapo was withholding my mail. I want to personally thank the whole A.R.A. network, Denver, New York, and south side ABC, and every other chapter in between; Kieran (your mom's books are great), Philly antifa, Kat from Oak Roots Press, all the kids in Germany, Allina Dollot in France, and especially my home crew in Lafayette and Bloomington (you guys are the best!), my big brothers NOMAD and TELLY; oh and my homie Petey from Sacramento Prisoner Support. Last but not least I wanna thank two very special people that I hold very dear to my heart: Stephanie from the Bloomington ABC and Sara Garber, my amazing lawyer. If I believed in guardian angels I would be convinced that you two were the real deal...I love you both soooooo fucking much! Thank you to anyone who wrote a letter; went to a fundraiser; made a visit; told some one about our case; and kept me, John, Jason, Cody, and Dylan in your hearts. All of you mean so much to me; without you all of this would have been a nightmare. Thank you so, so much!

H.A.R.M. SKIN for life!

ANTIFA FOREVER! FOREVER ANTIFA! FREEDOM NOW FOR THE TINLEY PARK 4!

**2 Nov - Remembering Herman Wallace**

*Our friends at Through the Walls wrote this moving tribute to Herman Wallace and other fallen comrades.*

**MORE:**

Days the Roman Calendar sees as the end of October to the beginning of November were sacred days for the ancient celts. As part of the holiday of Samhainn, celts would celebrate the last harvest and the beginning of the darker season. They would also honor ancestors and other spirits, as Samhainn was a time in which boundaries were less distinct and spirits moved freely between worlds. Some still celebrate and Samhainn is the basis for Hollowmas and Halloween.

Though originally taking place in summer months, an Aztec festival honoring ancestors has survived for thousands of years as the Days of the Dead/ Dias de los Muertos in its partially colonized consolidation into the same days as All Saints and All Souls Day.

The Industrial Workers of the World, a historic and visionary industrial union, have a tradition called, "In November We Remember," which is about remembering the fallen comrades and social ancestors of the IWW, including Joe Hill, killed Nov. 19, 1915, as well as many others.

Lost celt and long-lapsed wobbly that I am, I am reflecting on ancestors and spirits. My grandparents, my uncle, a friend of my family, two of my teachers. Political acquaintances who died serving the movements. Named and unnamed queer and "gender-non-conforming" people whose bravery has allowed me to live a little louder and dream a little bigger than I otherwise could have lived and dreamed. Thank you.

Through I didn't know him personally, I am also still thinking of Herman Wallace who just passed in early October. I have long believed that supporting and including people imprisoned for their involvement in liberatory political movements is essential for building any kind of meaningful change.

As was recently brought up by the North American Anarchist Black Cross Medical Justice Committee, “Herman was just one of many, aging political prisoners (and prisoners of war) in the United States who are currently being denied adequate medical care and the compassionate release for which they qualify . . . “

“Unfortunately, cases like Herman’s are far too common. Albert “Nuh” Washington, Bashir Hameed and Marilyn Buck are other recent victims of prison medical neglect. Some, such as Merle Africa, have died under suspicious medical circumstances. More will soon follow, if swift action is not taken. “

I am thinking of all of them. Herman Wallace and his tireless supporters have shown us that a political prisoner falsely accused of murder can be released through the court system, at least when they are nearing the end. The partial victory suggests that its possible to make this happen sooner and faster for others. I think we have to try to do our parts and show our own social descendants, the youth of tomorrow, that resisting the status quo doesn’t mean living out one’s days alone and neglected.

## **2 Nov - Lynne Stewart’s Message for November**

*We have two statements from Lynne Stewart, a message for the month of November and a prepared statement that was read at the National Lawyers Guild conference.*

### **MORE:**

I have fears for Tom Turkey, this year.

Tom is the live Thanksgiving\* Turkey donated to the White House for the dinner. And every year since he has taken office, Obama has pardoned him. I am afraid for the poor bird this year since this same President does not seem to have it in his heart or intellect to understand the true nature of Mercy to be shown to birds, not to mention human beings.

While the government opens and closes and the debt ceiling rises and falls, thousands in the federal prisons are awaiting the fateful word on whether their requests for release, based on terminal illness, age, loss of ability to function, extended sentence and simple justice to undo evils of the past, will be granted or not. This suffering humanity is only to be compared to the WWII prison camps and the death and destruction of the endless wars. We have only empty words of Attorney General Holder about Intentions — no concrete actions. We have a report from the Inspector General’s office citing compassionate release as “cruelty” because so many die before any decision is ever reached. As far as pardons and clemency are concerned—the wait is two to three years and Obama has exercised his ” benign prerogative” only 39 times. The despised Reagan and Bush both did ten and three times as many. So all of you (us) who voted Obama as being the lesser of the two evils (which is still evil, remember !) need to hold his forgetful feet to the fire.

But then again, maybe my concern for Tom Turkey is premature. Maybe this austere President will once again do the right thing for the poor bird. After all, he has impressionable children who might be distressed at the slaughter of the Turkey. I just want him to remember all the impressionable children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the prisoners who are waiting. I have a cousin who has a Turkey farm in Duanesburg, NY. I’m sure Tom would be happy to be there and live out his life with the other turkeys. As for me, I have a family and a shortened life waiting for me in Brooklyn, NY. I, like Tom, would be happy to be there if only the President and his bureaucrats can find the heart.

*\* Thanksgiving is not my name for this holiday. Rather as some prominent Native American activists suggest it should be Thanks-taking. And those who fast on this day at Plymouth Rock have my respect, solidarity and esteem.*

### **Message to the National Lawyers Guild 2013 Convention**

Brothers and Sisters of the National Lawyers Guild;

I wanted to send you this most important Health Bulletin–Not Personal (pause) but on the steady evisceration of

the Right to Counsel, the bulwark of all we do.

Within the last weeks, a suspect was forcibly detained for crimes against the US. He was taken from Libya to an offshore (ship?) where he was being interrogated, read tortured.

When the Public Defenders of the Southern District of New York, where his case is ostensibly pending, attempted to have counsel appointed for him, they were turned down in no uncertain terms by Judges using the now all too common weasel words. But this is not a new phenomenon—it is apparent over and over again and the question remains—what are WE, who claim to be the last protection against an overreaching state going to do about it?

How important is this ?

I need to tell a couple of anecdotes about lawyering—my dear deceased friend Bill Kunstler in the tumultuous years in which the FBI-JTTF was rounding up the remnants of the Underground, Sekou Odinga, a member of the Black Panthers and then the Black Liberation Army, related to me that he had been detained in a Queens NYC precinct for many hours, was being water boarded by the police in one of the toilets, and was really feeling it badly when all at once he heard the booming voice of the Great Kunstler echoing through the hallways demanding to see his client and he knew that he had been saved.

The other story was one that I told at an earlier convention and a young lawyer from San Diego wrote to tell me that it had turned her life around. After my arrest, Ralph and I were stuck in Manhattan traffic, when a bicycle messenger pulled up and tapped on my window. When I opened it he said in an excited and joyous voice “You THE Lawyer !! You the LAWYER !!! Indeed I was and Indeed it was and is my greatest ambition and accomplishment to be THE lawyer.

Back in the day and I mean way back, when this adversary system had its origins, the accused had the right to select a champion to fight for their rights and I mean fight—jousting, swordplay, mace and chain — ok perhaps a little hyperbole, BUT the message is clear—we were hired for our brawn as well as brains, our courage as well as legal acumen.

We need to get courage and creativity in combat, back into the equation. It’s not about schmoozing the prosecution or the Judge. How many courtrooms have I walked into where there was not one friendly face—there was just me and the client ? Even the stenographers were hostile ! And that’s ok because I was there for only one reason, the one I took an oath to zealously pursue, the defense of my client. Was it fearsome personally? Of course. But to do otherwise was more so.

I urge everyone to return to the days of robust lawyering. Be Bill Kunstler in the precinct. Be “THE LAWYER”. Be the champion who defends fearlessly. When I say that the right to counsel is being eviscerated I mean that the forces of the empire are very busy removing the nerves, the hearts and guts of the Fifth Amendment and leaving it a shell of what it was and can be. We are the opposition that need to gather our shields and swords in its defense and be selfless and brave. Let us press forward—Instead of the derision we often face, let us all strive to be “the Lawyer” respected and honored.

#### **4 Nov - Letter-Writing Campaign to Free Political Prisoner Sekou Kambui**

*Sekou Cinque T. M. Kambui (S/N William J. Turk) has requested a letter-writing campaign asserting his innocence in preparation for his upcoming parole hearing, which could be held as early as February of 2014.*

#### **MORE:**

Sekou maintains that he has committed no crime, and yet has been under the heel of the State since 1975, when he was accused of murdering a wealthy white oil-man and a KKK member in Alabama. He

was pulled over in January of 1975 and accused of and arrested for the December '74 murder after a 9mm pistol was found in his car. Multiple witnesses in his first trial later reported that they had been coerced into testifying against Sekou, after which every defense witness was driven out of the state by police intimidation. No proven murder weapon has been found, and neither Sekou nor the pistol found in his car has never been linked to the crime scene.

As a member of the Black Panther Party and organizer with a variety of organizations, including SNCC and the Republic of New Afrika, Sekou was caught up in the COINTELPRO dragnet in the State's effort suppress dissent and make activism criminal. He must be freed!

There is also an online petition for Sekou's release, found here!

Send Letters To:

Offices of Chestnut, Sanders, Sanders, Pettaway & Campbell, L.L.C.  
Attn. Attorney Faya Ora Rose Toure  
1 Union Street  
Post Office Box 1290  
Selma, Alabama 36702-1290

Letter Template [If you need it]

Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles  
301 South Ripley Street  
Post Office Box 302405  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2405

Chairman William W. Wynne Jr.  
Associate Members Robert P. Longshore and Cliff Walker

Chairman, Members of the Board,

I am writing to request the timely parole of William J. Turk, #113058A, also known as Sekou Kambui. William/Sekou asserts his innocence of the crimes he has served almost forty years of his sentence for. Despite the fact that he has been up for parole five times in the last decade, and despite the fact that there is no solid evidence linking William/Sekou to the scene of the murders he has been charged with, he is still inexplicably in prison. Major witnesses for both his first trial and appeal reported being coerced to testify against William/Sekou, and the misconduct of the Alabama court system, the Birmingham Police Department, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department at the time of Sekou's arrest and trial is obvious. [More detailed information on Sekou's case can be found Denver ABC and ABCF sites, and in the petition for his release, if you wish to include it]

[Include any positive/pertinent personal interactions with Sekou, correspondence, etc. that you may have had]

William Turk/Sekou Kambui is innocent, and has suffered decades in prison due to a unfair arrest, investigation, and trial. William/Sekou is being punished for his activism during the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s, not any real crime. I ask you, the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles, to recognize his innocence and grant him parole at his upcoming hearing.

Sincerely,

[name and signature]

#### **4 Nov - Lawyers in Stratfor leak case present letters of support ahead of sentencing**

*Hundreds of letters defending Jeremy Hammond, who is facing 10 years in prison for email leaks, call for lenient sentence.*

#### **MORE:**

Ed Pilkington (*The Guardian*)

Lawyers acting for Jeremy Hammond, the Chicago-based hacktivist facing up to 10 years in prison for releasing internal emails from the private intelligence agency Stratfor, have lodged 265 letters of support with the federal judge who will determine his sentence on 15 November.

The letters call on judge Loretta Preska of the US district court for the southern district of New York to show leniency towards Hammond, a former member of the hacking network Anonymous who has become a cause célèbre for hacktivists, civil libertarians and those concerned about the rights of whistleblowers. They include 36 submissions from leading data experts and freedom of information campaigners.

Among the correspondents are Daniel Ellsberg, source of the 1970s Pentagon Papers leak on the Vietnam war, and Jesselyn Radack, a former Justice Department whistleblower who now works at the Government Accountability Project.

Other letters come from Hammond's family and friends from the Chicago area who testify to his community work. One correspondent recounts how he was offered shelter by Hammond when he was homeless on the streets of Chicago.

Hammond, 28, has pleaded guilty to one count under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) relating to a 2011 cyber attack on Strategic Forecasting, Inc, known as Stratfor – an information analysis company based in Austin, Texas. Working alongside a fellow hacker operating under the internet handle Sabu – who was later revealed to be an FBI informant – Hammond downloaded an email spool from Stratfor containing millions of files and sent the data to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks which released them as the “Global Intelligence Files”.

In a memorandum to the court, Hammond's lawyers describe the hack as an “act of civil disobedience” emanating from his concern about the mushrooming of the private security industry that now accounts for 70% of all government spending on intelligence. The memo points out that he did not benefit personally from the action and that the government has confirmed there is no evidence of any financial motivation.

The Guardian has spoken to several experts and individuals close to Jeremy Hammond who believe that he acted in good faith as a whistleblower and that a maximum 10-year sentence would be a travesty of justice. Here we post their views on a landmark case whose outcome could have grave ramifications for hacktivists and whistleblowers across the US:

Roy Singham, chairman of ThoughtWorks, a global IT consultancy where open-data crusader Aaron Swartz was employed at the time he committed suicide while facing prosecution under the CFAA:

Innovation happens when people are experimenting at the edges of their social, intellectual and technological abilities. When you charge Aaron Swartz or Jeremy Hammond with computer crimes you are scaring away some of the smartest young people from thinking about issues that actually matter, and that has a massive chilling effect.

I'm disappointed about the silence of the tech industry over this case. You don't hear the tech giants coming out and condemning what happened to Aaron or what is now happening to Jeremy, which I consider an abuse of state power.

Jason Hammond, Jeremy's twin brother:

My brother didn't do computer hacking for its own sake, or for personal gain - he did it because of his entire world view. He is an anarchist, an anti-war activist, an egalitarian. He wants to see the world free of over-reaching powers of government and corporations.

If there were not people like Jeremy, Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning exposing betrayals of people's trust, then we would not know today the extent to which private individuals' information is gathered, analyzed, and sold to private corporations and governments. We would not now be having the debate across the country about whether the NSA and private intelligence companies are going too far.

That's the discussion that Jeremy wanted to encourage. The information that has been posted on WikiLeaks has been an eye opener for many, who are realizing they cannot trust the government to protect their privacy.

Peter Ludlow, professor of philosophy at Northwestern University in Illinois:

Jeremy Hammond represents something new: he was a political activist first - an old-school Chicago boots on the ground activist who happened to be a gifted computer programmer. He has introduced a lot of hackers to a level of political maturity that they didn't previously have.

He was not interested in personal gain, and the Stratfor site had already been hacked before he entered it. His goal was to expose the scope and nature of the private intelligence industry - and along the way he exposed an organized and well-funded system of deception targeting American citizens and others worldwide.

Raven Rokia, a film-maker based in Bhopal, India. The Stratfor emails revealed that the agency had been contracted by Dow Chemical, parent company of Union Carbide which owned the Bhopal pesticide plant where the world's worst industrial catastrophe took place in 1984, to follow the activities of campaigners seeking redress for the victims:

Jeremy Hammond doesn't deserve 10 years in prison. In my eyes, Jeremy doesn't deserve to be in prison right now. Corporations spying on people warrant the same outrage as when governments spy on people. The activists of the Bhopal disaster had every right to know that Dow Chemical was spying on them and their efforts.

The survivors of the Bhopal disaster are faced with serious health problems and their children and grandchildren have health issues and birth defects. These activists - who are asking for compensation for healthcare/research and for Dow Chemical to stop using dangerous, lethal chemicals in their city - are literally fighting for their lives. They deserve to know the truth.

Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonanno of the "Yes Men", the satirical duo who impersonate powerful people to make political points. They learned from the Stratfor emails that Dow Chemicals asked the intelligence firm to look into their activities in the wake of one of their pranks in which they had posed in a BBC interview as a Dow spokesman and offered \$12bn in compensation to Bhopal victims:

Jeremy may have broken the law, but companies like Dow that are employing third parties to follow the activities of victims' groups are breaking every code of human decency. Jeremy performed an ethical service - he revealed a network of lies and secrecy that we think the public should know about.

It's a pretty deplorable state of affairs when they put people like him in jail - it would be obscene to sentence him to 10 years. His actions didn't hurt anybody, and we learnt an important truth about who was

spying on whom. That seems to us to have been a net gain.

Regan Maher, friend of Jeremy Hammond:

Jeremy and I were neighbors in the Pilsen area of Chicago. As we grew closer, I worked alongside him organizing a number of activist community projects that brought food, books, and other critical resources to people in need.

We first worked together as volunteers to cook food for the homeless. Later we collaborated for several years on a project to send free books to prison inmates. He attended this service group consistently, week after week – he was the one person I knew I could always depend on.

I believe that Jeremy deserves compassion because I have never seen him act out of any motivation besides the kindness of his heart. He is not a person with an ego, or something to prove. I know without a doubt that he acted out of a sense of justice. Jeremy gained absolutely nothing from what he has done, though he took a great risk to get there. He is a person who cares for the world with a great compassion and I truly believe that he will recognize the wrong that he has done, and move on to live up to his potential.

Stefania Maurizi, investigative journalist for the Italian magazine, L'Espresso:

I teamed up with news outlets around the world to reasearch and publish stories based on the Stratfor files database, and wrote several articles on the back of it including how Stratfor analysts view Italian politicians like the former PM Mario Monti or controversial leader Silvio Berlusconi. The material was in the public interest, throwing up newsworthy stories such as an alleged indictment against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. It is also important because it provides a unique insight into the methods, sources and values of a private intelligence company and its close links to government agencies.

As a journalist who worked on Stratfor files, I feel I have duty of care to Jeremy Hammond. He released information in the public interest, he did not sell it. For him to face 10 years in jail, while CIA agents involved in rendition and torture, are free as the air – I do not call this justice.

### **November 5th - Prominent figures voice support for hacktivist Jeremy Hammond**

by Dara Kerr (*CNET*)

As the computer programmer faces sentencing for the massive Stratfor hack, which revealed 200GB of government agency and private corporation data, thousands of supporters applaud his motives.

While the feds consider Jeremy Hammond a criminal hacker, thousands of others think of him as an altruistic political activist.

Hammond, 28, is accused of leading the massive Stratfor hack, which resulted in the alleged theft of 200GB worth of data from companies and government agencies like the US Army, the Department of Defense, Lockheed Martin, Dow Chemical, Coca Cola, and Bank of America.

Though Hammond pleaded guilty to conspiracy, he also claims that this hack was fueled by his need to protest and expose the secret actions of the government and private corporations.

"People have a right to know what governments and corporations are doing behind closed doors," Hammond wrote in a statement last May.

Now, as Hammond faces sentencing for this hack, thousands of people are rallying in support of the computer programmer and demanding the government to give him a shortened sentence of time served. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Among Hammond's supporters are prominent politicians, journalists, and activists, including Pulitzer Prize

winning journalist Chris Hedges, Icelandic Member of Parliament Birgitta JonsDottir, and National Lawyers Guild Executive Director Heidi Boghosian. More than 4,000 people have signed an online petition asking that Hammond be sentenced for time served and roughly 250 people have written letters in support of Hammond's cause.

"My decision to go public with the Pentagon Papers was a difficult one. At my own risk, I released them, just as Jeremy Hammond has done," Pentagon Papers whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg wrote in his letter supporting Hammond. "I believe the actions taken by Jeremy Hammond need to be viewed in a context that considers the profound consequences of private surveillance of political activists in the United States."

The feds arrested Hammond and a handful of other alleged hackers in March 2012 after an insider named Hector Xavier Monsegur, or Sabu, exposed them. While the authorities were going after hackers in the Lulzsec hacking group at the time, they also picked up Hammond, who they said was part of an Anonymous-affiliated hacktivist group called Antisec.

Antisec took responsibility for hacking into security think tank Strategic Forecasting, or Stratfor, in December 2011. One of the group's claims was the theft of hundreds of gigabytes worth of data, including e-mails and clients' credit card information.

Days after the hack, the group published 860,000 e-mail addresses and 75,000 unencrypted credit card numbers on the Web. The FBI also claimed that at least \$700,000 worth of unauthorized charges were made to credit card accounts stolen in the hack. Hammond was accused by the feds of being one of the kingpin hackers allegedly involved in this cyberattack.

But it wasn't only e-mail addresses and credit cards that were published in the Stratfor hack. Hammond also downloaded more than 5 million e-mails between Stratfor and its bevy of big name clients. Within these e-mails, it was revealed that Stratfor was hired by companies and government agencies to compile dossiers on activists and infiltrate activist communities. Hammond then sent all of these e-mails to WikiLeaks, which published them as the "Global Intelligence Files."

Hammond was arrested on charges of computer hacking conspiracy, computer hacking, and conspiracy to commit access device fraud in 2012. In May of this year, he pleaded guilty to a single charge of conspiracy under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act -- the same legislation that was used to prosecute Aaron Swartz -- which lowered his potential sentence from a maximum of 35 years to 10 years.

Hammond is scheduled to be sentenced on November 15 at the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York.

#### **4 Nov - Guillaume and Yuri serving time in Montreal for 2010 G20**

*On November 4th, at the Montreal courthouse, Guillaume Constantineau and Yuri Couture, two comrades from St. Jerome (near Montreal) pleaded guilty to three charges relating to their participation in the historical mobilizations against the G20 summit in Toronto, the 25, 26 and 27 June 2010.*

#### **MORE:**

Both will serve six months of imprisonment, starting today, in a provincial jail in the Montreal area (Bordeaux).

Under an agreement reached at the end of plea negotiations between defendants and prosecutors in Toronto, the case of the two accused was transferred to Quebec, sentenced today in Montreal by judge Marc David, and will be served in Quebec. It is also agreed that no period of probation will be imposed following the imprisonment.

In addition, in exchange for a guilty plea on three counts (assault with a weapon on a police officer, possession of a weapon and mischief over \$5000 ), the Crown agreed to drop all other charges filed against Yuri and

Guillaume (four counts each).

### **5 Nov - Support the Earth First! Journal and Purchase One of Marie Mason's Paintings**

*Political prisoner Marie Mason has donated her two most recent paintings- Banana Slug and Northern Lights, Melting Ice to the Earth First! Journal's First Annual Art Auction, as part of their fundraising drive to cover the printing costs for the 2014 year.*

#### **MORE:**

The auction is taking place online November 18th. Be sure to check out her and the many other artists' original works and bid generously to support one of the best radical publications out there. The 1st Annual Earth First! Journal Art Auction will be online at [earthfirstjournal.org](http://earthfirstjournal.org)

### **5 Nov - Must Be Doing Something Right: Smash HLS, GE Trees, "Burglary Tools" and the Growing Threat of State Repression**

*We've included the following analysis, coming from someone recently arrested for protesting a vivisection lab in Florida.*

#### **MORE:**

by Grayson Flory (Earth First! Newswire)

On October 30 I was arrested outside of Miami with eight others at an animal rights protest put on by Smash HLS. Fifty miles away, in Boca Raton, Florida, a group touring the southern United States giving presentations on genetically engineered trees learned that the FBI had called the college at which they were presenting, in what seems like an attempt to stop the event. The group had recently been banned from the University of Florida for trying to give the same presentation.

Because the Smash HLS trial and investigation are still ongoing I cannot speak to what happened that day in very much detail. In fact, because of a vague "stay away" order from the judge I'm not even certain whether I can mention the company that the protest was targeting.

I can say that I was protesting at a facility to bring attention to issues of animal abuse and exploitation, when suddenly an individual from the facility began acting in a way that was extremely dangerous, putting my life and the lives of other protesters at serious risk—I was terrified, and believed that if I did not do something to stop them this person would kill one or more of us. One second I am trying to survive, acting on a moral imperative to protect myself and others from harm, and the next second I'm surrounded on all sides by unmarked cars and plain clothes cops—Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Department of Homeland Security—aiming their hostility and their weapons at me and the other protesters.

The officers came from every direction, blocking all roads simultaneously, and immediately made statements implying that they had been hiding and watching us, and had even videotaped the entire encounter. I don't know whether this is true—I tend not to put much faith in the statements of cops. But, if I'm to believe what they shouted at me while I was being slammed to the ground, kned in the back and handcuffed, then it would appear as if they secretly observed us in a very dangerous situation and did nothing to intervene. I am also compelled to believe that they had a hand in purposely escalating the event. Otherwise, what were nearly a dozen Homeland Security and FDLE officers hiding and waiting for? This protest and protests like it happen regularly, with no arrests or other incidents like what occurred that day, so what were they there to videotape? One of the detectives noted at my bond hearing that their presence at this event was part of an ongoing investigation into Smash HLS, so it would appear—again, if we are to believe the cops—that they knowingly risked our safety in order to gather evidence for an investigation into an animal rights protest group.

The activists involved received charges ranging from disorderly conduct and criminal mischief to assault and launching a "deadly missile." The total bail amount added up to over \$31,000. Police have made statements claiming that protesters "attacked" a vehicle coming out of the facility being protested, and the prosecutor claims that we collectively caused over a thousand dollars in damage to the vehicle. Many of the police and prosecutor

statements run contrary to my experience and the experiences of many of the protesters involved, who have a different understanding of what actually occurred. Of course, the police version of events was the only one presented to the judge, and the only one that can be safely made public until the trials are finished.

In the bond hearing, the prosecutor claimed that I was a “member” of Smash HLS, despite the fact that this was the first Smash HLS event I had attended and that the day of the incident was the first time I had met many of the individuals with whom I would share cuffs and jail cells over the next day and a half. This claim was used to convince the judge to enforce a “stay away” order, potentially barring me from talking about, protesting or organizing against the company whose activities we were demonstrating against. (I say “potentially” because the language of the order, which I never received in writing, is purposely vague, causing my public defender, the prosecutor and the judge to argue over its stipulations in court while I watched silently.)

This is not an isolated incident, or an extreme case, but part of a pattern of growing federal and state repression of animal rights and environmental activists in this country. The government is hell-bent on squashing the people’s mounting concerns over rampant environmental destruction and animal exploitation, as well as the groups and individuals willing to fight back against it, regardless of how peaceful and legal the activities of such activists are. Thanks to information gathered from Stratfor and TransCanada, as well as the recent Snowden leak regarding NSA spying and PRISM, we know that more than ever before the government and corporations are working hand-in-hand to target and eliminate activists, while law enforcement officers to protect the illegal and destructive practices of those corporations.

The relationship between law enforcement and corporations was clear to anyone who heard about the repression faced last week by the Genetically Engineered Tree Roadshow presenting “The Growing Threat: Genetically Engineered Trees and the Future of Forests.” This is a group of activists from the Global Justice Ecology Project (GJEP) and Everglades Earth First! (EEF!) who are touring the South giving presentations on the dangers of genetically engineered (GE) trees. They are not protesting, are not involved in any civil disobedience activities; they are simply informing those who wish to listen about this dangerous new practice taking place in our own backyards, and the questionable science behind it.

This didn’t stop the state from intervening when the group arrived at the University of Florida on October 26, where they were scheduled to give a presentation. The University of Florida has received millions of dollars in grants from the government to conduct research into GE trees, and thus has a strong interest in silencing all opposition to such research. At the UF campus, presenters and others with them were met by a group of police who told them that the presentation had been canceled, threatened the presenters with arrests if they did not leave the property, and banned all the individuals in the group from UF campus for three years. Much like in my case, some of the individuals banned from the campus that day were there to attend their first such event, yet were immediately identified as members of a particular group.

But that wasn’t the end of it. On October 30, the day of the Smash HLS protest that led to our nine arrests, the GE Tree Roadshow was slated to give a presentation to students at Palm Beach State College in Boca Raton, Florida, only about an hour away from our protest. Campus Provost Dr. Bernadette M. Russel came to the presentation before it began and asked the student organizer from the PBSC Environmental Conservation Club to go outside and speak with her. When the student returned, she said that the provost claimed to have been contacted by the FBI, who informed her that the presentation was taking place, and who told the provost that the presenters were known to be disruptive. The provost reportedly told the student that she must get permission before inviting the presenters or their groups to campus again. A security guard was then posted outside of the room for the duration of the presentation.

Police, the FBI, and universities used their time and resources to fight an educational roadshow practicing free speech activity at universities to which they were personally invited by students and professors. But that’s the pattern that the government is making very clear. They do not target groups or individuals because of what they do, but rather because of who they know and what they believe. The GE Tree Roadshow was targeted because they were spreading a message that runs counter to the researchers, corporations, universities and government

agencies that stand to profit from genetic engineering. They simply do not want the public to hear both sides of the story.

There were a lot of parallels the day of the Smash HLS arrests in Miami and the GE Tree incident at Palm Beach State College. On my way to the Smash protest a few activists and I stopped at a grocery store in Boca Raton where we happened to run into the GE Tree presenters in the parking lot. They were on their way to give that day's planned presentation at the college. Some of us knew each other from previous social interactions and campaigns, but as we waved goodbye, none of us knew that the government was already coordinating attacks against both events we were heading off toward.

I was attending that day's Smash HLS demonstration in part so I could pass out fliers about Tyler Lang and Kevin Olliff, two animal rights activists from Los Angeles who are being held in Woodford County Jail in rural Illinois and are charged with "possession of burglary tools." The fliers encouraged people to spread the word about their mistreatment at the hands of the jail, which was not allowing them access to books, a move which Kevin had been protesting with a hunger strike for over a week. Police at the Smash HLS protest arrested me before I was able to pass out the fliers. When my bag was finally returned, the stack of fliers had been removed and replaced with a pair of latex gloves. Thankfully, the book ban at Woodford County Jail was finally lifted while I was being held in Miami-Dade County jail, and Kevin was able to end his hunger strike.

The absurdity of complaining about my treatment at the hands of the police while attempting to pass out fliers for Kevin and Tyler never escaped me. While the bail for all nine of us arrested at the Smash HLS event totaled over \$31,000, Tyler alone was slapped with a \$100,000 bail, and Kevin's was \$200,000. The bails seem to be a reaction not to what Kevin and Tyler did—especially since every one of the "burglary tools" allegedly in their possession is legal to possess—but to who they know and what they believe.

This is made evident not just by the high bails, or by their inhumane treatment in the jail once it was discovered that they were animal rights activists (treatment which included, at certain points, a refusal to provide medical consultations or adequate food, a removal of their access to email, the ban on books, and for Kevin, threats of force feeding), but also by the FBI's involvement in the case. Even though neither Tyler nor Kevin are charged with doing anything that had to do with their animal rights activities, it was reported on October 22, only eight days before the Smash HLS protest, that the FBI has been questioning friends of Kevin and Tyler in Los Angeles, and even threatening some of these friends with prosecution for perjury. Clearly the state's goal is not simply to punish Kevin and Tyler for supposedly breaking a law, but to fracture and intimidate activist communities in general.

In all of the incidents I've mentioned, no one has yet been convicted of a crime. The jail time, fines, interrogations and unjust treatment have taken place without anyone being found guilty of anything. And with good reason. The government knows that it is often very much full of shit. One of the activists arrested with me at the Smash HLS protest had already been arrested four times while demonstrating with the group, and charged with multiple crimes in most of the arrests, but in each case the charges were dropped. He has never been found guilty. Yet he has served jail time, been mistreated and threatened, and had to pay fines for bail and for time spent in custody. Law enforcement does all it can to damage activist communities while it still has the upper hand—before the trial process, while it can punish without evidence. And so we spend our time and our few resources raising money to protect people that, for all we know, will soon be found innocent, or who just want to give a presentation to an audience that wants to listen.

But of course, this doesn't stop us. On November 1, the day that I got out of jail, I attended the last GE Tree Roadshow presentation in Florida, at the Quaker Meeting House in Lake Worth. It was very good, and not quite what I would call disruptive. There was a slide show, a few short videos, zines passed out, and an engaging discussion afterward. Audience members were shocked when they were told that this presentation had been banned at UF. Keith Brunner from GJEP, one of the presenters in the GE Tree Roadshow, indicated that all this could be a sign that activists are making a real impact. "State surveillance and repression of resistance movements is nothing new, and I believe we can expect to see more of it as our movements against oppression

and domination grow stronger and more effective.”

It isn't anything new, just another incident. The Green Scare wasn't very long ago. And Jerry Koch is still incarcerated in New York in a Grand Jury investigation for refusing to talk about who he knows and what he believes. What happened at the Smash HLS protest is barely a blip on the radar. But it was a reality check for me personally. No matter how safe and responsible I am myself, I cannot predict or control what the government will do when they feel their agenda is being threatened. But with so much mistreatment and repression, and with non-violent activists serving long-term sentences, it's nice to see that it's not just the activists who are scared.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Smash HLS bail fund. Because of you we were able to get everyone out of jail. We still have legal fees ahead of us, and every bit helps. You can donate to the Smash HLS legal fund at <http://smashhls.com>

You can sign the Global Justice Ecology Project's petition to stop GE Trees at <http://globaljusticeecology.org/petition.php> and find out more about GE Trees at <http://globaljusticeecology.org/stopgetrees.php>

### **5 Nov - Migs' Parole Date Pushed Back 30 Days**

*As some of you may know, Migs had his parole date moved back another 30 days. His out date is now January 12th.*

#### **MORE:**

His support crew is working on this from a legal angle, but there's no guarantee they'll be successful in getting him out any earlier than that.

Please continue writing to him, and especially send him funny stories or jokes. He is okay on books but always requests zines.

### **8 Nov - Barrett Brown's Mother Sentenced to Six Months of Probation & Fined for Hiding Laptops Mutulu Shakur**

*The mother of Barrett Brown, a jailed journalist and activist who faces multiple charges, was sentenced to six months of probation and fined \$1,000 on November 8th by a judge in Dallas.*

#### **MORE:**

by Kevin Gosztola (*The Dissenter*)

The Associated Press reported that Karen Lancaster McCutchin “apologized Friday in Dallas federal court for hiding the laptops from agents during a March raid at their home. Her son faces three separate federal indictments and has gotten widespread attention among groups who believe he's being unfairly prosecuted.”

The federal judge hearing her case declined to give her jail time. And, the following exchange took place in court:

“My better judgment was clouded by my maternal instinct,” McCutchin said.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Stickney said McCutchin's crime “does not warrant any jail sentence at all.”

“I feel for you, as a parent,” Stickney told McCutchin, adding: “I know you did the best you could.”

While Brown's mother will not serve time in prison, Free Barrett Brown, a group raising awareness about Brown's case, reacted to the news.

“There's no better symbol of the unjust persecution of Barrett Brown, than the misguided and needless case against his own mother,” the group declared in a statement. “When Brown made a fateful decision to spend the night away from his apartment on March 5, 2012, he could not have known that he'd be placing his loved ones at significant legal risk.”

“As the result of an FBI raid the next day, his mom faced a charge of obstructing the execution of a search warrant. Perhaps under pressure and with few other options, she later pleaded guilty, and admitted to attempting to conceal two laptop computers.”

“There can be no real justice as the FBI and [Justice Department] use family members to intimidate, harass and pressure others,” the group further declared.

Brown faces multiple charges including one count of internet threats, one count of conspiracy to make publicly available restricted personal information of an employee of the United States, one count of retaliation against a federal law enforcement officer, one count of traffic in stolen authentication features, one count of access device fraud, ten counts of aiding and abetting identity theft, one count of concealment of evidence and one count of corruptly concealing evidence. Altogether, Brown could be sentenced to up to 105 years in jail if convicted of all the above offenses.

The offenses stem from conduct that Brown allegedly engaged in after linking to client list in a Stratfor email.

Brown’s case has attracted attention because, at issue, is the right to link. Brown is accused of sharing a link to private data, which was contained in a Stratfor email.

The First Amendment is also implicated as well. Brown is charged with concealing information related to journalistic sources and his own work products. And it also appears the government was not pleased that the focus of his work was the operations of private security and intelligence companies so they chose to target him with this prosecution.

Earlier in September, a district court judge in Dallas issued a gag order prohibiting lawyers for Barrett Brown from discussing the case with media.

The gag order on Brown and his defense team constituted a prior restraint on speech to impede the ability of members of the press to do their jobs and report on what is happening with the case. But, for the government, it restored a level of secrecy to the process that the government could rely upon to punish Brown for his alleged conduct to the maximum extent possible. No longer would they have to struggle with the background noise of supporters referencing details shared by the defense in order to build opposition to the government’s legal maneuverings.

Since the gag order, Brown’s case has received increased attention. David Carr of The New York Times wrote that Brown’s past history with Anonymous and other online groups, which view “sowing mayhem as very much a part of their work,” makes his “version of journalism” harder to “pin down” and defend. Yet, he noted that Brown is not accused of stealing any data from Stratfor or any other organization or government institution. He is accused of linking to something that was part of a “trove of documents.”

Journalists from other news organizations link to stolen information frequently. Just last week, The New York Times, The Guardian and ProPublica collaborated on a significant article about the National Security Agency’s effort to defeat encryption technologies. The article was based on, and linked to, documents that were stolen by Edward J. Snowden, a private contractor working for the government who this summer leaked millions of pages of documents to the reporter Glenn Greenwald and The Guardian along with Barton Gellman of The Washington Post.

By trying to criminalize linking, the federal authorities in the Northern District of Texas — Mr. Brown lives in Dallas — are suggesting that to share information online is the same as possessing it or even stealing it. In the news release announcing the indictment, the United States attorney’s office explained, “By transferring and posting the hyperlink, Brown caused the data to be made available to other persons online, without the knowledge and authorization of Stratfor and the card holders.”

Josh Stearns of the media reform group, Free Press, suggested after Carr's op-ed the case was important because, "Links are the connective tissue of the Internet. They enable us to share news, discover new information, dig deeper into issues and give credit to sources. The government's effort to criminalize linking is akin to rewiring how the Internet works. It will have a chilling effect on how journalists report on sensitive government matters."

Brown's trial on the first set of charges is currently scheduled for April 28, 2014. In the months to come, expect his case to remain a focus of press freedom groups concerned about the government's prosecution.

### **11 Nov - Book drive for Cody Sutherlin (Tinley Park Five)**

*With one of his co-defendants recently released, Cody Sutherlin-- a member of the Tinley Park 5, is collecting books for his prison's library.*

#### **MORE:**

He says, "The library here is full of garbage and people want something with substance...I'm asking that people send whatever they can as long as it's not too extreme [or it won't get in]. History, politics, biographies, and quality fiction would be nice. Let's flood this motherfucker with some good shit!"

One of Cody's supporters met in person with the library volunteer at Robinson Correctional Center on Friday. The volunteer explained the review process-- books are not allowed if they describe how to make weapons, depict or describe penetration (other sexually explicit material is okay), or are on the topic of negotiation. Those were the only topics not allowed, though Cody thinks that graphically violent or explicitly illegal content will also be barred. Books that fail the review process are destroyed.

You can send books to:

**Library Services**  
**13423 East 1150th Avenue**  
**Robinson, Illinois 62454**

If you are near Robinson, Illinois, you can also drop them off at the prison.

Spread the word!

More information at [tinleyparkfive.wordpress.com](http://tinleyparkfive.wordpress.com)

### **11 Nov - "Inside Looking Out" by Leonard Peltier**

*Leonard Peltier addresses recent changes in his support crew.*

#### **MORE:**

Greetings my relatives, friends and supporters,

I am communicating to you today to address some of the concerns about the changes that have taken place within the organization that leads the efforts to bring about my freedom. I am referencing the LPDOC as you well know, those of you who are familiar with the organization, there have been changes every two or three years. Sometimes people feel this is too much and some feel it is too little and this is why I am having this comment sent out.

First of all I want you all to know that I deeply deeply appreciate ALL the people who have given parts of their lives to help bring about my freedom and enhance the lives of my people all over the world. I know it has been difficult for many, in fact for most because it is a drain on ones resources, ones time, and often times takes away from a persons family and personal life to be involved in movement activities. I appreciate that, I don't know how to impart to you how deeply I appreciate that. There is no one who has come through the doors of the LPDOC that has all the answers or could possibly make all the right decisions, all we can really do is do our level best to do what is right, and try to right what is wrong. This kind of work wears on people and I do not

expect any person to devote their lives to me. This isn't all about me. This is about the constitutional violations toward Americans that put me here. This is about the violations that keep me here. This is about the human rights violations that put AND keep me here. This is about the human rights that indigenous people all over the world deserve to have honored. This is about the treaty rights that the indigenous people of America have with the United States that are being violated feloniously today. This is about the legal procedures that were violated in my case that stand as possible precedents in the cases of others to come. Of all these things I mentioned, I am legally adjudicated evidence of those violations. I am not the only person who is evidence of these violations however, because of your struggles and those before you, and those who struggle now I am probably more visible than most of the others. As I said before people coming to the defense committee are not expected to devote their whole lives to me and I fully realize they have families and children. The older members of AIM and the struggle have grandchildren they are taking care of now. I guess what I am trying to say to you is that it is not unusual nor inappropriate for there to be changes within the Peltier Defense Committee.

As native people, and as movement people we represent in most cases the poorest of the poor in America and we are dealing with the most powerful, politically strong, well financed organization in the world today and so its not so difficult to see how we can be stressed from time to time and have changes from time to time for we are in fact the most vulnerable ALL the time. We don't have enough money to always fund the most needed lawyers and legal workers or secretaries or web managers or whatever. We rely mostly on the good hearts of people who volunteer and we have never had enough money to pay these good people what their efforts are worth so it is easy to see why people at some point might choose to travel a different path in due time because they all have families and their own lives to live. People come into this organization with various skills and skill levels and most times they further those skills and skill levels and it enhances the strength of all of us whether they stay within this committee or not because of their involvement in their community using those skills.

In the near future you will see some changes in our website, and our level of activities, and our promotion, even more so of all our concerns for our mother earth, and our children's future. I have personally, grand children and great grandchildren at this time and I know that you would understand my concerns for their future and my concerns for the future of all of our children. If it were not for our indigenous cultures which are totally linked to the natural environment the creator gave us than I would have had no reason to be at Oglala that day nor would the other native people on Pine Ridge have a reason to remain where they live today. That area is still the poorest of the poor the suicide rates there among children are epidemic and among adults its the same. The Cathedral, the Temple of their way of life, the Black Hills of South Dakota has the faces of those who led the destruction of their lives carved upon them. The Black hills of South Dakota was forcibly leased from the Lakota people, that lease has been up for over 40 years and yet America does not return it. The Lakota people have not accepted money for it and yet this injustice continues while all the while people of America turn a blind eye to this violation of religious freedom. This is only one example that I mention because of the size and how blatant it stands out and how most Americans are not aware of this. We truly want changes in America, we want changes in the Americas from the far north to the extreme far south. We want a turnaround in the destruction of our natural environment. On the dollar bill it says in "God we trust" it should say something to the effect in God's handy-work we MUST trust.

I could go on and on but I feel like I am getting to preachy. Forgive me if I have rambled, if you can imagine sitting in a building that you don't like, for ONE day imagine how it would be to sit in there for approx 13688 days plus and think about these things and try to work on these things. So I would like to sincerely encourage you to try and mend your differences and join with me to make this a better place for the future of our children and all natural life. And if you so decide to be involved with some other group I totally respect that, but I encourage you, deeply encourage you, to always be doing something to make a difference in our world. A difference for the better.

Forgive me if this seems a bit lengthy but the future of my involvement is very important to me and when you get to be 69 years old, one day could be a lifetime. If you have any doubts about this statement- just as one of your grandparents. In saying this I want you to understand why we are gearing up to do everything as soon as possible. I don't know what else I can say to get you to better understand this situation at the moment but again

I want to say I appreciate all your efforts, all the things you have done, and for the indigenous people of the United States I want to echo the words that they say over and over again in their own way

WE ARE STILL HERE.

This is our home, this is our past, this is our present, and this is our future.

May the great spirit bless you with the things you need and enough to share with others who have needs also.

In the spirit of crazy horse and all our people of the past who have given unselfishly that we might exist today and have values that are worth living for.

### **14 Nov - Film Screening and Letter Writing for Jerry Koch: A Brick**

**WHAT:** Movie night for an imprisoned comrade

**WHEN:** 7:00pm, Thursday, November 14th

**WHERE:** The Base - 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221

**COST:** FREE, but loot to cover supplies is appreciated

#### **MORE:**

We present this film with special audio introduction by anarchist Jerry Koch, currently imprisoned for refusing to cooperate with an ongoing federal grand jury investigation. We will have supplies on hand in case you would like to write to Jerry afterwards. All proceeds go to his legal support.

In this film, a teenage loner pushes his way into the underworld of a high school crime ring to investigate the disappearance of his ex-girlfriend.

### **15 Nov - Pack the Courtroom for Jeremy Hammond**

**WHAT:** Jeremy Hammond Sentencing

**WHEN:** 9:00am Rally, 10:00am Court Support

**WHERE:** Foley Square, then to the United States Courthouse 500 Pearl Street  
New York, New York 10007

**COST:** FREE

#### **MORE:**

As many of you know, Jeremy has pled guilty to one count of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. His sentencing will be held on November 15, 2013 at 10 AM. He faces up to ten years in prison for a politically-motivated act of civil disobedience from which he personally gained nothing, and which he only hoped would make the world a better place.

We would like to fill the courtroom with as many supporters as possible. Sentencing is always an emotional event, and it is incredibly encouraging for him to see friendly faces in the gallery.

### **15 Nov - Noise Demo for Jeremy Hammond**

**WHAT:** Demonstration for Jeremy Hammond

**WHEN:** 6:00pm, Friday, November 15th

**WHERE:** MCC New York - 150 Park Row New York, New York

**COST:** FREE

#### **MORE:**

At 6:00pm on Friday, November 15th, NYC Anarchist Black Cross is organizing a noise demonstration outside the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in solidarity with Jeremy Hammond. Earlier in the day, Jeremy will be sentenced, having pled guilty to one count of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

Jeremy Hammond is a long-time anarchist and hacker from Chicago. He is currently being held prisoner at the MCC in Manhattan for taking part in attacks carried out by Antisec/Anonymous against global intelligence company Stratfor. In these attacks, the website was taken down and defaced and millions of internal e-mails were submitted to Wikileaks.

Regardless of the sentence Jeremy receives, let's let him know he is not alone. He has the support of revolutionary comrades around the world, particularly in the city that pathetic Lulzsec snitch Hector Xavier Monsegur calls home. This will be a noise demo so please bring noisemakers, banners, and whatever else will help communicate our solidarity.

**Directions:**

2/3 trains to Fulton Street

4/5/6 trains to City Hall

J/Z trains to Chambers Street

More info on Jeremy's case: [freejeremy.net](http://freejeremy.net)

Pack the court for Jeremy's sentencing:

<http://freejeremy.net/giant-banner/pack-the-courtroom-show-support-for-jeremy-at-his-sentencing>

**18 Nov - Call the parole board for the MOVE 9**

*Recently, The Move family and supporters of The Move Organization put out a public statement about the Pennsylvania Parole Board and their illegal actions in denying parole to the Move 9 who as of 2014 will be five years past their parole eligibility date.*

**MORE:**

Enough is Enough! The Pennsylvania Parole Board has illegally kept our family in prison under the orders of The Fraternal Order of Police and Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams. We are not going to sit back and allow or accept this to continue.

Starting Monday November 4th 2013 and every Monday until Monday December 30th, we are asking people to call the parole board hotline (717) 772-4343 and protest the illegal actions of the Pennsylvania Parole Board and how they are illegally keeping innocent Move People in prison who are close to five years past their minimum sentence

The Move 9 have met all the requirements for parole and have had excellent prison conduct records, which parole is based on. Enough is Enough! Our tax dollars are paying the salaries of the legalized terrorists called the parole board, so our voice has much say so over these lawless outlaws called the police and that of This Legalized misfit called the Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams.

Free The Move 9

Free all Political Prisoners

Justice And Accountability

Orie Lumumba and Anne Lamb

NYC Friends Of Move

Ramona Africa

The MOVE ORGANIZATION

For more info people can contact us at

[Rebelchild170@aol.com](mailto:Rebelchild170@aol.com)

[Onamovellja@gmail.com](mailto:Onamovellja@gmail.com)

## **8 Dec - Send Love Through the Walls 2013**

**WHAT:** Send Love Through The Walls Holiday Card-Writing For Political Prisoners

**WHEN:** 3:00-8:00pm, Sunday, December 8th, 2013

**WHERE:** 263 Eastern Parkway, Apartment 5D (Direction Below) phone: 718.783.8141

**COST:** FREE (*Donations to cover the cost of stamps greatly appreciated*)

### **MORE:**

In what many prisoners have told us is their favorite event of the year, Resistance in Brooklyn and NYC Anarchist Black Cross again join forces to bring you the annual holiday card-writing party for U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war. This event is always a lot of fun, the food outstanding, the camaraderie lively, and the handmade cards flat out amazing. This year will be no different. So plan to bring your friends, your creativity, and a healthy appetite. We'll have updates on the pp/pow campaigns as well as paints, markers, crayons, and envelopes.

### **Directions:**

Getting to 263 Eastern Parkway is simple:

From the 2/3/4/5 or Franklin Avenue Shuttle:

Franklin Avenue Stop:

Walk west on Eastern Parkway (away from Franklin Avenue, toward Classon Avenue). We're about half a block down on the north side of the street. When you go into the building, take the elevator to your left.

For more information, contact:

**Resistance in Brooklyn**– mmmsrnb at igc dot org

**NYC Anarchist Black Cross**– nycabc at riseup dot net

**Scientific Soul Sessions**– scientificsoulsessions.com