

Updates for July 22nd

8 Jul - Mi'kmaq Warriors: Verdict & Sentencing Update

Our Mi'kmaq warriors are requesting the assistance of the people for help. They are requiring some assistance with their canteen funds. Germain junior Breau and Aaron Francis, members of the Mi'kmaq Warrior Society have been incarcerated and held as political prisoners of war since the raid of their encampment in incensed unsundered Mi'kmaq territory on October 17, 2013. They were both found guilty of weapons-related charges on June 26, 2014. Their sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 25, 2014.

MORE:

Junior Breau was found guilty of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and 5 counts of pointing a firearm. Not guilty of 5 counts assaulting police with a firearm.

Aaron was found guilty of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose. He was found not guilty of throwing Molotovs, intent to do bodily harm by causing an explosive device to explode, possession of explosives while prohibited to do so, and committing an offense while having his face masked.

They are currently the only two political prisoners of war in so-called Canada. They made a stance to not only protect the indigenous women, elders and children in their inherent territories but they were also defending the sacred land and waters for all people. They made their stance for the liberation of the Mi'kmaq nation and for the liberation of all indigenous people all over the world. To support our warriors please contact Suzanne or Patty healing_crow2010@hotmail.com

You can also organize a letter writing night, send in reading materials (like awesome zines from ZigZag) but no staples, glue, glitter or adhesives) or host a fundraiser!

Money can be sent directly to our men via Canada post money order and sends money order along with your letter of support

You could also write a warrior:

Germain junior Breau / Aaron Francis
Southeast Regional Correctional Centre
435 Lino Road
Shediac New Brunswick
E4P 0H6
Canada

9 Jul - New letter from compa Carlos López "Chivo"

On June 16th, the final hearing was held for the trial against Amelie, Fallon and Carlos, the three anarchists arrested on January 5th accused of damages and attacks against the public peace. Shortly after that, Carlos wrote the following.

MORE:

I start this letter by sending a sincere greeting to the compas outside these walls, hoping that the unisonous rhythm of rebellion continues to beat in their hearts and that this is reflected in their daily actions.

Last week I was very happy to receive a small but important detail which the compañerxs got to me in prior warning. Amidst the monotonous and heavy daily life of imprisonment, one hopes that "something" outside of the routine will happen, and this is why at more or less the indicated time I set my gaze on the sky and the

greeting arrived in the form of fireworks. In each one that exploded I could feel your greetings and care. It was impossible to physically see them, but I could feel them close by, and in that moment I could feel complicit in your solidarity-action, to the point of imagining your smiling and mischievous faces, laughing to yourselves at any possible risk, and it left me clearly feeling that when a compañero or compañera is kidnapped by the state, the fight is extended from both sides—inside and outside—of the walls, and each side, from their possibilities uses attacks which can make the fight more effective (here I want to make it clear that for me attack does not only signify the destruction of something material, but also the iconoclastic disobedience of that which is imposed within a system).

It also became clear to me that when there is an arrest the prisoner is not the only one affected, depending on how hard the blow is, it can extend to other compxs who can have the same thing happen to them, and even something more harsh than the confinement itself.

So, while watching and listening to the exploding fireworks, I thought that I would like to share the joy I was feeling with some compañerxs, specifically Bruja, Tripa, the Skin, Benja, and Justine—being the only ones I know of—who in way one or another, may be going through difficulty for having been associated with the 5E (January 5th) case that concerns Amelie, Fallon, and me.

I take advantage of this letter to send a great embrace to the 5 and to everyone who has sustained raids and harassment during the investigation process, full solidarity for you, and to reiterate we do not forget you here and we always keep you present. You are not alone, we are not alone!!

I have a bit to say on the topic of organization...

- As revolutionaries we feel the need to always be in conflict in every place where domination seeks to set its disgusting presence, not only in prison but in every place where there are relations of power and authoritarianism. This is why it isn't necessary to be an ardent mass desiring change, I believe that with small organized groups there can be satisfactory results... But what happens when instead of striving to be truly troublesome to the enemy we entangle ourselves in personal fights, unconstructive polemics and betrayals between revolutionaries ourselves? Well the result is obvious: division, not only between groups but between compañerxs in affinity, rupturing of projects, non-solidarity from some toward others, the "judge" that some carry inside comes to light and they start to look for the guilty ones in the movement, confusion, etc, etc, and even more obvious is that we practically do the "job" of the state to debilitate something that was surely on the rise.

And it's not that anyone is trying to be a little angel and not cause problems among compañerxs—there will always be problems—and I do consider it necessary to pay attention to them in their moment, and it is necessary to break the relation completely, but not to do it when the rope is around your neck and diminishing the spirit of the rest.

There does not exist, as I said before, a magic recipe to solve something, but I still think that the immediate conscience is the first phase of the attack.

At times like these I am struck by a question, perhaps somewhat stupid, but it seems logical to me: If we say we are so antagonistic and do not keep quiet before injustices, then why do we do it among compañerxs? It falls to each one's conscience, but faced with situations of this magnitude, there are many things to do, restructuring is always possible and projects go forward again.

This is why I keep betting on informality as concretely anarchist organization, and it is through tensions, debates and deepening (of personal character and of social problematics) that we identify ourselves to our affinities, that is, to the people with whom we gain mutual knowledge and surely carry out some project(s). I see it as rather complicated to carry something out with someone who you don't have affinity with. A friend asked me once, "and how does one measure affinity?" I answered her that with greater deepening and mutual knowledge, greater confidence, greater actions together and so, greater affinity.

Finally I take this opportunity to send a friendly greeting to the Mexicali gang, for the support I receive, ¡¡Fierro Cabronxs!!

That is all for now, I look forward to being in contact with some of you (though I would prefer with all of you, but it cannot be) and I send kisses and hugs to all.

10 Jul - 2 Animal Activists Indicted as Terrorists for Freeing Mink

Currently imprisoned Kevin Olliff and his co-defendant Tyler Lang, have been indicted under federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act charges. Tyler was released a day after his arrest in Los Angeles, while Kevin is still in an Illinois prison for a prior conviction.

MORE:

July 10th - Animal Rights Activists Who Allegedly Freed Minks Are Indicted on Federal Terrorism Charges

by Kevin Gosztola (*The Dissenter*)

Two animal rights activists who allegedly released thousands of animals from a mink farm about sixty-five miles southwest of Chicago have been indicted on federal terrorism charges.

Both Tyler Lang and Kevin Johnson were indicted by a grand jury in the Northern District of Illinois for allegedly releasing 2,000 minks from captivity on August 14, 2013, and for conspiring to “damage and interfere with the operations of a fox farm in Roanoke, Illinois,” according to the Justice Department.

Media are reporting on the indictments but what is missing from the coverage is the fact that these animal rights activists were charged under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA), which means they were not just indicted with “freeing minks”—a violation of private property. They were indicted for allegedly committing an act of terrorism.

From the grand jury charge against Lang and Johnson:

...defendants herein, conspired with each other, and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to travel in interstate commerce, and to use and cause to be used a facility of interstate and foreign commerce, for the purpose of damaging and interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise, including Mink Farm A and Fox Farm A, and in connection with that purpose, intentionally damaged and caused the loss of real and personal property (including animals and records) used by an animal enterprise, and real and personal property of a person having a connection to and relationship with an animal enterprise, which offense resulted in economic damage exceeding \$10,000, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 43(a) and 43(b)(2)(A)... [emphasis added]

Will Potter, who regularly covers these kinds of stories at his “Green is the New Red” blog, did not miss this fact.

Potter reported that Lang was arrested in Los Angeles and during his bail hearing the government asked for a “\$30,000 bond, which is \$20,000 above what pre-trial services had recommended.” The prosecutor claimed Lang was a “flight risk” because of his “extreme activism” and said Lang planned to “travel the country for what he calls non-profit work but what the government calls violent disobedience.”

“Lang told me he had planned on beginning a tour this weekend with other volunteers, protesting airlines that transport primate for animal experimentation,” Potter added.

On August 15, 2013, at about 1 AM, as Potter reported for VICE, Lang and Johnson were pulled over by police for having “temporary dealer plates” on the “brand-new green Prius” they were driving. The refused to consent to a search and one officer overheard on the police radio reportedly said that Johnson was on a terrorism watch list.

Police found bolt cutters and wire cutters. They charged the two with “possession of burglary tools,” a felony. They were not charged with being involved in the fur farm raids at the time, however, FBI agents at a bail hearing for Lang and Johnson made sure prosecutors were aware there were unsolved raids in the region and farms had been targeted.

Johnson was sentenced to 30 months in jail in Illinois. Lang was “freed from state custody after agreeing to a plea deal in November,” according to WLS.

The Center for Constitutional Rights has pursued a lawsuit against the constitutionality of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. A federal district court in Massachusetts dismissed the lawsuit on March 12, 2013. CCR filed an appeal on April 21, 2014.

Ryan Shapiro, an animal rights activist (as well as a Freedom of Information Act activist) who has focused on factory farming issues, described in a piece for Truthout.org how he helped “coordinate an undercover investigation of notoriously cruel foie gras factory farms” in 2003.

“We found ducks crammed inside cages so small they couldn’t stand up, spread their wings, or turn around,” Shapiro wrote. “As an act of civil disobedience, a group of us openly rescued a number of ducks from this abuse. We also made a short documentary film to educate the public about what was being hidden behind the closed doors of these factory farms. The images we captured played a crucial role in sparking national and international campaigns against foie gras and in the successful 2004 ballot initiative to ban the production of foie gras in California.”

Shapiro and a fellow investigator, Sarahjane Blum, who is also a plaintiff in the CCR lawsuit, were convicted of misdemeanor trespass and sentenced to community service. To Shapiro, “This was a reasonable and acceptable price to pay for bringing to light the realities of factory farming.”

But, as he outlined, Congress moved to make it possible for industry to prosecute individuals who engaged in acts of civil resistance as terrorists.

“In 2006, under heavy lobbying from the pharmaceutical, animal agriculture and fur industries, Congress passed [AETA],” Shapiro asserted. “The AETA is designer legislation that targets political dissent directed at any business that uses or sells animals or animal products – or any company ‘connected to’ such ‘animal enterprises.’ Simply hurting the profits of these businesses—by, for example, producing and screening a film that inspires people to boycott foie gras or other animal products—qualifies as a terrorist offense. Indeed, a distressingly high number of my closest friends have been convicted as terrorists for engaging in free speech and civil disobedience advocacy on behalf of animals.”

Rather than risk the possibility that acts like the one taken by Lang and Johnson would lead to bans against the use and selling of animals or animal products, corporations have seriously undermined that possibility by convincing lawmakers to criminalize such nonviolent action as terrorism.

July 10th - Kevin & Tyler indicted on federal charges

from supportkevinandtyler.com

First, let’s acknowledge the timing of this event: We’re well aware that arresting Tyler Lang on an indictment of federal charges was coordinated to coincide with the annual National Animal Rights Conference and the Fight or Flight Tour fundraiser. It was the FBI’s blatant and clumsy attempt to scare activists, create divisiveness, and deter Tyler and others from the above-ground activism they practice. But word of the incident spread quickly—not only among attendees at the LA conference, but throughout the country’s network of animal advocates—and one thing is resoundingly clear: we’re angry, but we’re not shaken.

Last summer, ten fur farms were raided in ten weeks, resulting in more than 10,000 mink, foxes, and even a rare bobcat being freed from certain death at the hands of fur farmers. And since the beginning of the government’s

resulting witch hunt—when Kevin and Tyler were arrested in the course of a routine traffic stop on a road trip last August, when Kevin’s ID came up with a “domestic terrorist” flag—we’ve all known that law enforcement has been trying to connect dots that they simply cannot. We’re in the midst of what the FBI is attempting to make into a classic AETA prosecution. And the activist community is all too familiar with the insidiousness and inaccuracy that underpins this law...

Ultimately, we want it known that Kevin and Tyler are not faltering. They’re aware of their position, they’re confident in the facts, and they want to make sure other activists are not set off course by these incidents.

“It’s easy to get caught up in the drama law enforcement tries to create for us. And it’s easy to lose yourself in some the issues surrounding this movement...but it’s not about us or them at all. It’s about injustice—and about what we can do to stop it,” says Tyler, who was released on bond Thursday afternoon.

Funds are needed NOW for attorney fees and Kevin’s ongoing support. Please donate via <http://supportkevinandtyler.com/donate-to-their-jail-account>

July 12th - With Two New Terror Indictments, The Green Scare Is Far From Over

by Natasha Lennard (*VICE*)

The Green Scare — that US government tactic of persecuting environmental and animal rights activists as terrorists — has not yet ended. While in the paranoid years since 9/11, ordinary Muslims in the US have taken pole position in terror suspect profiling, the government's draconian approach to eco-activism has not softened.

Just this week, two activists have been indicted on terrorist charges. They did not hurt any people or animals, nor did they plan to do so. Allegedly, Tyler Lang and Kevin Olliff released 2,000 mink and foxes from fur farms in the Midwest. Apparently, it is enough to disrupt corporate flows and industry to earn the label "terrorist."

This is no secret in US law. In 2006 Congress passed the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. As Will Potter, author of "Green is the New Red," noted, this act "sweepingly targets a wide range of political activity as 'terrorism' if done in the name of animal rights." While no individual convicted or charged under the act has been found to have physically harmed a single person or animal, according to the FBI, so-called eco-terrorists caused 200 million dollars in property damage between 2003 and 2008. Property, by the letter of US law, can occupy a vaulted position of victimhood above and beyond millions of animal lives.

According to Potter, outside Lang's bail hearing an FBI agent was overheard on the phone saying, “No, he is being charged with damaging property. Not damaging animals—they are against that.” Lang was asked to post a \$30,000 bond for his bail. Olliff, meanwhile, awaits his terror trial in jail in Illinois, where he was sentenced to 30 months for possessing bolt cutters in his car.

When it comes to Green Scare convictions, punishments have been as grave as the "terrorist" parlance would suggest. Take, for example Marius Mason, serving a 22-year sentence for arson and property damage aimed toward targets in the fur industry and genetically modified crop research. I repeat, no one was hurt; there were no plots to cause injury discovered. Or consider Eric McDavid, sentenced in 2008 to 20 years for allegedly planning to sabotage the Nimbus Dam with explosives. Consider that the average sentencing for violent offenses is around seven years.

There is an argument — one that I reject, for the record — that property damage is an offense deserving of time in a cell. If these activists have broken the law, some would argue, then they ought be duly penalized. It's beyond my purview here to address fully the problems of aligning that which is legal with that which is right. We know too well that what passes as legal is malleable to corporate interest and national security state mania. But we are talking about more than what is deemed illegal, we are dealing with what is named "terror." I've never seen terrified property. I've never seen a window scream, nor a broken padlock cry. I don't believe that vehicles feel pain, even when on fire; I have not seen fear in a handful of dust. It takes little more than an online glance to find evidence of animals in terror, however — although even the existence of this evidence is itself under threat.

The federal government and numerous state houses across the country have made their allegiance to factory farms clear. So-called "ag-gag" laws have gained purchase in making illegal reporting on, whistle-blowing — essentially collecting any data from within factory farms. Under the thinly veiled pretext of defending privacy (read, "private property"), ag-gag laws work to ensure that the public is removed from the vicious realities of mass meat and fur production.

The story of who gets to be a terror suspect in this country is importantly telling of the ideological underpinnings behind government policy and law. For one, it is racist. As Rick Perlstein pointed out in Rolling Stone in 2012, since 2008, "there have been 55 cases of right-wing extremists being arrested for plotting or committing alleged terrorists acts, compared to 26 by Islamic militants during the same period." Meanwhile it is entire mosques that the NYPD designated "terrorist organizations" in order to increase surveillance; it is distinguished Muslim-American leaders who get to be NSA targets.

And while policy and practice make clear that US authorities will target Muslims as an ideological enemy, it is also clear what they work to protect. It is not, to be sure, the rights of animals and humans. As victims of the Green Scare well know, property — corporate property, that is — comes first. Even John Locke would turn in his grave at the disregard for life and liberty in this equation d'Etat.

11 Jul - New writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal

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

MORE:

July 11th - Lessons Unlearned From (Recent) History

One would think that after the hellish debacle of Iraq, the primary role of the corporate media, that of Chief Cheerleader, would've given rise to soul-searching, or at least professional reconsideration and training of young journalists.

If the news of late is any indication, that ain't happening.

Check any news service, and no doubt you'll see or hear questioning of some retired military official about how "we" should attack something (or somebody)

There isn't even the pretense of objectivity.

Journalists use the royal "we" to mark their special service to the State (and the corporations!) in support of war.

If the media projections are taken as reflections of reality, no one opposes U.S. military action. It's assumed "we" are down for the cause.

It doesn't matter where; Syria, Nigeria, Iraq, etc.; for every few weeks, a new outrage -- and a new invitation to unleash the dogs of war.

But, in truth, them dogs are tired. The bitter truth is Americans are sick to death of war.

The country has just recently begun to end its longest war: one that may be remembered as its dumbest war (quite an accomplishment, come to think of it!).

But the media, long lambasted as a liberal mouthpiece, seems determined to stir the pot.

They failed miserable in the run-up to the Iraq War. They are failing today.

They are so busy obeying their bosses, that they're betraying their viewers, listeners and readers.

The have become the heralds of hell.

From their disastrous performance in selling the Iraq War, they have learned nothing.

July 11th - Perils of Empire

When the U.S. launched its invasion of Iraq, predicated on the events of 9/11, it was the very quintessence of hubris.

Neo-conservatives dreamed of remaking the Middle East in their own image. It was, in truth, a mad dream. A nightmare born of the drug of sole superpower.

It's been a decade since, and none of their dreams have come true. Indeed, it's quite the opposite.

The Middle East is a tinderbox enclosed in a powder keg.

It is more unstable today than it has ever been - perhaps since decolonization.

Its people are frustrated, paralyzed by powerful princes, and predatory militaries - armies armed against their own people.

The fruits of empire are foul indeed - and the worse is yet to come.

We are seeing some of it in today's Iraq - but, assuredly, there is more madness to come.

July 11th - HOBBY LOBBY: Son of Citizens United

The Supreme Court's recent Hobby Lobby decision, which protected a closely held corporation's right of religious practice, is a direct result of the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court decision.

It was an affirmation of a corporation's First Amendment rights, which rests upon the rather curious notion that corporations are persons, and thereby entitled to constitutional protections.

Every lawyer living knows that the idea that corporations are people is a legal fiction. It is a trick of the law, used to reach a certain result.

And there's the rub.

For corporations aren't people. They are creatures of statute. They are aggregations of collective wealth and power.

Indeed, the actual case used to support corporate personhood (known as Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad), never really said what courts now say it said!

So, a legal fiction piled on a legal fiction after another legal fictions makes for today's absurd results.

For while a corporation's owners may have religious beliefs, how can a corporation?

Does a corporation have a soul?

Corporations are concerned with profits. Period.

But for years, judges have been raised to the bench who show more fealty to legal persona (corporations), than to living persons, (the poor, the imprisoned, the workers, the oppressed).

Guess which kind of 'person' got constitutional protections - and which did not?

This case is based on the legal principle of WHIPs: Wealth Has It's Privileges.

July 15th - Beatings

The scenes are, unfortunately, all too familiar.

A person is beaten, ruthlessly, relentlessly, by a cop (or group of cops).

A video is released, and, at least initially, public sympathy flows to the beaten figure on the bottom.

Before long, however, the counter-narrative emerges, the beaten was belligerent, combative, resisted arrest -or, worst of all, was on drugs!

Then, the story goes away. Done!

In California, a 51 year old grandmother is pummeled by a cop, throwing something like a dozen punches in bunches. He is hitting her like she's a man.

In occupied Palestine, a teenager, 15 year old Tariq Abu Khdeir is seen punched, kicked and stomped by black uniformed cops, who then place the child, now beaten into a stupor, into a waiting vehicle.

The grandmother? Police say she was playing in traffic.

The teenager? Cops said he was with boys with knives.

Yeah. So they beat them.

The videos are chilling. They are Rodney King, without the batons. They are Delbert Africa, without the rifle butts.

And they are SOP (standard operating procedure).

It's what cops do.

Until people saw actual tapes of police in action, the police and the media were able to play it down.

But this is the age of social media.

And you see what you see.

Pigs in action; beating women and children -- because they can.

July 15th - David and Goliath

The biblical tale of David vs. Goliath is the quintessential story of how the weak can prevail over the mighty.

It gives people hope that perhaps they can prevail over terrible adversity.

In the Middle East that tale continues to be told, but from the somewhat peculiar perspective that Israel, the Zionist State, is David.

This is how most Americans receive - and seem to want - their Mid-East news. Perhaps it's more comforting.

But it's not so.

Israel has the most powerful military in the region, and it is the most aggressive.

Back before the 1970s, Egypt could've made such a claim, but today, billions of U.S. dollars later; they're only a threat to their own population.

Today, Israel is Goliath; and Palestine is David. They throw stones while Israel fields F-16 fighters, attack aircraft that can destroy whole football fields in a blink.

They have nuclear weapons.

They (the Palestinians), have no standing army, no air force, and no real standing in international affairs.

They are an occupied people. They are a captive people.

When President Barack Obama issues statements about 'restraint by both sides', it is political hogwash.

For Obama, who spent his time as a state politician in the company of Palestinian intellectuals like Ali Abunimah, knows well who is the best armed party in the conflict; and who isn't.

He knows well who is Goliath, and who is David.

And David has little more than a stone - and a prayer.

14 Jul - Joel's Blog: Trust and Community

Our imprisoned comrade Joel Bitar has been blogging about his experiences in prison. We'll be printing them here.

MORE:

In a few days I will mark my 5 month anniversary. I'm finding the time moves faster now that I have a constant routine. I've also gotten pretty close with the main players on my range, and they've accepted me as one of them. I genuinely enjoy spending time with these 4 or 5 guys, whether it's sharing meals, playing cards, watching movies, or working out.

New York City is a frustrating place for me because there is so much emphasis on the individual. It's hard to feel like you're part of a community in such a big city. Even though I managed to develop close and important friendships before my incarceration, I felt surprisingly alone. I think part of being human is the need to feel like you belong somewhere. Living in such a massive capitalistic hub like NYC can be alienating because of the difficulty of satisfying our communal needs.

Strangely, jail satisfies those needs. Some of the friendships I've formed just couldn't exist anywhere else. Out in the real world, it is so easy to find ways to distract yourself from establishing meaningful connections with people. The distractions are infinite. Here we have no choice but to deal with each other. This can be both stressful and highly rewarding at the same time.

Upon reflection, I've ignored much of the advice people gave me before coming here. The conventional wisdom for surviving prison is to keep to yourself and "do your own time." While this advice is good as a foundation, I think it's also important to be social - to meet people and talk to people - rather than just keeping your head down. Keeping your head down and being a wallflower is surely the safest strategy but it's far from being the most rewarding one.

Guys here always tell me, "You can't trust anyone." I think they apply that philosophy outside of jail too. No doubt, it's of the utmost importance to keep people at arm's length when you are incarcerated - at least until you get to know them. There are all sorts of snakes, rats, psychos, and crazies walking around here. There are also some very good men. Men who I know I can trust because they mean what they say and say what they mean. In jail there are people of a high moral caliber. Just like in the real world they are a minority, but they exist. Find them, befriend them, earn their trust and let them earn yours. You won't be sorry.

15 Jul - Mohaman Koti extension request granted!

NYC Jericho heard from M. Koti by phone and his request for an extension has been granted. He will be going to the board for his de novo hearing around August 15th, which will give him time to work on his parole plan.

16 Jul - Public Statement from Brian Jacob Church

The following is a public statement from Brian "Jacob" Church of the NATO 3 originally posted by the People's Law Office of Chicago. Jacob is serving his sentence at Pinckneyville Correctional Center.

MORE:

To my dearest friends and comrades,

I want to thank you all for your never ending love and support for the three of us as we continue to resist this system of state oppression. The last two years have been a long, hard fought struggle, but finally, with trial done and sentences handed out, we're on the home stretch.

I'm pretty sure I can say for all three of us that had it not been for the international showing of solidarity for our struggle, we would have been in a different, and much worse, situation. For me, this support has helped me both physically and mentally. You all have been most inspiring and uplifting, with constant reminders to stay strong and keep my head up. It has helped me stay focused and to remember why I resist in the first place. Please know that even if I may not have written back, that every letter and book I have received has been read and appreciated.

I also wanted to give special thanks to our really great team of attorneys and paralegals working around the clock, through thick and thin, even through the pains of childbirth, just to make sure we were able to have a fair and proper defense. Your counsel and advice, your opinions (professional and otherwise) and the ability to fight like lions in the courtroom, matched with your dedication to seeing Justice served, has been priceless. This is probably a good thing because we probably couldn't have paid anything anyhow, as Tom likes to point out.

Lastly, I want to thank the NATO 3/NATO 5 support committee. Your weekly visits, media outreach and fundraising has been so important to our defense and spirits. You have worked for over two years to support us, putting your personal lives on hold and you never had to do any of it.

Every single one of you have my absolute respect for what you've done and that's what helps to make this struggle so worth so much to me.

As it stands right now, I should be released in November 2014. I cannot wait to see how much things have changed. Two and a half years may not seem like a lot out there, but we feel every day of it in here.

17 Jul - Imam Jamil al-Amin Transferred

After a public campaign, spanning political prisoner support, muslim, Black liberation, and hip hop communities (and the space in which those overlap), Imam Jamil al-Amin has been transferred to a federal medical facility in North Carolina.

MORE:

Jamil Addullah al-Amin #99974-555
FMC Butner

**Post Office Box 1600
Butner, North Carolina 27509**

17 Jul - Critical Emergency Alert for Prison Radio

If you ever thought of contributing and becoming a member of Prison Radio - please do it right now.

MORE:

Our machine died. We just can't edit new audio until we replace this part.

We need to raise \$1077 in the next 72 hours (though donations thereafter are very important). Our Protocol MBox died. This is a four year old MBox 2 Protocol hardware interface. It is what we run on.

Late last night after talking with Mumia and recording, I loaded the sound and tried to produce the breaking news "California's Death Row: No More?" Mumia's commentary on The 9th Circuit Ruling.

After hours of reloading and rebooting every driver and diving down into the machine with tech support it was clear that the little green light on my beloved MBox was out for good. The reason it is a big ticket \$1077- is because the box is old - we baby our equipment forever. The model has been discontinued; requiring a hardware and software upgrade. It also means upgrading the professional WAVES restoration and musician bundle noise reduction bundle (we have waited to upgrade that for 9 years). I am working every angle and I have just ordered a used MiniMbox that just might work. Help us stay on time and on deadline and get these voices into the mix.

Thank you to everyone who clicks and gives. We value your help.

18 Jul - Feds reject DoD move to pawn off Chelsea Manning

In a win for heroic WikiLeaks whistle-blower Chelsea (former Bradley) Manning, the Bureau of Prisons denied the Army's request to transfer Manning into the civilian prison system.

MORE:

This would have allowed the Army to shunt their responsibility to provide proper health care to a transgender service member—a precedent setting situation that they have fought hard to avoid. The Army has now reluctantly agreed to provide a “rudimentary level” of gender-related health care at the Fort Leavenworth military prison, Kansas.

The Chelsea Manning Support Network is pleased to announce that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has been retained by Chelsea Manning to represent her interests going forward with this issue.

“We are monitoring the situation to ensure that the Army provides Ms. Manning with medically-necessary treatment consistent with their clear constitutional obligations and are prepared to take any legal action necessary to ensure that Ms. Manning receive the treatment that she needs without any further delay,” noted Chase Strangio, Staff Attorney with the ACLU’s LGBT & AIDS Project. Mr. Strangio added:

“Yesterday, an unnamed defense department official leaked that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has authorized the Army to treat Chelsea Manning with “rudimentary” treatment for her diagnosed Gender Dysphoria. Chelsea Manning, who was sentenced last August to 35 years in prison, has been diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria by at least three military doctors and has now been waiting for treatment for nearly a year. Gender Dysphoria is a serious medical condition for which treatment, including hormone therapy, is often medically necessary. Withholding this treatment can lead to serious physical and psychological harms including depression, anxiety and suicidality.”

Receiving care from Fort Leavenworth is a triumph for Chelsea Manning, whose request for treatment, “did not involve any request to be transferred,” stated Chelsea in May. “At the beginning of 2014, the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, KS and the Army Corrections Command were ready to approve and implement a treatment plan that at least conservatively met the standards set forth by the World Professional Association for

Transgender Health.”

In May, Manning’s trial attorney David Coombs addressed the Army’s attempt to avoid providing Chelsea with adequate medical care:

“The military absolutely needs to revisit its “policy” on transgender medical care and adapt it to 21st century medical standards. It cannot continue to bury its head in the sand any longer. Although a very small number of military inmates are transferred to federal prison each year, this is only after all appeals have been exhausted and the military inmate has been discharged from the service. Chelsea’s appeals have not yet begun and her transfer to federal prison in these circumstances would be unprecedented.”

Mr. Coombs told the Associated Press yesterday that he was encouraged that the Army will begin medical treatment, noting that he is “hopeful that when the Army says it will start a ‘rudimentary level’ of treatment that this means hormone replacement therapy.”

Meanwhile, Manning’s new appellate legal team, led by Nancy Hollander and Vince Ward, of Albuquerque, NM, have begun preparing for the first stage of legal appeals, beginning with arguments before the US Army Court of Criminal Appeals next year. Supporters of Manning are hopeful that the appeals process will eventually overturn Espionage Act-based aspects of the sentence, possibly reducing jail time by decades. Manning’s significant and ongoing legal fees continue to be paid for by thousands of individual Americans, as well as concerned individuals worldwide.

20 Jul - New Tom Manning book - For Love and Liberty

Tom Manning is a freedom fighter, political prisoner and prolific artist. His paintings are stories that jump off the page, revealing the outlook of people who struggle for liberation around the world. This book of over 80 full-color paintings were made between 1996 and 2005.

MORE:

The Freedom Archives is glad to announce the release of a new book of artwork by Tom Manning, For Love and Liberty. Tom Manning is a freedom fighter, political prisoner and prolific artist. His paintings are stories that jump off the page, revealing the outlook of people who struggle for liberation around the world. His paintings are about life and his landscapes recall times of importance. Tom is currently incarcerated at Butner Federal Correctional Complex in North Carolina as a result of revolutionary actions undertaken while a member of the United Freedom Front.

Order the book at <http://j.mp/ManningBook>

25 Jul - Solidarity with Jock Palfreeman

WHAT: International Day of Solidarity

WHEN: 7:00pm, Friday, July 25th

WHERE: The Base – 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221 (directions below)

COST: Free, but donations are appreciated.

MORE:

Jock Palfreeman is an antifascist prisoner in Bulgaria. Originally from Australia, he came to the aid of two Roma men being attacked by a mob of neo-Nazi football hooligans, and in the intervening fight one of the attackers was killed. After a biased trial, Jock received a 20-year sentence, which he is serving in a notoriously rundown prison in Sophia, Bulgaria. The Bulgarian government has refused to allow his transfer to Australia to serve his sentence, despite international agreements, unless his family pays a massive ransom.

In response to a call for an international day of solidarity with Jock, we’ll talk a little about the situation of the Roma, show a documentary about Jock’s case, eat popcorn, and write letters asking that Jock be transferred to Australia. At his request, we’ll be taking donations for the Bulgarian Prisoners Association, which he is chair of; they will be used for a legal aid defense fund and for lawyers to protect prisoners against punishments of the

prison.

For more information on Jock Palfreeman:

freejock.com

facebook.com/WhoIsJockPalfreeman

brightonabc.org.uk/jock.html

Directions:

Getting to The Base is simple:

From the M Train:

Central Avenue Stop: Walk east on Myrtle Avenue (away from Hart Street, toward Cedar Street). We're about two blocks down on the south side of the street.

Knickerbocker Avenue Stop: Walk west on Myrtle Avenue (away from Harman Street, toward Himrod Street). We're about three blocks down on the south side of the street.

From the L Train:

DeKalb Avenue Stop: Walk south on Stockholm Street (away from Wyckoff Avenue, toward Irving Avenue).

We're about four blocks down, at the intersection of Stockholm Street and Myrtle Avenue.

From the J Train:

Myrtle Avenue Stop: Transfer to the M train and follow the above directions.

26 Jul - DAM! An Evening of Skills and Stories from Earth First!

WHAT: DAM! An Evening of Skills and Stories from Earth First!

WHEN: 8:00pm, Saturday, July 26th

WHERE: The Base – 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221 (directions below)

COST: Free, but donations are appreciated.

MORE:

With the long-awaited release of the 3rd edition of the Earth First! Direct Action Manual (affectionately known as the "DAM"), Earth First! organizers are hitting the road to share direct action skills and get the manual into people's hands.

The presentations will consist of a presentation and slideshow with stories about Earth First! and radical environmental history that contributed to the skills compiled in the DAM.

Along with a chance to get a copy of the book, the event will also be an chance to pick up the newest Earth First! Journal, and learn about direct action efforts in your region.

9 Aug - Anarchist Picnic NYC

WHAT: Anarchist Picnic

WHEN: 11:00am, Saturday, August 9th

WHERE: Central Park Conservancy

COST: FREE

MORE:

Participants are asked to bring food, drink, and of course literature to share, as well as anything appropriate to trade/barter/give away. Flags and banners encouraged. Open poetry reading and drum circles. Limited Emma Goldman pins given out while supplies last. Bracelets and balloons given out as well. ALL INVITED.