

Updates for September 2nd

12 Aug - Update: Imam Jamil Health Crisis

Imam Jamil and his family have received the results of his biopsy from a physician at BOP's Butner Medical facility. According to the report, Imam Jamil has an early stage myeloma and will not be receiving cancer drugs, radiation or other medical interventions at this time.

MORE:

However, the same doctor stressed the importance of Imam Jamil's condition being closely monitored, with continued and regular biopsies at two-to-three-month intervals to check for increased levels of myeloma cells. We are deeply concerned that BOP may consider returning Imam Jamil to the Florence ADMAX USP, where he will not receive the proper medical care and follow-up that his condition requires and that is his right.

YOUR EFFORTS ARE STILL NEEDED

Because of your efforts, Imam Jamil has received a needed biopsy and timely results at a proper medical facility. Your continued efforts are needed to advocate for the medical care and follow-up that Imam Jamil urgently needs.

OUR ADVOCACY FOR IMAM JAMIL

Our advocacy for Imam Jamil is that: (1) Jamil Al-Amin #99974-555 be housed at a BOP facility in Butner, where (2) he receive regular biopsies to monitor growth of myeloma cells in his body; (3) that he receive the ongoing and qualified medical care necessary to monitor and treat his disease, as is his right; and (4) that he not be returned to Florence ADMAX USP due to that facility's demonstrated inability to provide for basic medical and dental care or for medical emergencies; let alone the specialized care that Imam Jamil's medical condition requires, and as is his right.

YOUR RESPONSE IS CRITICAL

GO TO <http://www.bop.gov/inmates/concerns.jsp>

SELECT LOCATION: Florence ADMAX USP

YOUR EMAIL: Include your email to get a confirmation

ENTER INMATE: Jamil Al-Amin #99974-555

YOUR CONCERNS: See advocacy above

EMAIL NOW:

FLM/ execassistant@bop.gov

PLEASE RESPOND REPOST AND RETWEET

#SupportImamJamil

18 Aug - "We thought we'd be safe": Islan Nettles, the New Jersey 4 and the illusion of security for LGBTQ people of color

A frightening look at what happens when LGBTQ women of color refuse to accept street harassment and other violence.

MORE:

by Victoria Law (*Salon*)

“I wanted to go to the Village ‘cuz it’s nothing but gay people,” said Renata Hill in the new documentary “Out in the Night.” “We thought we wouldn’t have a problem if we went to New York. We could just be ourselves,” she recalled.

“That’s not true,” interjected her friend Terrain Dandridge. “That’s where it happened to us.”

“Well,” Renata said, amending her comment, “that’s where we thought we’d be safe.”

The West Village has historically been known as a safe haven for LGBTQ people. People travel from various parts of New York and New Jersey to be in the neighborhood, walk around without feeling judged or to worry that their sexual orientation or gender identity will lead to an attack. But, eight years ago, seven young women learned that safety, even in a haven like the West Village, is never guaranteed.

On August 18, 2006, Renata Hill, Terrain Dandridge and five of their friends decided to go to the Village. All were young, black and lesbian. Outside the Independent Film Center (IFC), a small theater showing independent films, they were harassed by a man named Duane Buckle. When they told him they were gay, he threatened them with rape and physically attacked them. He threw his lit cigarette at them, ripped the hair from one woman’s head and choked another woman.

The seven women defended themselves and, at some point during the four-minute fight, were assisted by two unknown men. As Buckle attempted to choke Renata, her friend Patreese Johnson stabbed him with a pen knife. By the time the police arrived, the men who had jumped to the women’s defense had left the scene. Buckle was taken to the hospital, where he stated that men had attacked him, and released a few days later. The women were arrested, taken to the precinct and charged with gang assault, assault and attempted murder.

None of the women had prior records or histories of police involvement. Nevertheless, they were held without bail at Rikers Island while awaiting trial. Facing the possibility of twenty-five year sentences, three women accepted plea bargains and served six months. The remaining four — Venice Brown, Terrain Dandridge, Renata Hill and Patreese Johnson — pled not guilty and became known as the New Jersey Four. They were convicted and received sentences ranging from three-and-a-half to eleven years in prison.

None had ever been involved in a gang, yet they charged with and convicted of gang assault. Their claims of self-defense were ignored.

Out in the Night, a film by Blair Dorosh-Walther released by the Fire This Time The Film LLC, examines how race, sexual orientation and gender violence affect ideas about safety and self-defense, and how each shaped the fates of the New Jersey Four. What happens when women refuse to accept street harassment or homophobic violence? What happens when these women happen to be black women?

The documentary places the case of the New Jersey Four in a larger pattern of violence against black people and the legal system’s treatment of their claims to self-defense. It draws parallels between the case of the New Jersey Four with more recent cases involving attacks on black people, such as Trayvon Martin, CeCe McDonald and Marissa Alexander. All three were attacked, all three fought back, and all three were treated as if they were the aggressors by the police and court systems. Although Trayvon Martin was the person killed, the media and legal system treated him as if he’d been the assailant, subjecting his body to drug testing and speculating about his recent school suspension and cellphone photos as if these justified his killing. McDonald and Alexander’s claims of self-defense were likewise rejected by the courts, and they were both demonized in the media.

Similarly, when the seven women were initially arrested in 2006, news headlines labeled them a “lesbian wolf pack” and “killer lesbians.” Meanwhile, The New York Times stated that “Man is Stabbed in Attack After Admiring a Stranger.” Evening news segments added more fuel with reports of lesbian gangs (alternately labeled Gays Taking Over and Dykes Taking Over) raping young girls.

Attorneys of the New Jersey Four note that the fear-mongering around the case had even reached the courtroom.

“The district attorney made certain decisions, like the charges and holding them without bail,” noted Susan Tipograph, one of the two trial attorneys for Hill. Those charges influence perceptions even before evidence can be presented, agreed Lori Cohen, Tipograph’s co-counsel. “There are some charges that, when you hear them, it’s really hard to get below them to what actually happened.” The charges scared at least one juror who, Tipograph remembered, sent his wife out of town during the course of the trial.

“Out in the Night” also challenges viewers to think about the constant threats (and realities of) harassment and violence against LGBTQ people, particularly LGBTQ people of color. The film recounts the 2003 murder of Sakia Gunn, a fifteen-year-old high school student and black lesbian. Gunn and her friends had been returning from New York City’s West Village. As they waited for the bus in downtown Newark, they were propositioned by two black men. When the women told them that they were lesbians, the men attacked. One of the men stabbed Gunn in the chest. Her friends flagged down a taxi and took her to the hospital, where she died. The night they were attacked three years later, Patreese recalled, she remembered Gunn and wondered if the same thing would happen to her.

Gunn’s death is neither an anomaly nor is it a relic of the (not-too-distant) past. In 2011, CeCe McDonald, a twenty-three-year-old black woman, faced the same scenario. Walking down a Minneapolis street with her friends, McDonald was first verbally harassed and then physically attacked by people standing outside a bar. One woman smashed glass into McDonald’s face, slicing into her cheek. The man who had instigated the harassment was stabbed during the attack. He was taken to the hospital, where he later died. McDonald was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. The woman who smashed glass into her face was neither arrested nor charged.

During pre-trial motions, the judge ruled against McDonald’s ability to introduce evidence showing that the attack against her was motivated by her race and gender identity: Both Schmitz’s swastika and his three previous convictions for violent assault were ruled inadmissible. The judge also refused to allow an expert witness to testify about the pervasive and systemic violence faced by trans people on a daily basis. Facing the possibility of twenty to forty years in prison and a hostile court, McDonald pled guilty to second-degree manslaughter due to negligence and was sentenced to forty-one months in prison. She was released this past January.

In August 2013 twenty-one-year-old Islan Nettles died after being attacked on a New York City street. While accounts vary as to whether she was flirting with or had been catcalled by 20-year-old Paris Wilson, all agree that, after realizing that she was trans, Wilson beat her unconscious. She died four days later at the hospital. Wilson was originally charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and released on \$2000 bail. A few months later, when another man claimed that he had attacked Nettles but was too drunk to remember what had happened, the district attorney dropped the charge altogether, declining to prosecute either.

Why did the legal system treat the death of a young trans woman less seriously than a non-fatal stabbing with a pen knife? What does this say about the value placed on the lives of black people, particularly LGBTQ black people? The attacks on Gunn, McDonald, Nettles and the New Jersey Four are only a few examples of the systemic violence faced by LGBTQ people, particularly LGBTQ people of color. A recent report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs found 2,001 reported incidents of anti-LGBTQ violence. Of the violence that ended in homicides, ninety percent of the victims were people of color; seventy-eight percent were Black and African-American. Undocumented people, trans people and people of color were among those at risk for the most severe forms of anti-gay and anti-trans violence.

Patreese Johnson, who is four foot eleven inches, recounted that her brother Anthony had originally urged her to carry a pen knife for protection. Doing so had provided her with a sense of safety and security. But, after that August night and nearly eight years behind bars, she realizes that that sense of safety was an illusion. “I don’t feel safe in here,” she said during an interview from prison. One month before her release, she was reminded that safety outside prison walls is just as elusive — Anthony was shot and killed outside his own home. After her release in 2013, Patreese no longer carries a knife. She’s still looking to find safety in some other way.

19 Aug - New writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal

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

MORE:

August 19th - Bad Massacres & Good Massacres?

As U.S. F18s drop 500 lb. bombs on ISIS-controlled areas of Iraq, it does so, it says, to support the fleeing religious community of Yazidis.

U.S. President Barack Obama, supporting and indeed ordering the bombing, announced that this action was taken on humanitarian grounds, to “prevent a massacre” of a tiny religious minority targeted by the ISIS army for forced religious conversions.

America, the President said, “cannot turn a blind eye” to such violence used against an imperiled community.

As noble as such words were, they sounded hollow in light of the recent massacres visited upon the beleaguered Palestinians in Gaza.

As Israel launched an unholy assault upon them, the U.S. nodded in silent approval and acquiescence.

The corrupt government in power in Iraq was never meant to fight foreigners. They were supposed to keep their own population under control, the better to exploit and beat them down.

When have you ever heard of an invader forcefully entering a country, occupying it, and building a powerful, independent, native army or executive?

Invaders and occupiers don't do that, for it's not in their interest to do so.

Not even in the cases of Iraq or Afghanistan, for that matter.

That's because the U.S. tried to train puppets, bent to their imperial will.

As armies, they have only been distinguished by their fierce ability to run. As we saw just days ago in Afghanistan, you can train a man; but you can't make him loyal, especially to an invader. The attack on an American 2-star general proved that fact.

Massacres are massacres; evil attacks on the weak and unarmed. It doesn't matter whether they are maddened jihadis, or maddened Zionists.

All should be opposed.

August 21st - 1-2-3 Fergusons

For over a week, the media and millions of viewers and readers have been focused on the ever-changing events of Ferguson, Missouri, where a local teenager, Michael Brown, was shot to death by a white cop.

What has been consistent, and un-changing, has been the level of outrage among Black Ferguson residents; men and women who have resisted every attempt to silence or sidetrack their efforts.

Their efforts?

To achieve the arrest, prosecution and conviction of the white cop (Darrel Wilson) who shot and killed Mike Brown.

They are fueled by fury, and a long train of police repression.

They haven't let anything -promises, provocations, politicians or police -- turn them away from their objective.

The System has used weapons of war; sniper rifles; armored personnel carriers; submachine guns and other implements of military violence to intimidate the people; to threaten the people; to silence the people.

They only continued their marches for justice for Mike Brown.

They faced sweet talking politicians promising peace; police with dark faces promising protection; preachers praying for placidity -- and they kept on marching.

They were threatened with arrests if they broke curfew; and received the acrid rain of tear gas --and they kept on marching.

Marching for justice for Mike Brown.

A reporter for a national cable outlet asked 5 teens clad in baseball hats and bright red bandanas to identify themselves.

One by one, they announced their names: Mike Brown.

They were all Mike Brown.

As they marched past fear, they are indeed Mike Brown.

As are we all.

August 28th - War and False Peace

The scenes of the last few days in the town of Ferguson, Missouri, have pulled the covers off of how Blacks and cops interact in modern-day America.

In words and deeds, it reveals a state of war, with both sides riddled with bone-chilling fear.

For fear is ever-present in any war, no matter who is better armed.

Fear is also irrational, and so strong that it powers and fuels reactions, ones bred deep in the soul.

The shooting of an 18-year old youth, unarmed and surrendering; the repeated shooting of the youth; the resultant mass protests at his death, and the staging of an array of military material to threaten and intimidate people, who dared to protest.

Unarmed people, marching in the street with signs, were opposed by cops armed with the weapons and tools of war; armored personnel carriers; automatic submachine guns; sniper rifles.

Aimed at dark citizens who are allegedly 'citizens' of the State; citizens they are sworn to 'serve and protect'.

Some service.

But the central issue surrounding the killing of 18 year old Mike Brown has not been yet reported.

Remember, they called him 'Big Mike' -- and there-in lies the tale.

Norm Stamper, a former beat cop and former police chief in Seattle, wrote, in his 2005 book, *Breaking Ranks*, the following:

Simply put, white cops are afraid of Black men. We don't talk about it, we pretend it doesn't exist, we claim

“color blindness”, we say white officers treat black men the same way they treat white men. But that’s a lie. In fact, the bigger, the darker the black man, the greater the fear. The African American community knows this. Hell, most whites know it. Yet, even though it’s the central, if not the defining ingredient in the makeup of police racism, white cops won’t admit it to themselves, or to others. [p.92]

There it is. Cut and dried.

The cop, Darren Wilson, saw ‘Big Mike’, and felt, in the pit of his gut, mind-numbing rear. The same could be said of literally hundreds of cases, every year, all across America.

It may be disturbing, but that doesn’t mean it ain’t true.

It’s real. And it doesn’t bode well for the future.

August 28th - The Real ‘Outside Agitators’

As the days and nights of angry resistance rage on in Ferguson, Missouri, the corporate media embarks on its newest campaign: the proposed banning of “outside agitators”.

It is ironic in the extreme to hear black reporters and black cops - and, indeed, black activists - launch verbal attacks against “outside agitators”, when, were it not for such protestors during the hottest days and nights of the civil rights movement - they would not exist!

For the phrase “outside agitators” was born in the minds and mouths of white southern segregationists, who decried the arrival of white and black students from the north, who worked to register voters, founded freedom schools, and joined the Freedom Riders on buses, to break state segregation laws.

Remember the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)? That’s Martin L. King’s organization. When SCLC stages marches in Alabama, that state’s governor, George Wallace, called SCLC “professional agitators with pro-Communist affiliations.”

Sound familiar? How close to “outside agitators!” The phrase begs the question: outside of what? The state? America?

This country is called the United States of America, founded upon a Constitution. Do all people have the right to protest, or just some residents?

Is what happened to Mike Brown a local matter, or is this really a national issue?

It’s not the job of media to police protests - pitting ‘good’ demonstrators against ‘bad’ ones. Their job is to report what is happening - period.

Were it not for these protests - let us be frank - the media would’ve ignored this story.

If the media was doing its job, reporting on the vicious violence launched against young Blacks the nation over; perhaps Mike Brown would be alive today.

Let us look at the cops, almost 98% of whom are outsiders to Ferguson. They work there; they kill there; but they don’t live there.

They dwell in neighboring, whiter counties and towns.

WHO ARE THE REAL ‘OUTSIDE AGITATORS’?

20 Aug - Daniel McGowan sues the Federal Bureau of Prisons!

Daniel McGowan, jailed for a HuffPost blog, has filed a lawsuit against bureau of prisons (BOP).

MORE:

by Matt Sledge (*Huffington Post*)

Daniel McGowan may have been the first person thrown in solitary confinement for writing a HuffPost blog. Now he'll be the first person to sue the Bureau of Prisons over it.

The environmental activist and former prisoner filed a lawsuit on Wednesday against the prison system over an April 2013 incident in which U.S. Marshals threw him in a Brooklyn federal jail -- ironically, for criticizing earlier violations of his free speech.

"The Bureau of Prisons does not like criticism and their reaction was unsurprisingly to try and crush someone who stepped out of line," McGowan told HuffPost Tuesday in an email.

After a federal judge labeled him a terrorist in 2007 for arson committed with the Earth Liberation Front, McGowan spent years in some of the federal prison system's most restrictive prisons, the communication management units (CMUs). The Bureau of Prisons denies it, but internal prison files strongly suggest McGowan was placed there because of his continued outspoken association with the environmental movement.

Serving the final months of his sentence in a Brooklyn halfway house in 2013, McGowan continued to speak out. He detailed how he was placed in the isolated special prisons in a HuffPost blog entry.

Three days after writing that post, the marshals threw him in the Brooklyn Metropolitan Detention Center. He was placed in solitary and told that he would be soon taken back to one of the CMUs. Inmates call them "Little Guantanamo."

"I had just served over five years in prison and was acclimating to life on the outside only to be yanked back to prison," McGowan said. "It was terrifying."

After his lawyers interceded, McGowan was released the next day back to the halfway house. But in a separate, multi-plaintiff lawsuit against the Bureau of Prisons for how it creates and runs CMUs, McGowan's lawyers argued that the entire incident was a startling example of their larger claim that the special units are used to punish political speech. Even the federal government later admitted in that case that McGowan was jailed contrary to the established law that inmates may write articles under their own bylines.

Although a judge dismissed McGowan's claims in the lawsuit against the CMUs in July 2013, he is now forging on against the Bureau of Prisons for what he says was a case of unconstitutional retaliation.

"McGowan was arrested for his criticism of the government, plain and simple," his lawyer David Rankin told HuffPost in an email.

"Communication management units are wrong now, they were wrong then, and trying to tell that to the world should not get you thrown back in prison."

22 Aug - Manning and her attorneys frustrated over Army stonewalling of healthcare, "cruel and unusual punishment"

A full year after Chelsea Manning's initial request for appropriate gender-related healthcare from her military

captors, the Army is still denying her treatment at the Fort Leavenworth military prison.

MORE:

A month ago, an unnamed military spokesperson reluctantly stated that the Army would provide a “rudimentary level” of gender-related health care to Chelsea. This statement was made after receiving public scrutiny for their failure to provide treatment thus far, and after the Army failed in their attempt to avoid responsibility of Chelsea’s medical needs by transferring her to a civilian prison. However, so far the Army’s public statements have been just talk—Chelsea has yet to receive the medical attention she needs.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has been retained by Chelsea Manning to represent her gender-related healthcare interests:

“Our constitution requires that the government provide medically necessary care to the individuals it holds in its custody. It is cruel and unusual punishment to withhold from Ms. Manning the care that the military’s own doctors have deemed medically necessary,” states Chase Strangio, Staff Attorney with the ACLU’s LGBT & AIDS Project. “The Army is withholding her care for political reasons, which is simply not permitted by our Constitution.”

This morning, Chelsea Manning issued the following statement bringing to light the Army’s negligence:

This time last year, I publicly asked that I be provided with a treatment plan, to bring my body more in line with my gender identity. Unfortunately, despite silence, and then lip service, the military has not yet provided me with any such treatment.

Treatment is, as a matter of law about medical necessity. Such as treating depression or anxiety. But, receiving treatment is very important to me, as a person. It has a little bit to do with the perception of myself- the sense of unending discomfort with the gender that has been imposed on me-but not out of vanity.

However, prisons- and especially military prisons—reinforce and impose strong gender norms—making gender the most fundamental aspect of institutional life. The US Disciplinary Barracks restricts my ability to express myself based on my gender identity.

For example, in my daily life I am reminded of this when I look at the name on my badge, the first initial sewed onto my clothing, the hair and grooming standards that I adhere to, and the titles and courtesies used by the staff. Ultimately, I just want to be able to live my life as the person that I am, and to be able to feel comfortable in my own skin.

I also want to make it clear that my request is about how I am confined, not where. I have never requested for any transfer to a civilian or female facility. Prison is prison regardless of whether you are military or civilian, and regardless of what gender you are.

Overall, the support I have received outside has been overwhelming—from cards and letters, to public statements of support. I am especially grateful for all the people who have respected my wishes, used the correct pronouns and titles when referring to me, and given me their best wishes and warm love and support. You have given me a deep well of hope and optimism to gather energy from.

26 Aug - Hello Comrades - From Doug (Cleveland 4)

Doug’s support crew recently received a message to the public and we’re including it below.

MORE:

I found out Friday August 15th that my transfer was denied and BOP headquarters told my unit team not to re-submit it for six months. So I’m stuck in SHU here in Coleman 1 for six months. My only chance of moving before then is to get the warden here and at Coleman 2 to accept an inter-complex transfer. I have been and will continue to press the Captain, warden and associate wardens of this facility and I encourage anyone who will, to call the captains wardens and assistant wardens of both penitentiaries and tell them I should be transferred to

Coleman 2. I am being denied programs and other opportunities because I'm in SHU. I'm listing the names of each I know below. Also, at the same time, a letter going to each should help as well. Thank you for your support. They took away the book cart so I need a couple of books. I would also like a USA Today subscription.

FUCK THE FEDS

27 Aug - Mondo we Langa's alibi witness still says he is innocent 43 years after his COINTELPRO-tainted trial

Retired attorney Rae Ann Schmitz still says Mondo we Langa (David Rice) is innocent 43 years after his trial. Michael Richardson has consistently written powerful articles about the Omaha 2 and we're including his latest below.

MORE:

by Michael Richardson (*Examiner*)

Rae Ann Schmitz, alibi witness for Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice) in his 1971 trial for the murder of an Omaha, Nebraska policeman, recently gave an interview and still maintains that Mondo is not guilty. Mondo was convicted with Edward Poindexter for a bomb ambush in a controversial trial where evidence was withheld by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Both men were Black Panther leaders and targets of a FBI conspiracy under the clandestine COINTELPRO counterintelligence operation.

Schmitz, a retired attorney, was a first-year student at Creighton Law School when she testified as an alibi witness. Defense attorney David Herzog failed to prepare her for trial, meeting briefly with her in a courthouse hallway, and Schmitz thought she was being called as a character witness.

Schmitz testified that Mondo was at a party at her house from 8 p.m. the night before the fatal bombing until sometime after 2:30 a.m. when the party started to break up, placing him nowhere near the crime scene at the time of the blast and anonymous call that lured police to a vacant house.

What Herzog failed to notice was that Schmitz also provided Mondo an alibi for the time he allegedly allowed Duane Peak into his home to pick up the suitcase bomb. Rae Ann Schmitz says that Mondo was with her and that was "just one more lie that Duane Peak told."

At trial, Schmitz testified that she was with Mondo at Memorial Park for the afternoon from about 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. before she drove him to Kountze Park arriving just before 5:00 p.m. when she dropped Mondo off.

Duane Peak testified that he met with Mondo we Langa at Mondo's house that afternoon to pick up the bomb but neither prosecutors nor defense attorneys established a time frame for the supposed rendezvous. However, in a sworn pre-trial deposition several days after his arrest, Peak said that he met Mondo at 4:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, Omaha's Black Panther affiliate chapter, and then they proceeded separately to Mondo's house arriving sometime later.

Because of the defense failure to establish a time-frame for Peak's testimony, the jury never realized that Schmitz contradicted Peak's claim and provided not only an alibi for the 911 call to police but also an alibi for the bomb pick-up hours earlier.

The 911 call was the subject of Director J. Edgar Hoover's order to FBI Laboratory chief Ivan Willard Conrad to withhold a report on a recording of the caller's voice. The tape had been sent to the FBI Laboratory to identify the caller, however, the investigation was not a search for truth. Hoover wanted the two Panther leaders convicted of the crime and did not seek the identity of the actual caller.

Mondo we Langa and his co-defendant, Ed Poindexter, were convicted for the murder of Patrolman Larry Minard, Sr. and remain imprisoned at the maximum-security Nebraska State Penitentiary. Both men continue to deny any role in the bombing. The case is under international review and is expected to be on the agenda for the United Nations Human Rights Committee next spring when United States compliance with a 1966 anti-racism

treaty will be examined.

Rae Ann Schmitz continues to insist that Mondo we Langa is innocent. Mondo has a pending appeal before the Nebraska Supreme Court. No date has been set for a decision.

August 30th - Racism treaty committee calls on Obama administration to explain black prisoners

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued its "Concluding Observations" on Aug. 29 over United States progress to end racism. The report, prepared for the United Nations, requests the American government to account for COINTELPRO prisoners who remain incarcerated.

In a nod to diplomacy, reference to the COINTELPRO counterintelligence program was dropped from the report to the United Nations, however, the problem of prisoners was addressed. "The Committee requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, detailed information on...the current status of political activists from the Civil Rights era who reportedly continue to be incarcerated."

The Jericho Movement, which filed a complaint with the Committee, has said that nineteen Black Panthers remain in prison following unfair trials. A shadow report to the Committee from the Malcolm X Center for Self-Determination contained a priority list of prisoners whose cases needed urgent attention which named among others the Omaha Two, Edward Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice).

"Many of today's political prisoners were incarcerated as a direct result of COINTELPRO's activities, namely, they were targeted because of their political beliefs and/or actions," said the shadow report. "Unlike those convicted and sentenced for similar crimes, political prisoners were given much harsher sentences and subsequently routinely denied parole."

"Another victory, a more sturdy building block!" emphasized Efia Nwangaza who submitted the shadow report on a failure of the United States government to address COINTELPRO abuses. Nwangaza thanked New York Jericho Movement activist "Anne Lamb for her indispensable support, without which this landmark achievement would not have been possible."

"Among other things, the USA must provide information regarding incarcerated COINTELPRO/Civil Rights era political activists, political prisoners, to the UN Human Rights Council," said Nwangaza. Thus far Barack Obama has been silent on the plight of victims of COINTELPRO during his presidency.

The Omaha Two were Black Panther leaders targeted by Federal Bureau of Investigation director J. Edgar Hoover. After the Aug. 17, 1970 killing of a policeman by a bomb ambush, Hoover directed FBI agents to put the crime on Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa. Hoover ordered the withholding of a FBI Laboratory report on the identity of the anonymous caller who lured Patrolman Larry Minard, Sr. to his death to make a case against the two Panther leaders.

Although the Omaha Two and other COINTELPRO cases are state prosecutions, the Obama administration is now being asked to explain what it has done to correct the abuses under J. Edgar Hoover. The Jericho Movement has urged a presidential review of all cases involving those imprisoned as a result of COINTELPRO.

Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa remain imprisoned at the Nebraska State Penitentiary serving life sentences. Both men continue to deny any role in the crime.

28 Aug - George Horton in Jail Again for G20 Charges

George Horton, G20 Prisoner, has returned to jail after being released pending his appeal, which was recently denied.

MORE:

George Horton is being held in Lindsay, ON at the Central East Correctional Facility. He is expected to do at least 4 months there, up to 8 months (at worst).

George participated courageously in the mass demonstrations against the G20 in June of 2010. He has remained courageous and intransigent in the face of the repression of the courts and jail.

Since June of 2010, he has supported G20 defendants and prisoners. Rather than seeking the state and corporate media's mercy by condemning the diverse tactics of community-based resistance mounted against the G20 in 2010, George has consistently condemned this repression.

If you wish to write to George send him letters at the following address:

George Horton
Central East Correctional Centre
541 Highway 36, Box 4500
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 4S6
Canada

BACKGROUND:

In September 2010, George was arrested in connection with actions connected with mass demonstrations against the G20 on the weekend of June 25-27, 2010 in Toronto.

After conviction, George was sentenced September 28, 2012 to 10 months for Assault Police, 10 months for Intimidation of "Peace" Officer, 2 months for being Masked with Intent and 2 months for 3 counts of Mischief over \$5000, to be served concurrently. This meant that he was to serve 10 months in total.

After serving 2 months, George was released on bail, pending the resolution of an appeal of his convictions for Assault Police and Intimidation of "Peace" Officer.

On August 26, 2014, George's appeal was dismissed and his convictions upheld.

28 Aug - Indian Summer by Leonard Peltier

We've included the latest from American Indian Movement political prisoner Leonard Peltier below.

MORE:

I would like at this time say a few words of Thank You and appreciation for the recent donations that many of you have made for my legal fees. I know with today's economy it isn't always easy to find the extra funds to send. I want you to know that all the people working in my committee at this time are volunteers, none of them take a salary or pay. All the funds that have been donated will be used exclusively for my legal fees.

This is a pivotal time for me in my life, it is a pivotal time in the possibilities for my freedom. I don't like to be melodramatic or seem to lean on your sympathies but I really do feel that if Obama does not free me, I will probably never get out, and I will die in here. I am kind of at a loss for words at this time. The part of me that is hopeful has atrophied a great deal over the years. By exposing the constitutional violations that took place in wrongfully convicting me, the inconsistencies of their witnesses and the manufacturing of evidence I retained hope.

The situation now is so very difficult to talk about or even to think about and as I become aware of all of the wrongful things that are taking place with Native people still at this time, that I feel somewhat guilty about talking about MY issues. All across this land Native people old and young are struggling to not only make their personal lives better, but to have a better place to live, and to protect our environment in a traditional way and with traditional responsibility. We must ALL acknowledge the scientific facts that show it is essential that ALL people throughout the Earth take up this cause to protect our earth for future generations.

As I watch the news I hear and see things about police brutalities and the militarization of the police forces and from in here you can see that the judicial system in America has become industrialized, and it is all about money. Over the years I have said over and over our need for involvement. We need to stand up to these wrongs that are

perpetrated against the people of the Earth by the Corporations. When I think of all of the negative things that face so many people I am humbled by the enormity of the problems.

I get letters and I am told and I become aware of so many people that recognize the wrongdoings of police and government agencies that are systematically taking away our constitutional, human, and civil rights and I am also aware that there are a lot of people who do not even realize these things are happening, they think it is only affecting someone else and not them. We must do our best to make others aware of what we all face. We must do our best to network with the people that are truly trying to do something. We must do more than just sit at a computer and hit the "like" button. We must do something that is tangible and makes a difference that we can see every day. If each of us just chooses one small thing and takes the responsibility to help a number of others to do the same we can eventually make the whole world a better place.

The Constitution of the United States was a copy of Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy Law. Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin all wrote down as to where they got the ideas and inspiration from. The main premise of the constitution being, you have the freedom to do anything you want as long as you don't hurt someone else in your doing. It also advocated community responsibility and of course women's rights which the original US constitution did not copy.

Speaking of freedom I want you to know that in all my 39 years in this cell in these prisons I still long for and cherish freedom. The love of Freedom is probably the most common thing that all people share. Any creature held too long in one position or one place will struggle to be let free, even a baby held in one's arms.

To be imprisoned for something you are not guilty of causes a pain within you that you cannot imagine, it is not "like" a wound that doesn't heal, it IS a wound that doesn't heal, it is a pain that never goes away.

I apologize for sounding so down, but I do have moments when all this really gets to me. We all need to be encouraging to one another, we all need to stand strong for our beliefs and our spirituality. We need to seek out the things that make us stronger, physically, mentally, spiritually and network with other people who feel the same. We need to make sure we are doing the right thing and to choose our fights carefully. We need to put our resources where they will have the longest effect.

I know there are lots of programs out there for everything you can think of but as I have said so many times we really need to dwell on programs for our youth.

There needs to be grievance committees that are autonomous from the local D.A.'s where a person can voice their concerns and something will be done about it. There needs to be cadet programs so the youth can also be part of the judicial system; not just in prison, but as police and advocates for justice. The police forces of this country are totally ill trained for the task at hand they display their fear constantly in hurting people. Violence is always caused by fear. In some cases it is the fear of violence itself, that causes violence. In some cases these officers are in fear of not being validated by their own fellow officers, if they don't display their strength with violence. Either way, they need to be trained to a level that they are confident about who they are and what their responsibility is to the people they are supposed to serve. They need to be trained so that they have a relationship with the people that isn't a "WE VS THEM" relationship.

The people should be able to recognize that these officers are there, FOR the people, by the concerned behavior they display and the way they conduct themselves. We should not have to fear those that are supposed to protect us. Every officer should be trained to interact with the public in a kind and gentle way and that violence, for them, is an extreme last resort and only used to the level of appropriate need.

Again I want to encourage each and every one of you to be proactive and find a way to be involved that makes you feel good about what you are doing, and brings personal growth in your own life. There have always been wrongdoers and bullies and parasites who attach themselves to the struggles of others with their words, but like Martin Luther King once said "if a man stays bent over someone will always be trying to ride him, but if you stand up, they will have no choice but to back down" and like Emiliano Zapata, a famous native south american

revolutionary, once said, "I would rather die on my feet than live on my knees." I think even in the white mans bible it says "I would rather be a dead lion than live as a sheep."

Perhaps I have kept you too long in reading this, but I was just pacing my cell and thinking about these things and thought I would share some of my thoughts with you. I hope that tomorrow and the next days of your life you will feel good about what you a are doing, and know that in your struggles to do the right thing my heart is with you.

Again I want to sincerely thank you and I want you to know that the concern you show in helping touches me deeply and I pray that your life will be better, and the Earth will be better for the good things that you do. If you get a chance write me a letter, I love to hear from you, I don't always get a chance to write back I hear from people all over the Earth. But still, let me know what you think and until next time keep the faith.

6 Sept - National Weekend Against AETA NYC Event

WHAT: Analysis of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA)

WHEN: 7:00pm, Saturday, September 6th

WHERE: Bluestockings Bookstore, Café, & Activist Center - 172 Allen Street, New York, New York 10002

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join The Animals' Battalion as we seek to expand public awareness of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act.

We are proud to present Odette Wilkens, the executive director of the Equal Justice Alliance. The EJA is a coalition formed in October of 2006 to preserve freedom of speech and assembly by attempting to stop the passage of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA). <http://noaeta.org>

We will have a special introduction on how AETA affects all forms of activism by Neal Sehgal, the founder of Evolve for Animals. <http://www.evolveforanimals.org>

The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) is a United States federal law that prohibits any person from engaging in certain conduct "for the purpose of damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise." The AETA labels activists as terrorists, a chilling reality that every activist of every cause should care about because this is a civil liberties and rights issue. AETA has been covered by almost every major paper in the US and is one of the most unconstitutional laws since COINTELPRO - a program established in the 1950s by the FBI that targeted the civil rights, anti-war, and Native American movements.

ACTIVISM IS NOT TERRORISM!

This event is being held in conjunction with the National Weekend of Action Against the AETA. The New York City-based The Animals' Battalion is proud to be the local sponsor of this event.

To understand more about the targeting of activists and the AETA, read: Terrorists or Freedom Fighters? (2004)

Igniting a Revolution (2006)

Muzzling a Movement (2010)

Green is the New Red (2011)

The Terrorization of Dissent (2014)

12 Sept - Love and Resistance for Imam Jamil al-Amin

WHAT: An evening of LOVE AND RESISTANCE for Imam Jamil al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown)

WHEN: 6:00-10:00pm, Friday, September 12th

WHERE: MLK, Jr. Labor Center (Local 1199) - 310 West 43rd Street

COST: FREE; Light supper \$8

MORE:

Imam Jamil Al-Amin is facing serious illness in a prison hospital in North Carolina. We must wage a campaign

to ensure that he is not returned to solitary confinement and that he is released.

HEAR:

Dhoruba Bin-Wahad
Karima Al-Amin
Imam Al Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid
Pam Africa
IMPACT Repertory Theatre

Sponsored by:

The Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC), The Uncompromising International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, The MOVE Organization, The Imam Jamil Action Network

Endorsed by: NYC Anarchist Black Cross, Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, the Riverside Church Prison Ministry, the National Jericho Movement, Universal Zulu Nation, Safiya Nuh Foundation, People's Survival Program, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, Sekou Odinga Defense Committee

7 Sept – Running Down the Walls 2014!

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

WHEN: 2:00-7:00pm, Sunday, September 7th

WHERE: Prospect Park– Lincoln Road/East Lake Drive, east of the Terrace Bridge

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

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

This year's run will take place on Sunday, September 7th at 2:00pm in solidarity and conjunction with runs that will take place in cities and prison yards across the country at the same time.

REGISTER AS, OR SPONSOR, A PARTICIPANT

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

* Run/walk/bike/roll in the 5k – We need participants who can run/walk/bike/roll the 5k and are able to collect financial pledges to offer as donations to the run. Download the brochure, complete with registration and sponsor form right here.

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

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

NYC ABC

Post Office Box 110034

Brooklyn, New York 11211

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

Each year, we split proceeds between the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Warchest Program and a local organization. This year's partner group will be Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP).

The Warchest Program:

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest program was initiated in November 1994. Its purpose is to collect monthly funds from groups and individual supporters, and send that money to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW) via monthly checks. Over the last decade, the ABCF warchest has dispensed over \$70,000 to political prisoners in the United States. For more information, visit: <http://www.abcf.net/warchest-program>

RAPP:

Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP works to reduce the number of elderly and infirm people in New York State prisons. The number of people over age 50 in New York State has risen 84% since 2000; it now exceeds 9,000—more than 17% of the total incarcerated population. For more information, visit: rappcampaign.com

Directions:

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

The event will be two laps around what is known as the Inner Loop, and will total five kilometers.

Of course, if you have any questions, e-mail us at nycabc@riseup.net