

Updates for October 14th

28 Sept - Letter from Brian Vaillancourt

We are publishing a letter recently written by animal liberation front prisoner Brian Vaillancourt. We believe this is the time where he needs his community to rally around him and support him more than ever.

MORE:

Hope all is well with you and you had a great summer.

I sent an open letter letting everyone know I am going to be unresponsive to letters and pretty much just going to do my bit-- I will of course always carry the message and live my life the best way I can compassionately.

I've recently turned 50 – a milestone, and have decided to break free from the groups and organizations – besides, nothing has been happening, that I've heard of (aboveground or otherwise).

Also, with IA in here and federal indictments for tourism – I don't need to be under the microscope – I am effectively backing off.

I do wish everyone well, and hope this were continues – when I'm out from behind enemy lines out of my cage I will be stronger, faster, smarter and will be liberating all lives I can.

I love you and wish you well, you're a true hero and I'm proud I call you my friend and comrade.

love and liberation.

29 Sept - Appeals Court Overturns Denial of Parole for Sundiata Acoli

We wont bury the lede-- Sundiata Acoli's denial of parole has been overturned! Of course the state has already filed a challenge, and Sundiata still sits in prison, but this is great news. We've included a corporate media story below.

MORE:

A man convicted in the shooting death of a New Jersey state trooper in a crime that still provokes strong emotion among law enforcement more than 40 years later was ordered released on parole by a state appeals court Monday. Sundiata Acoli was known as Clark Edward Squire when he was convicted of the 1973 slaying of state trooper Werner Foerster during a stop on the New Jersey Turnpike. Now in his mid-70s, he was denied parole most recently in 2011, but the appellate judges reversed that ruling Monday.

In a 28-page opinion, the panel wrote that the parole board ignored evidence favorable to Acoli and gave undue consideration to past events such as a probation violation that occurred decades earlier.

One of the three people in the car when it was stopped was Joanne Chesimard, who also was convicted of Foerster's slaying, but eventually escaped to Cuba and is now known as Assata Shakur. Last year, state and federal authorities announced a \$2 million reward for information leading to her capture, and the FBI made her the first woman on its list of most wanted terrorists. She and Acoli were members of black militant organizations at the time.

At the news conference last year announcing the increased reward for Shakur, Col. Rick Fuentes, superintendent of the New Jersey state police, called the case "an open wound."

"I am both disheartened and disappointed by the appellate decision in this matter," Fuentes said through a spokesman Monday. "The mere passage of time should not excuse someone from the commission of such a horrendous act. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Foerster family whose lives have been deprived of a father and son."

According to court documents, Acoli's gun went off during a struggle with Foerster, who had responded as backup after another officer pulled over the car for a broken tail light. The state contended Chesimard shot Trooper James Harper, wounding him, then took Foerster's gun and shot him twice in the head with his own gun as he lay on the ground. A third man in the car, James Costen, died from his injuries at the scene.

Acoli has claimed he was grazed by a bullet and blacked out, and couldn't remember the exact sequence of events. He was sentenced in 1974 to life plus 24 to 30 years, and was denied parole in 1993 and 2004. He is currently in prison in Cumberland, Maryland, about 75 miles northwest of New York City.

The appellate judges wrote Monday that the parole board ignored a prison psychologist's favorable report on Acoli and the fact that he had expressed remorse for the trooper's death and had had no disciplinary incidents in prison since 1996. They also faulted the board for giving too much weight to Acoli's past criminal record and an unspecified probation violation, which occurred several decades before the board's decision.

"Make no mistake, we are completely appalled by Acoli's senseless crimes, which left a member of the State Police dead and another injured, as well as one of Acoli's associates dead and the other injured," the judges wrote. "But Acoli has paid the penalty under the laws of this State for his crimes."

Christopher Burgos, president of the state troopers' fraternal association, called the court's decision "unbelievably insane."

"Once again the families affected who have lost loved ones in service to their state and country, law enforcement in New Jersey and the US have had wounds ripped open again 40 years later, and sadly we have seen the failure of our justice system to keep these violent offenders behind bars for the rest of their lives," he wrote in an email.

Through a spokesman, the state attorney general's office said it would appeal the decision and could seek a stay that, if granted, would postpone Acoli's release.

29 Sept - Jared Chase needs books and letters

Jared Chase needs mail and books. He has received very little mail over the last month, and is going through some hard times with his health and in fighting the additional felony charge against him from Cook County Jail.

MORE:

Please take the time to write him a letter, postcard, or mail him a book. He has a court date October 10th, and a call out for court support is coming. Post sentencing is a really important time to continue support, after all the media has gone away. Let's all show him some support and solidarity through a very difficult incarceration and time.

**Jared Chase M44710
Dixon Correctional Center
2600 North Brinton Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021**

<http://amzn.com/w/32QR3TML7LLT>
<http://freethenato3.wordpress.com>

29 Sept - For Eric McDavid, after nearly 9 years in prison, hunger striking for vegan food has just been one mountain to climb

This is the piece Eric wrote for Think!Eat!Act!

MORE:

Eric is a vegan prisoner – but he is also so much more than that. He is an anarchist, a radical environmentalist, and a musician to name just a few. For more information on Eric and his case, please visit: <http://supporteric.org>

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I was arrested January 13, 2006 (both Friday and a full moon). On the 17th I was brought before a magistrate and told that I was being charged with conspiracy to use explosives on the government property and interstate commerce. After three weeks of trial in September of '07, in an attempt to utilize an entrapment defense, the kangaroo court came to its decision. Seven and a half months later, I was sentenced to 235 months in prison, given the "low end" of the sentencing guidelines (because it was conspiracy the maximum was 20 years or 240 months). The reason given for the denial of a vegan diet during my time in county jail was that a vegan diet is a choice – not a religious or health issue. I was told that it could be set aside until I was no longer held there...and yes, after an amazing amount of support from folks on the outside and to hunger strikes, I was provided with meals that did not contain animal products. Not too long after I left, the menu was changed to all vegan meals. I encountered some health issues from that experience, like a heart condition called pericarditis where the protective tissue around the heart becomes inflamed and manifests itself in all sorts of chest pains, making laying down pretty much impossible. The federal prison system refuses to recognize vegan diets – it's all about labels and categories, though, only due to my heart condition, am I provided a "non-dairy, non-flesh diet." The commissary does carry some items which are absent of animal products, though they aren't there with that intent; and the bringing of food in from the outside was prohibited quite a few years ago – probably when they realized that they could make more money by cornering that market.

A vast majority of other prisoners commend me for sticking to my diet, and after inquiring as to why, they skirt the depth of the issues and the ramifications with jokes. I've not met other vegans in prison, though I know there are others, but I have run into a good number of vegetarians. The menu here runs on a five-week rotation, with a daily 2,200 calorie diet. Breakfast begins a little after 6am and is open for around 40-45 minutes, lunch is anywhere from 10:45am to as late as 12:15pm, while dinner starts around 5pm and runs for about 45 minutes.

At breakfast I have hot cereal, oatmeal, grits, or cream of wheat and a piece of fruit; for lunch there is usually a soy alternative or beans, canned veggies, white rice or noodles or potatoes, and a piece of fruit; and dinner is a variation of lunch, minus the fruit. The only way to participate in the preparation of food is to work in food-service, otherwise it is off-limits. Life in prison is basically a no-frills version of life out there (minus wimmin and those in between). Work is mandatory; there are places you can and can't go; there are cameras and cops, along with their bureaucratic handlers; there are the expectations of certificates/education/programming and they really do call it that. visits are, by far, the biggest anomaly. Here it's four days per week (Fri-Mon), where from 8am to 3pm, those who are accepted onto my visiting list can come and sit in plastic chairs across from a little plastic table, share in over priced vending machine items, a handful of which are vegan, and talk under the watchful eyes of cops and cameras. There's an embrace and kiss allowed at the beginning and the end. To get a hug during the picture, I have to buy a ticket through the commissary and other than that, contact is prohibited. That aspect has been the most difficult to dance with, seeing my partner and loved ones, and knowing that we must inhibit that one most basic impulse – to touch.

30 Sept - New writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal

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

MORE:

September 30th - Fayette: Pollution Prison, Pennsylvania

Recently, a group of human rights researchers, responding to letters from Fayette prisoners, found a slew of environmental dangers and threats to the lives, health and well-being of hundreds of prisoners, guard and other staff members at the prison in Western Pennsylvania.

The Abolitionist Law Center and the Human Rights Coalition, with the help of the Center for Coalfield Justice, sent questionnaires into the prison, and visited prisoners willing to talk.

They found that the prison, built in the midst of a massive coal waste dump filled to the brim with toxic fly ash, caused or was a significant contributor to nearly a dozen cancer deaths, and serious life-threatening diseases and disorders.

The Abolitionist Law Center and Human Rights Coalition investigated the claims, researched the science, and came up with a damning 23-page report. The report, entitled “No Escape: Exposure to Toxic Coal Waste at State Correctional Institution Fayette”, reads like a horror story of medical neglect, callousness and human suffering.

In addition to the 11 fatal cases of cancer, half a dozen others have been diagnosed with cancer, others suffering from respiratory ailments, and 68% of respondents claimed undiagnosed ailments, including boils, cysts and both internal and external swellings throughout their bodies.

One Fayette prisoner, Marcus Santos, experienced swelling in his throat, on his face, arms and legs. He was afraid he would choke to death. Santos wrote to investigators:

‘I suffered almost every day of the 15 months I was at that prison. I almost died due to throat swelling several times. Given tums for throat swelling and told that if I start choking there is nothing that he can do for me. At that point it became clear to me that I am being left for dead. With no other course to take or relief in sight I called my brother and told him that I don’t believe I’m going to make it through the rest of my time and to please take care of my son. [p.9]’

The ALC/HRC report, No Escape, is full of such heart-rending comments and events.

The culprit here is the wide array of chemicals on the surrounding dump site from the fly ash and coal waste, which includes: mercury, lead, arsenic, hexavalent chromium, cadmium, boron - and thallium.

The other culprit? The PA Department of Corrections, which chose to build a prison in the midst of a toxic waste dump.

In Pennsylvania, every prison sentence can be a death sentence.

October 2nd - Ferguson & the Failure of Black Politics

The stark and moving images arising from the violence, repression and resistance of Ferguson, Missouri, continue to percolate throughout national and global consciousness.

If, as the old saying goes, ‘a picture is worth a thousand words’, the thousands of images radiating from Ferguson must be worth millions of words.

And those words are damning; “state terror” turns its fearful face towards Black alleged citizens who dare protest against state violence. One looks at these images and sees in an instant that there is a war against Black people.

What are Black politicians saying? More importantly, what are they doing?

The kindest answer is they that have not been distinguished in their actions and responses. Many, perhaps most, have been silent.

For young folks in Ferguson and beyond, they know what they know, because they’ve experienced what they’ve experience; and the bright and shiny promises taught to them since childhood - of civil rights - is about as

relevant and realistic as Santa Claus - or the Easter Bunny.

Their lives may be measured by humiliation and exploitation; by police repression, nonfunctional schools and meager job opportunities. Courts are cold, impersonal jail factories - and the prison cell is all but inevitable.

How did this happen?

Because politics has never been the driver of public activism; it has been driven by episodes of activism.

Furthermore, Black politicians in predominantly white institutions of power, exercise presence - not power.

Finally, politicians are disciplined by a white corporate press which narrows the range of their political activity. For black politicians, like white politicians, want to be liked and to be seen as likable.

“Why rock the boat?” they wonder.

So, Ferguson explodes, with searing images of rage and resistance - and silence.

For them, the system doesn't work.

A new, militant, responsive politics must arise, built by the young, who are clear-eyed and committed.

October 2nd - Lost Opportunities

Thanks to the corporate media, Ferguson, Missouri, has been all but forgotten.

Other sensationalist fare now fills the air, with empty fluff about missing white women, snuff videos and other mindlessness to further inflame public fear.

But to thousands and thousands of young Black people, Ferguson is as close as teeth are to the tongue.

They witnessed, with their own eyes, how young people, just like them, were treated by the armed forces of the State. Their antipathy, their racist hatreds, their weapons of war pointed at the People will not soon be forgotten.

They also saw the stark emptiness of so-called ‘black’ politicians, who, unable to resolve the crisis of the hour, uttered inanities about ‘body cams’, proof positive that they don't really live in the same world as those they claim to represent.

Some called for ‘community policing’, a phrase and concept as empty as the one before it; which simply means cops surveilling Black lives closer than ever before, with the same violent repression.

The term is a perversion of a struggle once waged by the Black Panther Party: “community control of police.”

In fact, the late Dr. Huey P. Newton, a co-founder of the Party, wrote in February, 1980, calling for the establishment of a “Citizen's Peace Force”, a force far different from the units we see today.

Huey wrote:

The working model for the new peace force resembles, in many ways, a citizen's militia. Conscription would mean drafting people from councilmanic districts to serve two-year terms in their own community. Young people from age 15 could serve part time, and no upward age or sex limit need be arbitrarily imposed. Basic training for draftees would reach out to ongoing schooling in various skills for those who were not returning to either jobs or school.

Dr. Huey P. Newton wrote that the Peace Force's linchpin would be "Civilian Control."

No present politician, from president to dog catcher, has come close to Huey's insights, or the progress of the Black Panther Party from the late '70s to 1980.

None.

History lives to give us options for the future.

It lives to inspire us with visions of the possible.

We must fight for more - or we'll get more Fergusons - only worse.

October 2nd - The U.S.: Architect of Disaster

It is fascinating to watch US presidents, as they call names and promise destruction, especially so soon after the flood of disasters that have been waged throughout the Middle East.

Iraq is a social, economic, political, environmental and spiritual basket-case. Libya is little better.

Both are horrific examples of US interventions that have plunged both societies into deadly hell-scapes, places of religious strife, kidnappings, corruption, broken institutions and rape. For the US, and its so-called allies, are pretty good at destruction of governments. Reconstruction?

Not so much.

Now, the American Way lumbers into Syria ostensibly to weaken ISIS (lately called the Islamic State).

As in Iraq and later Libya, the US and its ignoble allies, are in contempt of the people who are invariably referred to coldly as 'collateral damage'.

The Arab so-called 'allies'? Cover for the imperialists, who are actually collaborators with Western foreigners.

All the rap about training armies? If the US couldn't do it in 12 years, a few months are simply laughable.

This means that US and Western military efforts will continue indefinitely. For months. For years, perhaps.

And to what end?

Democracy? An end to terrorism?

Hardly.

For one thing, imagine the various and sundry members of the so-called coalition. Should it surprise us that, with the exception of France, there's hardly a democracy among them? There a plenty of princes -sure. But democracies?

This war, like the Iraq War before it, promised heaven, but delivered hell. It was, and is, a disaster, that promises more suffering for the Arabs, who had the immense misfortune, of being born in lands where lakes of oil bubble beneath them.

October 4th - The Transmogrification of Barack Hussein Obama

When Barack Hussein Obama was first elected US President, a sense of mad elation swept through areas that were once regarded as Third World; Africa, because of his blood ties; and the Middle East, because of the faith tradition of his father.

For them, Obama's elevation to the highest office in the land seemed to signify a change of epic proportions, for both regions are places where one's tribe, clan and ancestry are powerful markers of identity.

When Obama gave his speech in Cairo (4 June, 2009), his honeyed words sent excitement throughout Arab and Muslim communities. The sense of change was palpable.

But power elites don't support change, unless it's to their advantage.

Economic and political forces, at first shocked by his ascension, learned to fight long battles against him, to assert their primacy in foreign affairs.

Cronies of the Bush regime were absorbed back onto corporate boards and into think tanks, from which they launched word wars against Obama's patriotism, his faith, his competency and his honesty. He was a 'wimp', they said. He's 'soft', they said.

And along came ISIS –formerly known as al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

They provided the lure that proved utterly irresistible.

Terrorism.

And suddenly, to the delight of the military industrial complex, a new war was here.

An air war – in two countries!

And we are back.

That old imperial itch, the urge to rule others, to determine the leaders of other countries, must be scratched.

After 6 years, the Obama administration sounds like a brighter replay of those boorish Bush years.

War.

Again.

October 7th - The ISIS Crisis: A U.S. Creation

When the ISIS group cracked the news several weeks ago, it stunned millions of Americans, who wondered, "Where did this come from?"

The media, performing their function of servant to the corporate state, just as they did during the run-up to the Iraq War in 2003, simply distributed audio from the Pentagon and politicians.

Few went deeper.

One had to search hard to find the truth; that ISIS was armed, paid and equipped by the U.S. and moreover, that ISIS, like al Qaeda, was a tool of U.S. grand strategy -- a strategy designed decades ago to win the grand prize of

the world: oil.

Consider this: in South Africa, during the height of the anti-apartheid movement, the white Nationalist Party tried to spark a third way; a war between the majority Zulus and the other African tribes. This war would leave the Nationalist as the only viable side to run the country.

They failed; but they tried.

Now, consider this: since the dawn of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the U.S. played an outer role and an inside role.

Outwardly, they sought stability. Inwardly, they lit the match of instability, by arming, paying and instigating the hardest core of so-called terrorist, to make life in Iraq as hellish as possible.

Their objective? To make a neocon dream to shatter Iraq into 3 pieces: Kurdish, Shi'a and Sunni.

The Kurds would get their state, the Shi'as would get their liberty from Sunnis - and Sunnis would emerge far weaker than ever in millennia.

The Kurds would get the lion's share of oil wells, and the U.S would get oil access - this time free of reliance on the Saudis.

With Iraq shattered, the Israelis would be strengthened - and reinforced. (Read Nick Davies on Alternet.org; or Nafeez Ahmed in Foreign Affairs.)

The U.S. created a monster, so that they could crack the world, and tap up the crude---ummmmm 'good to the last drop!'

October 9th - Now, The German Way

For millions of young people in America, the chances for a higher education are slight and few.

The costs are so high, and resources so lacking, that education has become an almost unattainable goal.

The massive privatization campaign, waged by businesses for generations, has boosted the growth of private schools and colleges, and these businesses are burgeoning, even as Black public schools are collapsing, and historical Black colleges are suffering for want of more students.

Is there a solution to this problem?

It is remarkable that a near neighbor, Cuba, offers free education, from kindergarten to college, to all comers. Even medical school is free -and Cuba trains doctors the world over.

Now, Germany has announced free education, not only for Germans - but for foreigners residing there. Their view is that education is a social good, and enables workers to contribute to society.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., costs keep rising, and enrollments keep slipping.

Some students gain an education, but they are then saddled with decades of debt - sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars for a professional degree.

America isn't apt to follow Cuba's lead, fearing that 'taint' of socialism.

But what about Germany, a country of 82 million people, the economic powerhouse of Europe?

Free education for all, may one day becomes an American idea.

October 9th - Baba Herman Ferguson: Lifelong Freedom Fighter: Presente!

His name was Herman Ferguson, and if you're not dialed into the Black Nationalist Movement, the name may not ring a bell of recognition.

But to those aware of the Black Power Movement of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, Herman Ferguson's life, role and commitment rings like a bell in the night.

For Ferguson, often accompanied by his wife and comrade, Iyaluua Nehanda, joined Black groups that supported the fight for freedom. He joined several, but perhaps few had more historical significance than his joining of both the groups formed by Malcolm X after his painful break from the Nation of Islam; the Organization of African American Unity (OAAU) and Muslim Mosque, Inc. (MMI).

He met Malcolm in the late '50s, when he was still in the Nation, and became a staunch supporter thereafter.

In 1967, he and fellow members of the Jamaica Rifle and Pistol Club (in queens, NY), were arrested and charged with the planned assassination of two prominent civil rights leaders. After a conviction a year later, Ferguson fled the U.S., and he and his wife (3 years later) began a life in Guyana, working in the field of education.

They stayed there for 19 years, and lived good lives there. Ferguson could've retired with a government pension under his assumed name, "Paul Adams", for he spent many years as an officer of the Guyanese Defense Force.

But the call of home only got louder with time.

Ferguson said he missed his "family", his "childhood friends", and "the Movement."

His wife, Iyaluua, said, "I don't think people really understand the nature of exile." She explained, "Exile is death."

So, Herman Ferguson and his wife returned to the U.S., where he knew a jail cell awaited him, but he did so, in part, because the weather had changed, in that the release of top-secret COINTEL-PRO files revealed FBI skullduggery against Black and anti-war activists. Also, several prominent Black Panther figures (like the late BPP Minister of information, Eldridge Cleaver), and Weatherman (a white, anti-imperialist group) had returned to the States.

He did 3 years, got out and hit the ground running, working on behalf of other imprisoned revolutionaries, by organizing, speaking out and building support for such efforts. He and his wife gave deep and broad support for the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, headquartered in NY.

For over 50 years he fought for the same ideas and principles that Malcolm supported: Black Nationalism, popular self-defense, and Black self-determination.

Now, after 93 years of life, Baba Herman Ferguson has returned to the Ancestors.

1 Oct - An FBI informant led hacks against 30 countries—now we know which ones

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informant who actively worked against Jeremy Hammond targeted more than two dozen countries in a series of high-profile cyberattacks in 2012. The names of many of those countries have remained secret, under seal by a court order—until now.

MORE:

by Dell Cameron (*Daily Dot*)

A cache of leaked IRC chat logs and other documents obtained by the Daily Dot reveals the 30 countries—including U.S. partners, such as the United Kingdom and Australia—tied to cyberattacks carried out under the direction of Hector Xavier Monsegur, better known as Sabu, who served as an FBI informant at the time of the attacks.

The actual attacks were carried out by highly skilled hacktivist Jeremy Hammond, who broke into countless international websites identified by his partner, Monsegur. At the time, Hammond was unaware that Monsegur was working as an FBI informant. Hammond was arrested in March 2012 on charges based largely on information provided by the man he knew as Sabu.

Amassed by federal agents with direct access to communications between Anonymous hacktivists, the private correspondence of Hammond and Monsegur, cofounder of hacktivist crew LulzSec, reveals the facilities of the AntiSec hacking group, who, under the FBI's constant surveillance, launched successive cyberattacks against foreign government networks.

Databases containing the login credentials, financial details, and private emails of foreign citizens, and in some cases government agents, were exfiltrated by hackers tasked by Monsegur to do as much damage as possible. At Monsegur's instruction, the stolen data was routinely uploaded to a server under the FBI's control, according to court statements.

The names of countries involved in these attacks remain redacted by order of Judge Loretta A. Preska of the U.S. District Court in Manhattan. However, a sentencing memorandum filed last year reveals that Hammond's attorneys, Susan G. Kellman and Sarah Kunstler, believed the criminal nature of Monsegur's undercover activities warranted closer scrutiny by the court.

"Why was our government, which presumably controlled Mr. Monsegur during this period, using Jeremy Hammond to collect information regarding the vulnerabilities of foreign government websites and in some cases, disabling them," Hammond's attorneys wrote in December 2013.

"This question is especially relevant today, amidst near daily public revelations about government's efforts, worldwide, to monitor the communications of, and gather intelligence on, world leaders."

Two weeks after the memorandum was filed, Preska sentenced Hammond to 10 years behind bars, the maximum allowed under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. Monsegur, however, walked free in May with a year of probation after having served only seven months in jail for communicating with Anonymous. Preska, who also ruled over Monsegur's case, and the U.S. Attorney's office praised Monsegur for his role in Hammond's conviction.

The FBI refused to comment on Hammond's case or Monsegur's involvement as an informant, saying only that the agency adheres strictly to the U.S. Attorney General's guidelines.

The 94-page memorandum from Hammond's legal team was eventually published in April 2014 by the document-leaks website Cryptome. It contains a summary of discovery materials—evidence collected by the FBI against Hammond—that details Monsegur's integral role in a slew of computer crimes. Due to the protective court order, however, the names of all foreign countries involved in the 2012 cyberattacks were all carefully blacked out.

The names of several countries allegedly targeted by Monsegur have been published by major news sources in the past, including the New York Times, which listed the names of six countries in an article published last April.

A joint investigation this summer by the Daily Dot and Motherboard further revealed that Monsegur ordered fellow hackers to deface government websites and steal confidential information from servers in Turkey and Brazil, according to sealed court documents leaked to the reporters. Additionally, Monsegur played a crucial role in staging high-profile cyberattacks against FBI security contractor ManTech, and the Texas intelligence firm Stratfor, the latter of which suffered an estimated \$3.78 million in damages as a result of the breach.

Below is an unredacted version of Hammond's sentencing memorandum drafted by the Daily Dot. Although the original document was unavailable, leaked chat logs, which correspond to the bates numbers cited next to each bullet point, identify the names of the countries censored by the court.

This is the first time this information has been made public.

Discovery timeline pertaining to hacks of foreign websites

Jan. 23, 2012:

- Mr. Monsegur gives Mr. Hammond a list of Brazil targets with Plesk vulnerabilities and asks him to “hit these... for our brazilian squad.” (BS 104988 - 104989)
- Hammond hacks one of these targets and shows Monsegur the site contains 287 domains and 1330 different email accounts. Monsegur says he will give these targets to Brazillian hacker “Hivitja” (actually Havittaja) to hack the sites. Monsegur tells Hammond to create a root backdoor (“just backdoor urls”) so the sites can be accessed again. Hammond also gives Monsegur passwords for some of the sites. (BS 104989 - 104990)
- Monsegur identifies additional targets for Hammond. Hammond confirms that he successfully gained access to two of them. One of the servers contains 3520 domains, many of them in Netherlands and Belgium. Another contains 392 Brazil domains. (BS 104991 - 105013)
- Hammond explains to Monsegur how to use root backdoors and where to find the emails and databases. (BS 105013 - 105014)
- Monsegur says he is finding more targets (“finding new juicy targets”) and asks for root backdoor instructions again, which Hammond provides. (BS 105014)
- Monsegur provides Hammond with targets in Slovenia. Hammond gains access to one that contains 62 domains and 96 email accounts. (BS 105028 - 105029)
- Monsegur provides more international targets and says he is “looking for embassies [sic] and consulates” [sic]. Hammond provides access to two of them. (BS 105029 - 105030)
- Monsegur asks Hammond to access a Brazil site, but he is unable to gain access. (BS 105041)
- Monsegur gives Hammond more Brazil targets, including Globo, which he describes as a “big target.” Hammond provides passwords. (BS 105041 - 105042)
- Monsegur provides more Brazil targets. Hammond gains access to one of them and provides the password, as requested. (BS 105044-105046)
- Monsegur provides a long list of targets from many different international countries including United Kingdom, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Maldives, Philippines, Laos, Libya, Turkey, Sudan, India, Malaysia, South Africa, Yemen, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Lebanon, Kuwait, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Argentina (BS 105061-105063)
- Monsegur tells Hammond that he will give the Turkey government sites to a Turkish hacking group known as RedHack (“the .gov.tr's will be handled Redhack famous Turkish hackers”) and tells Hammond that the sites he has given him are “high priority”—as if he were placing an order. (BS 105063)
- Monsegur invites Hammond to the RedHack channel so Hammond can provide the Turkey sites (“accept invite”). Monsegur also provides more Turkish domains (BS 105065 - 105066)
- Hammond tells Monsegur that one of the servers has mail for 22 Turkey government domains and another has mail for about 600 domains. (BS 105067)
- Monsegur creates a chat room and invites Hammond and an alleged member of RedHack. They exchange information regarding thousands of Turkey sites. (BS 62889)
- Hammond explains to the alleged Redhack member how to access the root backdoors of the Turkey sites. (BS 62889-62897)

Jan 26, 2012:

- Monsegur follows up on foreign government targets he provided Hammond “last night.” Hammond sends back a list of the sites he did not gain access to, including government sites in Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Philippines, Iran, and United Kingdom. (BS 105077-105078)
- Monsegur asks for the list again. Monsegur again asks for instructions on how to access root backdoors. Hammond gives Monsegur the information. (BS 105080-105081)
- Monsegur provides more Iran targets to which he wants access. (Monsegur: “lend me an hour of your time to bang out these Iranian targets.”) Hammond gains access to one that hosts seven domains and 56 email accounts. (BS 105091)
- Monsegur provides two targets in India. Hammond cannot gain access to either. (BS 105091 - 105092)

Feb 2, 2012:

- Monsegur provides more targets, including a government site in United States and government sites in Nigeria, Republic of Maldives, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, and Puerto Rico. Mr Monsegur asks again for instructions on how to access root backdoors. (BS 67554)
- Monsegur provides targets in Greece, United Kingdom, and Turkey. Hammond accesses one of the Greece sites that contains 135 domains and 287 email accounts. (BS 67559 - 67561)

Feb 15, 2012:

- Monsegur provides targets in Slovenia. He tells Hammond that these sites are for “tony, the guy who hacked kingcope.” (BS 105191)
- Monsegur tells Hammond he is “setting up a new box to serve as another for onion for us as a third backup” and says, “I want us to have redundant backups for all our shit.” (BS 105192-105193)
- Hammond provides access to some of the Slovenian sites. He creates three backdoors and tells Monsegur that they contain hundreds of domains and emails. Hammond comments “hopefully were getting something out of all this.” Monsegur responds, “trust me...everything i do serves a purpose ;P” (BS 105195)

2 Oct - Kevin Olliff Update

You know who the state hates? That’s right, those who go against it. So the government is ratcheting up its repression of currently imprisoned, but soon to go to trial, Kevin Olliff.

MORE:

October 2nd - Government fights to keep Kevin in jail

In court Wednesday, the government argued Kevin Olliff should remain in custody at the end of his Illinois state prison sentence.

Kevin’s current release date is October 15th, after serving his state-level sentence for “possession of burglary tools”, after being pulled over miles from a fox farm with wire cutters. In court this week, federal prosecutors argued Kevin was a “danger to the community,” filing a motion to have Kevin taken immediately into federal custody on October 15th.

In July, the government filed federal charges on top of the state charges – both for conspiracy to raid the Aeschleman fox farm in Raonoke, Illinois, and releasing 2,000 mink the night before from a fur farm in Morris, Illinois. Tyler Lang was also charged in the federal indictment.

Kevin’s fate undecided

The judge has yet to rule on the motion.

If the judge sides with the prosecution, Kevin will be taken immediately into custody by the Department of Justice at the prison gate in Illinois. If Kevin is released, he will remain free on strict bail conditions until the resolution of his federal case.

Lawyers to fight constitutionality of Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Responding to the absurdity of framing actions such as animal releases “terrorism,” Kevin’s attorney Michael Deutsch has announced he plans to file a motion challenging the constitutionality of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act.

Judge: Calling mink release “terrorism” requires “imagination”

This sentiment may have some sympathy in the courts. At Kevin’s court date Tuesday, when the judge was read the name of Kevin’s charge (“Animal Enterprise Terrorism”), he was reported to have laughed, and said applying the term to Kevin’s case requires “imagination.”

October 3rd - Trial by disinformation: What the media & FBI got wrong this week

After this week’s media coverage, we take on three inaccuracies in media & FBI representations of Kevin Olliff

The government’s motion to take Kevin into custody in two weeks (story here) sparked a small wave of media coverage this week.

The government’s court motion made public for the first time much of the evidence against Kevin. The media took this opportunity to profile Kevin, recite the government’s claim he is a “danger,” and distort (or make up) many of the facts.

Here are the four most egregious inaccuracies in the government’s “trial by disinformation.”

Ingredients for making incendiary devices were found in Tyler & Kevin’s car

Allegation: Acid, peroxide, and bleach were found in a police search of their car at the time of their arrest, which can be used to make firebombs.

While the accuracy of the police’s inventory log has yet to be determined, what’s not in dispute is that Kevin has used peroxide daily from an early age, at the advice of doctors after being diagnosed with gum condition. One thing the government omitted: The peroxide (available at any pharmacy) was found in his toiletries bag, next to his toothbrush.

Kevin’s criminal history shows he is a “danger to the community.”

Allegation: Kevin has a criminal record showing an “escalating dangerousness” and a” commitment to unlawful extremism.”

This one doesn’t hold up to the lightest of scrutiny.

These are the names of Kevin’s past criminal charges: “Burglary” and “Stalking.”

Behind this menacing language is something else. “Burglary” is what California courts call petty shoplifting committed with premeditation. In fact, among the most expensive items Kevin was alleged to have “burglarized” was a bag of nutritional yeast from a Whole Foods. One article went as far as to say Kevin was convicted of “burglarizing a pharmacy.” The reality: Kevin was arrested for taking several small household items from a CVS.

And re: the “Stalking” charges, it is well documented in the media and elsewhere that the extent of Kevin’s “stalking” was participating in home demonstrations against executives of POM Wonderful, a company that at the time conducted research on animals.

This is how the media and government creates “stalkers” and “burglars” out of protest-chanting and Tofurkey-theft.

Kevin was arrested for past ALF activity

Allegation: Kevin “pleaded guilty in 2010 to stalking for another ALF action outside the home of a UCLA researcher.”

Factually incorrect. In fact, the judge in Kevin’s stalking case specifically tossed out any allegations that Kevin participated in ALF activity, barring these allegations from the case entirely. What’s more, the only “expert” the police provided to testify that Kevin was a member of the ALF “gang” was admonished as being “unqualified” as a gang expert and his testimony on this point was not allowed.

Endnote

As the government continues to manipulate opinion through disinformation, we will continue to post the facts here.

October 5th - Hip hop is not a crime: The evidence against accused mink liberators **Satirical hip hop lyrics, more used as evidence in mink release case.**

Since Animal Enterprise Terrorism charges were filed against Kevin Olliff & Tyler Lang in July, the FBI has released new information outlining the evidence against them.

Background

In August 2013, the pair were pulled over eight miles from a fox farm in rural Illinois. The night before, 2,000 mink were released from a fur farm several hours away, in Morris, Illinois. Both were charged with and plead guilty to “Possession of Burglary Tools” for various items found in their vehicle, the most “serious” of which was a pair of wire cutters.

A year later, in July 2014, the two were charged on the federal level on charges of “Animal Enterprise Terrorism” for the Illinois mink release.

New evidence unveiled last week

The lawyer for Kevin Olliff filed a motion for release on bail last week, prompting the government to file an 11-page response that gives the first glimpse into specific evidence being used against them. Among the most absurd: satirical hip hop lyrics and baseball hats.

The evidence

***“Animal extremist” publications.” Quote:

“A flash drive which contained two known and widely circulated publications amongst animal rights extremists. Agents reviewed the publications, which revealed that the authors of the publications advocated the release of minks and foxes from fur farms and also advocated vandalism of the farms. The publications set forth instructions on how to accomplish the release of the animals, including by suggesting the use of new bolt cutters for each act of vandalism, to turn off cellular telephones leading up to and during the act of vandalism, and to obtain police radio scanners to detect law enforcement presence in the area.”

***Lists of fur farms.

***“Cutting tools, bolt cutters, and smaller snips”

***Cell phones that records show were “turned off in the days leading up to the mink farm vandalism.”

***A radio frequency scanner. Quote:

“A search of the radio frequency scanner recovered from the vehicle determined that the radio had been set to detect radio frequencies used by law enforcement in both Morris, Illinois, and Woodford County, Illinois.”

***“Items consistent with committing a vandalism” (sic) including rubber gloves, ski masks, ball caps, bolt cutters, and miscellaneous cutters.

***Aircraft paint remover.

***Various books.

***“Mink fur” traces recovered from clothing.

The most outlandish of the claims

The most erroneous of the government’s claims is that acid, bleach and peroxide allegedly found in the car are “necessary components to build an incendiary device.” The specific quote:

Five bottles of muriatic acid; two bottles of Clorox bleach; one container of hydrogen peroxide. These substances taken together are necessary components to build an incendiary device.

A cursory Google search (which I don’t recommend on your home computer) shows this claim to be completely false. These are simply not ingredients in incendiary devices.

The government doesn’t hesitate to use conspiracy charges against suspects, and if they could in any way substantiate their claim there was an arson plot, or even that the items found could be used in one, they would have done so.

Hip hop is not a crime: The most absurd of the evidence

In an odd lack of concern for looking stupid, the FBI is attempting to use a handwritten note allegedly retrieved from Kevin’s pants pocket, containing satirical hip hop lyrics.

An (edited) sample:

*“According to the courts, I’m doing something deeply illegal.
So many warrants I’m bored of ducking police vehicles.
The devil told me that I’m fundamentally evil.
I get my protein when I hunt and eat people.
Sicker than a vivisector stuck with a diseased needle..
My only vegan recipes start with gasoline and diesel.”*

While the FBI has never been accused of having a sense of humor, or being versed in hip hop, they should either:

***Get clued in to traditional lyrical stylings of rap music, which these lampooning rhymes are consistent with, or-

***Be consistent and criminally indict every hip hop artist using criminal-themed fantasy lyrics since the beginning of recorded rap music in 1979.

The issue of rap lyrics being used in criminal cases has been put before the courts many times, as an NPR story from August covers well: “Court Says Rap Lyrics Can’t Be Used As Evidence In A Criminal Trial.”

To quote a lawyer interviewed in the above article:

“One would not presume that Bob Marley, who wrote the well-known song ‘I Shot the Sheriff,’ actually

shot a sheriff, or that Edgar Allan Poe buried a man beneath his floorboards, as depicted in his short story 'The Tell-Tale Heart,' simply because of their respective artistic endeavors on those subjects."

Later this year, the Supreme Court is set to take up this issue when it hears arguments in a case in which rap lyrics were used in a man's conviction.

Other details revealed

The government is claiming 400 of the 2,000 mink released in Morris, Illinois were not recovered. These figures are always to be considered extremely suspect, as they originate from the fur farmers themselves.

The government motion also gives a look at the impact of even a "small" mink release, particularly the expense of lost breeding data, and that the financial impact of a mink release extends far beyond the animals not recovered:

Even for the recovered mink, however, the farmers were harmed in that they were unable to determine the original breed for re-sale. The damage to the mink, which was the sole livelihood of the farm, together with the physical damage to the vehicles, the barn, and the fence, devastated the farmers, resulting in a loss in excess of \$125,000.

Kevin's release uncertain

The judge has yet to rule on the dueling motions, which determine whether he will be released on bail at the conclusion of his state sentence on October 15th.

2 Oct - Why do Georgia judges banish defendants?

The following was posted to Creative Loafing on October 2nd, 2014 and has a section on Luke O'Donovan.

MORE:

By Maggie Lee (*Creative Loafing*)

Despite debate over rehabilitative benefits, some judges include punishment as part of sentencing

A Fulton County judge's punishment for Luke O'Donovan's role in an incident that took place at a 2013 Reynoldstown party was to serve probation in Screven County.

Georgia's constitution bans all kinds of old-fashioned things. Think slavery, court-ordered whippings, and imprisonment for debt. But the document also has a line that discusses punishment of scofflaws by kicking them out of town.

Every year, judges across the state tell defendants that part of their sentencing, typically after serving time in prison, includes packing up their bags and moving somewhere far, far away — provided they don't bar someone from living in Georgia, one of the few states that still allows bizarre, albeit constitutional, punishment. And no one's in much of a rush to do away with the practice, which has little known rehabilitative benefit, if any.

To James Cantwell, it's an "archaic" punishment. Cantwell and a group of others are aiming to get a banishment order lifted from their friend Luke O'Donovan.

O'Donovan was sentenced to two years in prison — followed by eight years of probation in Screven County — by Fulton County Judge Todd Markle for a controversial incident at a 2013 Reynoldstown house party. Six people were injured, including O'Donovan. His friends say he was fighting back with a knife against up to a dozen men whose anti-gay slurs and physical attacks were enough to make O'Donovan fear for his life. The prosecution says O'Donovan had been kicked out of the party and came back angry and armed.

Of everyone who went to the hospital, only O'Donovan faced charges. He took a negotiated plea deal and was

sentenced in August. The deal didn't initially include being exiled to Screven County in East Georgia after finishing his prison sentence, says Cantwell. He says an angry Judge Todd Markle, who was overseeing the case, imposed the banishment himself.

Screven County Sheriff Mike Kile says he did not hear of the sentence until months afterward, when Creative Loafing contacted him for comment. Kile says he doesn't even know how O'Donovan would get to the 14,000-population east Georgia county, since there's no bus line running there from Atlanta.

"I doubt seriously he could find a job. There's not a whole lot of places to live in the county ... especially coming in here out of the blue," said the sheriff. He added that the state parole board prefers to release parolees to somewhere that they have a home. Kile doesn't like O'Donovan's chances starting afresh in Screven anyway. "He's going to come out here with 25 dollars in his pocket ... he's going to wind up in the county jail pretty soon."

But what is more likely to happen is O'Donovan may become an exile to South Georgia or leave the state.

Banishment from the state of Georgia was forbidden by the 1877 state constitution and has survived all subsequent edits. There's no record of how many people Georgia courts banish each year from counties and even certain police zones. But more than two-dozen defendants have argued that the punishment is unreasonable or serves no rehabilitative purpose. In all cases but one, the punishments have been substantially upheld.

The state's high courts have found banishment to be useful for several reasons. For one, it protects the victims, kind of like a restraining order with a huge radius. For two, it's supposed to sever the wrongdoer from their network of cronies, thereby reducing the chances of reoffending.

The Georgia Supreme Court has heard plenty of arguments against banishment on the grounds that it's unconstitutional, cruel, unusual, or disproportionate. But because the state Constitution says banishment "beyond the limits of the state" shall not be allowed, the state Supreme Court says banishment is OK, though judges should instead limit the parolee to a judicial circuit where he or she has access to the needed rehabilitative services. (O'Donovan's original banishment to Screven had to be changed to a banishment to the swampy five-county Southern Judicial Circuit along the Florida border, Cantwell says.)

In reality, however, most banishees choose a home in one of the other 49 states rather than in an unfamiliar Georgia county, says Atlanta attorney McNeill Stokes, an opponent of banishment. The punishment is "unnecessary, and it's just ludicrous," he says, and fits no pattern of rehabilitation.

Nor is it necessarily always enforced. David Nathan Thompson lived with his mom in DeKalb County for two years in contravention of an order to stay in South Georgia. His parole officer in Columbus required no more than a phone call every month. Thompson became a legal resident of DeKalb again earlier this month, when a judge accepted a plea from his mother, Andrea Davis, that her son be allowed to live at home among a supportive network of family and friends — not in 11 years of exile.

"We're on a mission now, and his life will start over," Davis says.

Thompson admits that in 2004, as a 20-year-old, he fired a gun toward the Fulton County home where relatives of his late father lived. The young man was skipping his bipolar medication. He's since been diagnosed with mental illness so severe that he has been designated as a disabled person. Family and friends keep tabs on him with visits and phone calls.

He took a plea deal to serve eight years in prison, followed by a year's house arrest and then 11 years banishment to Ware County. The prison sentence was later reduced to four years. He was arrested while on parole but also got his banishment area enlarged to all of South Georgia. Though he and his allies say his stepfamily is getting special treatment, no judge yet thinks the principle is necessarily wrong.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kimberly M. Esmond Adams earlier this month decided Thompson must not leave DeKalb County for the next year and must live with his mom. If Thompson lives a productive life during that time, the judge may allow the family to consider a group home option for the young man.

“I have heard no reason from the defense as to why it is necessary for Mr. Thompson to be in any other counties,” Adams says. “I appreciate the constitutional arguments that have been raised. ... However, they, in the court’s eyes are not any more compelling than the need to ensure that the citizens of the state are safe.”

As for O’Donovan, Cantwell said he was surprised that “the concept of banishment could even happen.” It may be another legal challenge to banishment in the works.

5 Oct - Memorial service held for anti-COINTELPRO activist Baba Herman Ferguson

A funeral home gathering was a reunion of sorts for friends, family, and admirers of Baba Herman Ferguson. The Oct. 4 event commemorated the death last month of Ferguson. Baba, as many knew him, was a revolutionary icon. An associate of Malcolm X, Ferguson was present at the rally in New York when Malcolm was assassinated. Ferguson was also a COINTELPRO target.

MORE:

by Michael Richardson (*The Examiner*)

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation oversaw a massive, illegal, clandestine counterintelligence operation codenamed COINTELPRO. Black Panthers and other “Black Nationalist Hate Groups” were the focus of COINTELPRO’s most lethal operations. Hoover ordered counterintelligence measures against thousands of individuals from 1956 to 1971 under COINTELPRO. The illegal program grew and grew until at the end it consumed forty percent of the Bureau budget. Hoover used the tactics of espionage and war against American citizens he deemed undesirable. Secret files kept by Hoover on all the presidents and top leaders of Congress kept watchful eyes away from Hoover’s abuse of his authority.

Baba Herman Ferguson was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina on December 31, 1920. As an adult Ferguson moved to New York and became an activist and educator. Ferguson was a leader of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, the organization formed by Malcolm X after he left the Nation of Islam. Ferguson was the chairman of the OAAU’s Education Committee while attracting controversy as vice-principal of a New York public high school.

Ferguson was present at the Audubon Ballroom on February 21, 1965, and was an eyewitness when Malcolm X was shot by bodyguards. Herman vowed then that he would carry on Malcolm’s teachings as best he could. As a result, Ferguson organized the Black Brotherhood Improvement Association in New York and held street corner rallies, political education classes, and martial arts classes. Ferguson joined the Revolutionary Action Movement while his activities made him a target of Hoover’s COINTELPRO operation.

In 1967, Ferguson was arrested and prosecuted for allegedly planning the assassination of Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Whitney Young, head of the Urban League. The evidence against Ferguson was largely the testimony of an undercover police officer, Edward Lee Howlette, who had infiltrated the Revolutionary Action Movement and maps, supplied by the undercover police, with circles around the homes of the two civil rights leaders. Ferguson’s trial opened the door on the close relationship of COINTELPRO operatives at the FBI and the New York Police Bureau of Special Services. Special Services was responsible for the investigation and prosecution of the Panther 21, the longest criminal trial ever held in New York State, which ended in acquittal of all twenty one defendants after two hours of jury deliberations.

Sentenced to seven years in prison for the purported conspiracy to murder Wilkins and Young, Ferguson chose exile and spent 19 years in Guyana, South America. Ferguson enlisted in the Guyana Defense Force and retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel. In 1989, Ferguson voluntarily returned to the United States and was immediately remanded to prison. In an effort to clear his name Ferguson sued the FBI for secret COINTELPRO documents.

The trial judge ordered the documents released unredacted. The government appealed and won keeping significant portions of relevant COINTELPRO memos deleted.

In 1992, after Judge Bruce Wright ordered Ferguson's release from prison, Baba continued his activist work. Ferguson formed the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, was the administrator of the New Afrikan Liberation Front, and a co-founder of the National Jericho Movement.

In 2009, Ferguson published a memoir, *An Unlikely Warrior*, about his life as a revolutionary. During the last decade of his life Ferguson was particularly active in attempting to get Congress to reopen the celebrated Church Committee of the 1970's to complete the unfinished investigation of COINTELPRO crimes.

5 Oct - From Behind Enemy Lines: Statement From Eric G. King

This is the first public statement by Eric King, arrested last month for allegedly trying to firebomb a local politician's office.

MORE:

My name is Eric. I've been an anarchist since about the age of 17; of course developing and maturing my views as I have grown. I am very active in the LGBTQ, Earth, Animal, Antifa and other communities. I have organized Food Not Bombs, rallies against the Klan, and many others in support of human rights, anti-capitalism, animal rights, etc! I am an insurrectionist now. I believe that revolution starts in our own minds and once you are personally ready, then everyone has something they can do.

I value and support the solidarity and camaraderie received from the community now when I need it most. There is a warm feeling you get from knowing that you committed your life to something larger than yourself and getting warm wishes, kindness, and positive words which can really help someone out of a dark day. I am getting indicted this week and hopefully will be outside sooner or later. Books, stamp money, envelope money and letters would be greatly appreciated if you're able and if not keep up the struggle. With love and support, EK (A) (///)

**Eric King #27090045
CCA Leavenworth
100 Highway Terrace
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048**

6 Oct - Supreme Court declines appeal by Tarek Mehanna

The US Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal from Tarek Mehanna, convicted in 2011 of federal terrorism-related charges.

MORE:

by Travis Andersen (*Boston Globe*)

The decision against Mehanna — who was convicted in federal court in Boston of conspiring to provide material support to terrorists, conspiring to kill in a foreign country, and of lying to authorities in a terrorism investigation — was hailed by law enforcement officials but condemned by his father.

Mehanna, now 31, is serving a 17½-year sentence in a federal prison in Illinois.

“I’m disappointed to see even the highest court still submissive to the executive branch’s fabrication of charges,” Mehanna’s father, Ahmed Mehanna, 64, said in a phone interview.

“So that’s my view. What do you expect me to say? It’s clearly the First Amendment [at issue], and they refused to even look at it.”

But US Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz, whose office prosecuted Mehanna, said in a statement that justice was served

by the high court's denial.

"As evidenced at trial, Mr. Mehanna radicalized to think violence was an acceptable response to his grievances, and then he acted, first, by exploring how he and others could participate in that violence, ultimately choosing to go overseas to do so, and then by using the Internet to encourage others to support terrorism," Ortiz said.

Prosecutors said Mehanna traveled with an associate, Ahmad Abousamra, to Yemen in 2004 to join a terrorist training camp and to ultimately attack American soldiers in Iraq, but the plan failed.

Abousamra, who grew up in Stoughton, was also charged and remains at large.

When Mehanna returned home, prosecutors said, he began translating Arab-language materials into English and posting them online to promote Al Qaeda's ideology and inspire others to violent jihad.

Lawyers for Mehanna, who has said he was threatened with prosecution after refusing to serve as an informant, argued at trial that he traveled to Yemen to pursue religious studies and that his translations were protected under the First Amendment.

A lower Appellate Court upheld Mehanna's conviction last year. "We are disappointed that the Supreme Court declined to hear the case," a lawyer for Mehanna, P. Sabin Willett, said in an e-mail.

Abousamra recently made headlines when ABC News reported that officials believe he may be using his computer skills to support ISIS, or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, the terrorist group that is trying to establish an Islamic caliphate and has claimed responsibility for the beheadings in recent weeks of two American journalists.

On Monday, Mehanna's father said his family did not have "one iota of hope" that his son would get a hearing before the high court, in light of the news reports on ISIS.

"Unfortunately, the Supreme Court is affected by such a saga and such media frenzy," Ahmed Mehanna said. "It is a very, very sad day."

Vincent Lisi, the FBI special agent in charge in Boston, said in a statement Monday that the case against Mehanna was always strong. "From his travel to Yemen to receive training to kill American soldiers to his material support for terrorism at home, it was clear Mr. Mehanna trained to be a terrorist," Lisi said.

6 Oct - Help Political Prisoners Get News from the Eco-Wars

Over 100 prisoners are currently subscribed to the Earth First! Journal.

MORE:

Every issue of our magazine brings movement updates, biocentric analysis and inspiring action reports to the people who need it most.

The next issue of the Earth First! Journal needs your help to get to print. We're currently at \$2,500 of our \$8,000 fundraising goal to cover printing and shipping costs. Every dollar gets us closer to getting magazines printed and out the door.

Some prisoner subscriptions are paid for by supporters, and some are funded by the Earth First! Journal Collective. So help us spread the good word:

Subscribe, donate, or fund a prisoner subscription today! <http://earthfirstjournal.org/subscriptions/product/earth-first-journal-prisoner-subscription>

Love the Newswire? So do we!

Unfortunately, not everyone has access to our daily updates of radical environmental action. That's why we print Earth First! News, our quarterly newsletter. Each edition includes "News from the Eco-Wars," recapping the last three months of actions in defense of the wild.

Donate today and help us send more copies of Earth First! News to prisoners, grassroots environmental groups, and infoshops around the country.

For more ways to support political prisoners, don't forget to check out our Prisoner Support Page <<http://earthfirstjournal.org/prisoners>>, maintained with the help of the Earth First! Prisoner Support Project.

8 Oct - Support Tom Manning's Parole Bid

Political Prisoner from the United Freedom Front, Tom Manning comes up for parole in November and has asked people to submit letters supporting his release on parole.

MORE:

According to Tom, "if folks can just write their own letters expressing each ones ideas rather than all of them sounding like they read a form letter – so that they put their own voice down on paper," that would be best.

NYC ABC supports Tom's bid for freedom using whatever means he chooses and are hoping you can take a minute to write a letter on his behalf. Please be polite—expressing your disdain for Tom's incarceration or your political beliefs is not appropriate for these letters. Tom has been down since 1985 and we need him home.

Your letter should reference Thomas Manning #10373-016 and be sent to:

**United States Parole Commission
90 K Street NE, Third Floor
Washington, District of Columbia 20530**

Please make a copy and send it to:

**Tom Manning 10373-016
FMC Butner
Post Office Box 1600
Butner, North Carolina 27509**

9 Oct - Update on Jamil Al-Amin

We reported that on Monday, October 6, 2014, Imam Jamil had been moved to USP Canaan, in Waymart, Pennsylvania. We can report today that he is in general population.

MORE:

Our voices were heard that he should not be placed again in solitary confinement— a custody placement that never was warranted by the Bureau of Prisons. We thank you again for joining us in the campaign that made this possible.

We will continue to monitor Imam Jamil's health conditions, and to work for his freedom to bring him home. We certainly will keep everyone informed.

9 Oct - Cleveland 4 Update

Connor Stevens needs some support and the donation site for the Four has been "paused." More below.

MORE:

From Connor's sister:

"I just wanted to reach out to everyone regarding Connor. He's going through a rough time right now & he could use some support right now more than ever! These difficult times are when he would appreciate it the most.. He lost one of his absolute best friends while he's in prison... Positive vibes, a letter, a picture, anything!"

From Connor's Mom:

"In 3 months time i had to email Connor twice telling him about the passing of a loved one...first his grandfather, whom he was so very close with and loved immensely. It broke his heart that he never got to see him or hug him again. Then his best friend (and the first friend he made when moving to berea) who was only 22 and this news was especially devastating...i visited Connor this past weekend and it was truly a sad...sad visit...as much as he tried not to weep in a visitation room full of inmates...he could not hold back the tears. There is usually great conversation...lots of laughter...this day there was none of that ...this is a very sad and difficult time for Connor as Brelan has expressed."

October 10th - Donation website has switched!

Yesterday (10-9-14) GoFundMe shut down the Cleveland4 donation page. They did allow us to remove what money was left, but told us that we could not reactivate the account. After a few email exchanges with them, we were told why— "Your campaign falls under the 'Not allowed on GoFundMe' section: Campaigns in defense of formal charges of heinous crimes, including violent, hateful, or sexual acts."

So, we are now on Fundrazr! Check out the new donation page at <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/3so92/ab/746Ym0>

October 13th - Fundrazr "Paused" by Website. Your Action Needed.

Last week, the Cleveland 4 solidarity campaign had their gofundme fundraising page shut down due to a perceived "violation of terms of service."

The next day, they got a new one at fundrazr and that campaign has been paused. We do not know if there are people complaining about them or if this is random, but we think sending inquisitive yet polite emails to fundrazr asking why its paused and when it will be free so you can donate, that would help.

support@fundrazr.com

<https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/3so92/ab/746Ym0>

10 Oct - OWS Activist Cecily McMillan Found Not Guilty of Interfering with Arrest in Union Square Subway

A jury has found former Occupy Wall Street activist Cecily McMillan not guilty of interfering with an arrest in a Union Square subway station.

MORE:

by Anna Merlan (*Village Voice*)

McMillan was charged with obstruction of governmental administration on December 7, 2013, when two police officers said she interfered with their investigation of two people they suspected of turnstile-jumping. McMillan, who faced up to a year in jail on the charges, hugged her attorney, Martin Stolar, when the verdict was read, then yelled "thank you!" at the jury as they departed.

The case centered around a roughly ten-minute incident that happened on the L train platform around 1 a.m. on the morning of December 7. In their testimony, NYPD transit officers Luis Castillo and Brian Rothermel said that McMillan had gotten in their way as they tried to question two people, Abril Chamorro and Martin Delcanizo, who they'd seen go through an exit door into the station. The incident was mentioned many times during McMillan's felony trial earlier this year for assaulting an officer during a December 2012 Occupy protest, with prosecutors Erin Choi and Shanda Strain arguing it showed she had a pattern of fighting with the police. Strain showed up at one point during this latest trial, sitting in the front row and not visibly reacting when McMillan

spotted her and said, cheerily, "There's my old friend!"

Officer Castillo testified that McMillan prevented Delcanizo from handing over his ID to the officers, grabbing his wrist so that the license fell in his lap. He said too that when the officers took the couple to the precinct office to do a warrant check, McMillan followed, "yelling and screaming" at them not to cooperate. But Rothermel didn't mention hearing McMillan doing any yelling and screaming, only that she'd gotten in between the two officers as they were walking the couple towards the precinct.

Castillo also testified that he smelled a "faint" smell of alcohol on McMillan, and that she had "raced" him to the door of the precinct, then engaged in a tug-of-war with him as he got inside and tried to prevent her from getting in. When she got inside, the officers asked for her ID and almost immediately handcuffed her, although she wasn't ever read her Miranda rights or actually told she was being placed under arrest. Both officers testified that McMillan acted "hysterical," in their words, after she was cuffed and her glasses were taken from her as they searched her for weapons. A video was played for the jury which wasn't visible to the audience; in it, a female officer can be heard telling McMillan to "calm down" as she weeps and says, "I can't see!" The cellphone video that McMillan says she shot of the arrest was not introduced; McMillan claims the NYPD officers deleted it, something they both denied on the stand.

Stolar, McMillan's attorney, chose not to have her testify. In his closing arguments, he told the six-person jury, "I sincerely hope you are somewhat troubled by the contradictory testimony you've heard by the two main police officers in this case." He also ridiculed the idea that McMillan was somehow filming while walking backwards up the stairs in a tight dress and four-inch heels. He held the shoes aloft in his hand as he addressed them, saying, "That's about impossible to do. I don't wear heels, but some of you might."

Stolar said that McMillan's conduct amounted to her being obnoxious, not criminal. "We have not yet criminalized being loud, obnoxious and annoying," he said dryly.

Prosecutor Leah Saxtein retorted in her own closing arguments that it's entirely possible to walk backwards up the stairs in heels of that height. "New York City women do many things in heels," she said. "And besides, these aren't platform." She also said that McMillan's conduct "went way beyond" merely being obnoxious. "Her conduct constitutes a crime." She added, too, "We don't have to provide a motive for you in this case. Whether the defendant was drunk, just doesn't like the NYPD, or whether she wanted to provide legal advice [to the couple] even though she's not a lawyer, it doesn't matter."

The jury deliberated for about an hour and a half before returning the not guilty verdict. When approached by the Voice, a juror who asked not to be named said, "The prosecution just didn't overcome the burden of proof," adding that the differing testimonies of the two officers "was also part of our conversation." About an hour later, the juror sent another statement by email: ""The defendant should not conclude from our verdict that we endorse her actions. The prosecution simply didn't prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt."

McMillan, who was laughing and crying at the same time as she left the courtroom, held a brief press conference outside after the verdict was read. She denied telling Rothermel that she would kill his wife and children, something the prosecution alleged but that the judge deemed too prejudicial for the jury to hear.

"Absolutely not," she said. "They had three different videos of me in custody. That sounds like something they would record, doesn't it? I would never threaten an officer, or his wife, or his family." She added, too, that during her felony trial, prosecuting attorney Strain had claimed there was "video evidence" of McMillan threatening the officer. McMillan is appealing her conviction in that felony case; she said Strain's claim "will be factored into my appeal."

"Thank you so much for showing up for two years of court," she told a small crowd before leaving. "What a fricking journey."

11 Oct - Support Parole For Eddie Africa Next Letter Phase

We are asking for your support at this critical stage to secure the freedom Eddie deserves.

MORE:

Please send all letters of support to:

Orie Ross

Post Office Box 575

Times Square Station

New York, New York 10108-0575

so they can be reviewed and sent to the Board. If possible, please send your letter so it arrives by Monday, October 20th. The final deadline for letters will be Friday, October 24th.

Board of Probation and Parole

Attn: Inmate Inquiry

1001 South Front Street, Suite 5300

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17104

Regarding October 2014 Parole Hearing for: Edward Goodman #AM-4974

Dear Honorable Members of the Parole Board:

As a concerned citizen interested in helping Mr. Goodman successfully transition into life outside prison, I am writing to ask that you please grant him parole. He has served over 35 years of a 30-100 year sentence, even though the average sentence for his charges is 10-15 years. He is still in prison years after his minimum sentence despite having no major disciplinary problems in the last three decades. The notice provided to Mr. Goodman for his last parole denial lists the reasons for the denial as:

"Your minimization/denial of the nature and circumstances of the offense(s) committed," "Your refusal to accept responsibility for the offense(s) committed" and "The negative recommendation made by the prosecuting attorney."

I understand the severe nature of the crime of which Mr. Goodman was convicted, however, I am concerned that Mr. Goodman maintaining his innocence is seen as an attempt to minimize or deny the nature and circumstances of the offense(s) or refuse to take responsibility, even while there is evidence that corroborates that the shot was fired from a location where it is well known he was nowhere near. This phenomenon is referred to as "the innocent prisoner's dilemma" implying that it is unfair and unethical to require someone who may have been wrongly convicted to provide false admission of guilt or remorse. Please take this dilemma into consideration.

I also understand that Mr. Goodman has not been recommended for parole by the institution where he is held despite having a clear disciplinary record for many years. In fact, the only time he received a disciplinary infraction in the last fifteen years was for not cutting his hair. He has completed all of the institutional programs he was asked to complete and has volunteered for others. Please take into consideration his good conduct as well as him having housing and employment secured upon his release. These factors, along with strong family and community support, make it very unlikely that Mr. Goodman will recidivate and I firmly believe that he is an excellent candidate for parole. I will personally help him acclimate in any way I can upon his release.

Mr. Goodman has now spent most of his life in prison, and the recidivism rate for people released at his age is very low. Please grant parole and allow him to be a part of, and contribute to, society as free citizen, a loving father and grandfather.

15/30 Oct - Cop Watch Trainings

WHAT: Cop Watch

WHEN: 6:30-8:30pm, Wednesday, October 15th/7:00-9:00pm, Thursday, October 30th

WHERE: 72-18 Roosevelt Avenue, 2nd Floor Jackson Heights/141 Rogers Avenue Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

It's time for us all to WATCH THE COPS! FREE hands-on training to learn how to monitor and document the police as safely and effectively as possible. Free Refreshments. For more info or to RSVP email: aidge AT peoplesjustice.org or call: 212.614.5343

18 Oct - Punk Rock Karaoke for The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project

WHAT: Spooky Karaoke

WHEN: 8:30pm, Saturday, October 18th

WHERE: Pine Box Rock Shop - 12 Grattan Street, Brooklyn, New York 11206

COST: \$8 with costume, \$10 without

MORE:

PRK is really excited to be teaming up with the Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP) for their next fundraiser and since it is taking place in October, they figured why not get a little extra milage out of our Halloween costumes and have it be a costume party.

In keeping with the theme, there will also be:

Tarot card reading booth run by the witchy wooooo Audrey Zee Whitesides!

Spanking booth run by Zil Goldstein and the paddle team!

There will also be a karaoke costume contest (details to come) and a whole lot more! So come out and have an awesome time with us raising money for an awesome organization. See you there.

About QDEP:

The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP), is an alternative to detention program (ATD) for queer/trans/HIV+ immigrant detainees, undocumented folks, and asylums seekers and their families in New York City. QDEP assists folks in securing structural, health/wellness, legal, and emotional support and services. QDEP works to advocate around the barriers that our members face as well around limitations due to immigration status, race, sexuality, and gender identity. We are committed to assisting folks in building lives outside of the detention system, to keeping queer families together by demanding an end to deportations, and to queering dialog and work on immigration justice.

For more info on the organization and how to get involved, check out <http://qdep.org>

25 Oct - Political Prisoner tour of "Self-Determination Inside/Out"

WHAT: Art Exhibition Tour

WHEN: 2:00pm, Saturday, October 25th

WHERE: Interference Archive, 131 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York

COST: FREE, but donations appreciated

MORE:

This tour will be with dequi kioni-adiki and others - highlighting the role political prisoners have played in the struggles inside the walls from Attica to today.

25 Oct - US Out of my Living Room: The Case of Leslie James Pickering, the Earth Liberation Front Press Office & Burning Books

WHAT: A talk with Leslie James Pickering

WHEN: 8:00pm, Saturday, October 25th, 2014

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

COST: Free, but donations are appreciated.

MORE:

A decade after being under heavy federal surveillance for exercising free speech in support of the underground Earth Liberation Front, Leslie James Pickering discovered that his associates were being questioned by the FBI, the US Post Office is copying his incoming mail and he was put on a secret list for maximum security screening at airports. Not only that but a federal grand jury subpoena was issued for records on him, his family and his bookstore, Burning Books.

Leslie has launched an extensive legal and public campaign to resist this surveillance, which he believes is aimed to repress Burning Books and the surge of activism and awareness that the bookstore generates, as well as harass and intimidate the radical environmental movement. This multimedia presentation will open eyes to methods used by the federal government to repress activists and freedom struggles, and how they can be resisted.

Burning Books & NYC Anarchist Black Cross will have merchandise and information tables on hand as well.

28 Oct - Know Your Rights Training

WHAT: KYR

WHEN: 6:30pm, Tuesday, October 28th

WHERE: Cardozo School of Law, Room 204 - 55 5th Avenue, New York, New York

COST: FREE

MORE:

Inviting all NYC students and activists! With the ever increasing militarization of our police state, police and state surveillance of our communities and shocking police brutality across the nation, it's vital that we all connect, support each other, and KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Please come meet the new National Lawyers Guild NYC chapter's NLG Animal Rights Activism Committee, connect with other students and activists, eat delicious cruelty free vegan food, and learn what to do when you encounter the police or state surveillance!

Welcoming remarks from former political prisoner Lauren Gazzola, National Lawyers Guild New York City Chapter President Elena Cohen and other Animal Rights Committee members, followed by a first amendment and criminal defense focused Know Your Rights training by National Lawyers Guild National Vice President and Public Defender Bina Ahmad!