



Updates for January 6th

21 Dec - "The Pennsylvania Parole Board War Against The Move 9" by Michael Africa

On November 12th Michael Africa had a parole hearing, his 7th since becoming eligible in 2008.

MORE:

The latest hearing was presided over by Parole Board Members Gray and Shultz. Gray was in Harrisburg, Conducting her interview via T.V. Monitor, and kicked off the hearing by asking me what happened The day of the offense.

I told them what happened on 8/8/78 occurred because in march 1976 police came out to Headquarters attacking Move People. They attacked Janine, knocking her infant son from her her arms and stomped on the baby crushing his skull. Move people went to the authorities demanding attention to that heinous crime and received no response. The D.A. (Ed Rendell) was contacted and he flatly refused to investigate. The police, as usual, lied. Denying that the incident ever occurred when contacted by the local press.

Finally, Move invited Philadelphia city council members to our house to view the lifeless form of Life Africa, Janine and Phil's murdered son. The cities response to this news report, As well as the ensuing call for an investigation by those city council members , was not to respond at all. Absolute silence from officials who take every opportunity to castigate any incident even remotely connected to The Move Organization and nothing more from the mainstream press who has always acted in concert with racist city officials.

So we held a demonstration at our Headquarters. To expose what had happened to the public what city officials were trying their best to cover up. However, rather than heed their own city officials call for an independent outside review into the murder. Philadelphia city officials forced a standoff, eventually sending 500-600 more of those same crazy cops to further attack us. Firing in huge amounts of water, tear gas, smoke and bullets in the basement. Where they knew we all were.

Gray's only comment was that it was clear to her that I was sticking to my version and said she had nothing further she wanted to ask. Shultz then asked her only question of the hearing . She asked who was responsible for the incident. I said city officials and the cops. We didn't assault their women and children . They came to our house doing these things. We were all in the basement of the house 6 feet below street level nearly drowning from all of the water being pumped in by fireman and blinded by tear gas and smoke shot in by the cops. The cop that was killed was facing our Headquarters when struck by a bullet that hit from behind traveling on a downward trajectory.

Which was impossible for any of us to have done even if you believe we had guns, which we did not. Our only goal in doing what we did was to bring attention to the injustice being meted out to The Move Organization by Philly cops at the direction of city officials. We simply asked that our family stop being assaulted and murdered by those city cops and because they refused our requests. We had a demonstration to publicize our plight directly to the people. Just as you see being done in the cases of Ferguson, Missouri, with Oscar Grant in Oakland, and many other cities. Until these incidents were exposed to the people by the people, forcing media attention and calls for Justice, only then was there a semblance of an official investigation. Well, that is all that Move did 37 years ago.

Shultz said she had nothing further to ask and the hearing was over. Needless to say, their not even bothering to ask any routine questions about a home plan, job plan , or anything else related to life outside of prison, Is always a clear indication that they never intend to consider release. The entire hearing didn't last more than a couple of minutes. So now I await the official response of what they've made crystal clear in the past six parole

hearings. They intend to finish the job that Philly officials , Their Storm Trooper Cops, Their Racist Judges and Bias press started decades earlier.

December 23rd - Michael Africa, Sr Denied Parole

We just received word this morning that our brother Michael Davis Africa was denied parole for a record seventh time. What is more outrageous is the fact that Michael was given a five year hit by The Pa Parole Board. Since 2008 Move Members have been consistently denied parole for being nothing more than committed Move Members. At Different hearings over the years different members were given one year hits, two year hits, the longest hit being three years for Janet Africa until today when Michael Sr was given a five year hit by The Pennsylvania Parole Board.

The Parole Board cited these reasons for Michael's denial

- (1) Failure to show motivation for parole
- (2) Risk to the safety of the community .
- (3) Negative recommendation made by the Prosecuting Attorney
- (4) Failure to show remorse
- (5) Failure to take responsibility for the crime committed .

The Parole has stated that Michael is a risk to the community at large yet the request of the community to have Michael paroled was ignored by The Parole Board. Michael like other committed Move Members will not take responsibility for a crime he and other Move Members are innocent of. The District Attorney of Philadelphia Seth Williams again was only eleven years old when The Move 9 was arrested on August 8th, 1978 and is doing this under the orders of The Fraternal Order Of Police.

Today's denial of Parole for Michael and the five year hit is a result of the massive protest that you see going on this very day in regards to police brutality and the murder of our children. 36 years ago The Move Organization was speaking out and demonstrating against this same exact thing that is going on today and for this The Move 9 were unjustly jailed. The Parole Board is working in conjunction with The police and this System and it's officials to keep Michael and other committed Move Members in prison. The issue of police brutality and murder is over all of America's door steps today.

This system and it's officials are working to keep innocent people in prison. People who have fought against this injustice are now being punished with five year parole denials because this system and it's officials are being exposed on a worldwide level and our freedom fighters in prison are being made to suffer out of retaliation for doing nothing more than speaking the truth for so many years. This isn't about Justice because if this system was about Justice then The guilty cops that killed Eric Garner would be in jail. The guilty cop that killed Akai Gurley would be in jail. The guilty cops that killed Move People on May 13th, 1985 would be in jail not the people that demonstrated against this same thing 36 years ago. This Fight Is Far From Over There Will Be More Info To Soon Follow.

22 Dec - Nebraska Supreme Court faces COINTELPRO issue in Mondo we Langa rehearing bid

The Nebraska Supreme Court, which turned down Black Panther leader Mondo we Langa's post-conviction appeal, without issuing a written decision, has been asked to reconsider the matter and make written findings.

MORE:

by Michael Richardson (*The Examiner*)

The illegal counterintelligence program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, codenamed COINTELPRO, has emerged as a critical issue in the case.

Mondo we Langa (former David Rice) and Edward Poindexter were leaders of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a Black Panther affiliate, in Omaha, Nebraska in 1970 when the bombing death of a policeman was blamed on them. After a controversial trial marred by apparent perjury by police and the state's chief

witness, in addition to withheld evidence, the two men were convicted and are serving life sentences.

Omaha attorney Timothy Ashford filed a motion for rehearing with the state high court on October 31. Ashford's brief, submitted for Mondo we Langa, addressed COINTELPRO tampering with the evidence in Mondo's 1971 trial. The appeal brief stated:

"Appellant Rice [Mondo] and Poindexter allege their actual innocence because they were targeted along with Black Panther Geronimo Pratt, by the Federal Bureau of Investigator (F.B.I.) J. Edgar Hoover to be framed for the murder as part of a clandestine national operation named COINTELPRO which was formed by the F.B.I. to destroy the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense by falsely incarcerating the members of the party."

Pratt, a Los Angeles Black Panther, was convicted of a robbery murder after the FBI withheld exculpatory evidence, phone-tap logs, which confirmed Pratt's alibi he was out of town when the crime occurred. Pratt served a quarter century behind bars before gaining his freedom after the COINTELPRO tampering was discovered. In Mondo's case, the exculpatory evidence withheld was an FBI Laboratory report on the identity of an anonymous 911 caller that lured a policeman to his death.

The sufficiency of Mondo's denial of guilt has become key to judicial consideration of the appeal. A bitter irony is that Mondo has been proclaiming his innocence since the day he was arrested and has announced his innocence on numerous occasions.

Douglas County District Judge James Gleason ruled that Mondo we Langa failed to claim actual innocence in his post-conviction appeal despite a numbered paragraph making what seems to be a pretty clear claim of innocence. The Nebraska Supreme Court is now being asked to rule, in writing, if the language used by attorney Ashford was sufficient to protect Mondo's appeal right. Ashford wrote:

"Defendant Rice [Mondo] is entitled to a new trial because he did not commit the crime charged and he is not guilty of the crime leading to the death of Officer Minard in 1970, and further, the defendant's presumption of innocence was lost as a result of the errors alleged herein."

The sufficiency of Mondo's claim of innocence is crucial to the timeliness of the appeal. If Mondo's claim of innocence is not adequate as written by Ashford, then the Nebraska Supreme Court to be fair has an unmet obligation to state, in no uncertain terms, exactly what was defective in Mondo's claim of innocence.

Eligibility for parole is a third significant issue raised in the case. The Parole Board recommended 5-0 to grant Mondo we Langa parole back in 1993. However, the Board of Pardons, which had to approve Mondo's eligibility to go before the Parole Board, has refused Mondo the opportunity. The Board of Pardons is made up of the Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State, which conflicts the Attorney General because he is already opposing Mondo in court. Mondo's attorney explained the significance of the conflict of interest.

Tim Ashford wrote, "The Board of Pardons changed the Nebraska statutes to life without parole by unilaterally refusing to commute the sentence to a term of years." Mondo we Langa has never been granted a hearing before the Board of Pardons.

"Furthermore, Rice [Mondo] was treated differently than other defendants convicted of murder and denied equal protection of the law." Ashford said the reason is because Mondo is a former Black Panther who was convicted of killing a white police officer.

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning, through Assistant Attorney General Erin Tangeman, has already told the Nebraska Supreme Court that he is going to ignore Mondo's argument and not bother to reply. Bruning's inaction on Mondo's motion and his decision to not explain his conflict of interest serving on the Board of Pardons forces the court to do its own work answering Mondo's appeal. While Bruning's default may be an effort to encourage the court to dismiss Mondo again without a written opinion, it introduces a calculated risk the ploy will instead force the court to finally give Mondo we Langa his day in court.

No date for a decision has been announced.

24 Dec - Lawsuit filed against jail over illegal mail policy

After an illegal magazine policy, the Prison Legal News files lawsuit against Kevin Olliff's jail.

MORE:

Many, many jails have been sued over their refusal to allow magazines to prisoners. However many jails still refuse to allow periodicals, in flagrant violation of constitutional law that has been tested in the courts time and time again. Kankakee County Jail is the latest jail to be taken to court for

The power of the Prison Legal News

PLN is a long-running publication that reports on the legal issues for prisoners. They also sue a lot of jails for illegal policies. And many jails nationwide are aware that they are not to be messed with.

Kankakee County Jail caught attempt to skirt the law in plain sight

What's noteworthy about Kankakee County Jail's magazine policy is that it prohibits all magazines – except *Prison Legal News*. This is a fairly open attempt to appease an entity they know won't hesitate to sue any jail. What this jail didn't consider is that PLN is concerned with the rights of prisoners beyond just their access to the magazine they publish. That this jail allowed a publication from the one magazine they knew would sue them – and no others – is a clear indication that Kankakee County Jail knew their policy was illegal.

Jail responds by immediately allowing magazines

Immediately after the lawsuit was filed, the jail distributed copies of a single magazine that was mailed to over 20 prisoners. It is another indication the jail knows they are not on solid legal footing by barring magazines.

We will post any updates on the lawsuit as they come in.

December 24th - Call for action: Flood the jail with magazines After lawsuit is filed against Kevin's jail over magazine policy, a call to mass-mail magazines.

On behalf of Kevin, we are asking anyone who publishes a magazine, newsletter, or any periodical to send copies to Kevin this week.

This week, a lawsuit was filed against the jail by *Prison Legal News* over its refusal to allow magazines (*except* PLN) into prisoners.

We would like to have as many periodicals as possible mailed into the Kankakee County Jail as soon as possible. This will accomplish two objectives:

- Testing the jail's willingness to comply with the law.
- Allowing us monitor what, if any, magazines are rejected or not passed on to prisoners.

If you publish a magazine

We're asking anyone involved with any kind of periodical (zine, newsletter, magazine, etc) to mail a copy to Kevin. It must be clearly marked as coming from the publisher to be allowed in. And if your budget allows, please add tracking so it can be confirmed if magazines are being delivered to the jail but not Kevin.

On behalf of Kevin and all prisoners, thanks for the support.

26 Dec - When Police Die! by Jalil Muntaqim

Read the latest from Jalil Muntaqim, his ongoing critique of passive protest in the face of systemic, white supremacist police brutality.

MORE:

Once again, the nation is compelled to mourn the death of *police officers*. Rightly so, if such mourning changes the dynamics of the relationship between a para-militarized police and the communities in which they patrol. By no sense of the imagination should anyone be cavalier about the killing of a police officer, no more than they should be when a police officer wrongly kills a civilian, especially an unarmed civilian. But that is the point. When the valorization of the life of a police officer is raised to the level of hero-worshipping, what does that do to the psyche of the general population in respect to their own lives? Thus, the PBA's demagoguery (presumably to enhance future contract negotiations) and self-righteous condemnation must be viewed in light of how it ultimately serves to improve police-community relationships(?).

In my previous blog, "Hands Up-Don't Shoot," I ended by stating, "...it is time to ensure Black lives matter as much as white lives, and that all people's lives are as sacred as police lives." So, that leads to the question, how is that possible when police lives are considered far more valuable than anyone else's; they are more valued than a sanitation worker's, a postal worker's, the bus and taxi driver's, all of whom serve the community.(?)

Granted, police officers, like firemen, at times put their lives on the line to safeguard the lives of others. It is terrible that in our highly developed technological society, our humanity has yet to reach a point in which the police have not become obsolete. However, I am of the opinion that all of our humanity is challenged by the historical dynamic of racism and capitalism (exploitation and profiteering). As was learned from OWS, 1% of the population controls and owns 99% of the country's wealth. Unfortunately, more often than not, the police are used as tools of the capitalist class to protect financial interests over human interests. This is especially disconcerting as it pertains to the racialized disenfranchised and poor, such as racial profiling. In this regard, police violence represents the interests of the State. As I was once told, the police are the first line of defense for the maintenance of state power. If this is true, then it is extremely important the community-at-large recognizes how their lives are only as important as the state permits, for as long as they are exploitable/profitable.

Obviously, the dichotomy between the institution of police and society needs to be investigated and reevaluated, especially, when one is armed (militarized) and the other, for the most part, unarmed and vulnerable. The public perception and discourse imposed by corporate media shapes our collective thinking on the legitimacy of violence; state violence is legitimate, and any violence not sanctioned by the state is illegitimate. We then consciously accept the inevitability of the state, and thus the virtue of its violence.

Hence, community violence in inner cities is not sanctioned by the state, and therefore, it must be policed. Generally, we agree with this policing, when it saves lives and establishes social order. However, there is a causation for inner-city violence that is not readily considered for problem-solving, only managed by policing. Forty years ago, the Black Panther Party sought to challenge the causation of inner-city violence. The BPP attempted to rid the community of drug dealing, gang violence, and police brutality and murder, creating free breakfast programs, free community health clinics, supporting tenants' rights, etc. In response, the BPP was confronted with the full force of state violence, essentially destroying a movement with the potential of decriminalizing the community, forging a revolutionary future. Lest we forget, permit me to remind us all, the death of a movement for liberation serves to keep in place the status quo of state violence in all of its forms.

Again, we must loathe all those who fail to recognize the sanctity of life. Therefore, it is extremely necessary to reject corporate media efforts to confuse the valorization of police above and beyond deaths of unarmed civilians killed by police. The noble protest against police violence must not be undermined or in any way disputed; the communities' grievances are real and must be resolved with justice. We cannot afford to continue to preserve the dichotomy that leads to inferior to superior social paradigm in class and race relationships, and we certainly should not seek to maintain socio-economic disparity that leads to inequitable distribution of wealth.

The De-Militarization and De-Centralization of police is the primary objective that will serve to ensure the safety of the community. The demand for community control of the police strengthens the capacity of the community to

police themselves, ridding the community of outside armed and potentially racist forces occupying the community.

In this regard, Martin L. King, Jr. raised the following:

"The question is not whether we will be extremists but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice, or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?"

The First Line of Defense IS Power to the People!

Fist Up Fight Back!

Remember: We Are Our own Liberators!

26 Dec - New writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal

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

MORE:

December 26th - Grand Jury Jammed

As demonstrations erupt in city after city in protest against the Ferguson (Missouri) grand jury's failure to return an indictment against a local cop there, I can't help but be amazed, by the paucity of reporting or commentary on how the local DAs instructed –or should I say, mis-instructed? – the grand jury on the law to use to determine if a crime was committed.

Grand jurors, as a rule, aren't composed of lawyers or scholars. They are regular people.

That's why what happened there was so extraordinary.

An Assistant District Attorney specifically referred to, and gave jurors a copy of, a Missouri statute that legally allowed police to shoot a fleeing suspect.

The problem is, that law had been declared unconstitutional by a U.S. Supreme Court decision which abrogated the very position that statute posed.

Prosecutors gave it to jurors in September. Two months later, in November, just days before the grand jury came to its decision they gave them the correct law, but never once clearly explained its constitutional significance.

According to MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell, when a grand juror asked the DA directly if the Supreme Court case overturned the Missouri statute, the juror was given evasive – and misleading – answers by the ADAs.

One prosecutor remarked that the grand jury wasn't a law school (!)

When a jury is given two instructions, one correct, and the other incorrect, it is misled, for the only result of such a practice can be confusion.

A confused grand jury is a manipulated grand jury; and the citizens of Ferguson, Missouri – and family of Mike Brown – deserve better.

December 26th - Why We Can't Breathe

The demands and voices of protest are raised across America, voices of men and women, of children even, voices of rage, voices of hope, and voices of deep, mass discontent.

These voices, as anguished as they are insistent, are voices of a generation that has been largely silent in the public square. Only through their poets and rappers have their voices been heard, but even then, commercial interests intruded, changing righteous rage into clever rhymes.

Art not imitating life, but sending it down a street it had not intended.

Now, an awful truth emerges, out of the sweet mouths of the youth: “We Can’t Breathe!” they shout.

Why not?

Because, in the richest country on earth, poverty pitches pennies on the street corner, hoping, against hope, to hit.

Because a simple education is beyond the ability of the neo-liberal state to provide.

Because today’s school is tomorrow’s prison, and a place where hatred and humiliation lives, not knowledge; under the ridiculous rubric of *No Child Left Behind*.

Because, for too many children, childhood is but an illusion, as it was for Tamir Rice, a 12-year old boy, doing what boys have been doing for over a century: playing with a toy gun, becomes a death sentence.

Because every hand and every face is turned against them, as futures are as bleak as lunar landscapes.

“We Can’t Breathe!” they howl.

But we can’t hear them.

The neo-liberal state is too busy, choking them to death.

December 27th - Making Torture Legal

In the wake of the Senate Intelligence Select Committee’s report on CIA torture of terror suspects, we are reminded how little Americans know about how the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency rolls in the real world.

Predictably, the 500 page summary (of a 6,700 page report) erupted into a political and media firestorm. Networks and cable news outlets are as happy as kittens on catnip.

But, truth be told, this ain’t a new story.

The CIA, the executive hand of the president, has been involved, deeply, in every crime known to man – for decades!

Journalist John Kelly, in an article published in the 2002 book, *Into the Buzzsaw* cites a pretty interesting source for his revelation that the CIA commits, literally, hundreds of crimes a day, and thousands per year. The source? The CIA itself.

In his piece, Kelly cites a U.S. House Intelligence Committee staff report, citing such crimes. They have overturned governments, launched assassinations, armed criminals to attack their governments – and we’re shocked that they’ve tortured people?

Seriously?

Every president since the 1930s has been seduced by the lure of the CIA to make the world in their image, sometimes by removing leaders they didn’t like.

Power like that is irresistible

And the CIA, made immune by a law passed by Congress and signed by Bill Clinton on Dec. 27, 2000, can violate any law, domestic or foreign, any treaty, of the Constitution itself, with complete immunity, as long as

they're following a presidential order.

Is that deep or what?

So, did they torture people? Yup.

Did they kill people? Yup.

Did they violate laws? Yuuuup.

But guess what? Under the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2001 they're immune from prosecution.

That's American law.

The 'law' of the Outlaw.

January 1st - Demonstrating Respect?

Throughout much of modern American history, the seasons of mass demonstrations has been spring and summer.

Look at old black and white photos of the antiwar, civil rights and black power demonstrations of the 1960s and '70s, and you'll see people in t-shirts, or simply dressed in shirts and jeans.

The dress reflected the ease of the weather.

Like in old military theory, the ground (or terrain) is important when planning battles.

Now, look at today; hundreds, and hundreds of thousands of people amass in biting cold; in wind, rain and even snow.

This is thus something new in social movements, perhaps enhanced by social media, but strengthened too by a deep sense that change must come to an intolerable situation: police violence against unarmed black men and boys.

For, at the very core of every meaningful movement of the 20th century, has been the beating hearts of Black people, and let's face it, Black folks aren't fond of the cold.

This should give us some sense of how deeply these issues resonate in Black minds.

Now, after the shootings of 2 cops in New York come calls from politicians to 'suspend' demonstrations, out of respect.

The question arises, who respects whom?

When cops killed Mike Brown, Eric Garner and Tamir Rice, who showed respect for them?

Brown was literally demonized by his killer.

Garner, we were told, was too fat to survive his choking, and should've just meekly submitted to the attack on his life.

Tamir, a child, was "big for his age", and 'scared' cops, they said.

Amazing.

According to police bargaining unit head, Patrick Lynch, Garner's killer was a "model officer", an Eagle Scout, and "just doing his job".

Yeah –choking a man to death for suspicion of selling a cigarette. Real respectful, eh?

(By the way, the verb 'lynch' comes from, we are told by anti-lynching journalist and activist, Ida B. Wells, Pittsylvania County, Virginia, ca. 1780, when a Col. William Lynch instituted hangings for alleged horse thieves, without trial or due process. Hence the term, lynching – and 'Lynch Law'.)

A crusading reporter, Ida B. Wells would be amazed at how easily Blacks could be killed in the 21st century –by police, without due process.

Her keen eye would survey New York, Cleveland, Ferguson and beyond, and perhaps she would recognize modern day 'Lynch Law'.

January 2nd - Message of Solidarity

Dear Sistas & Brothas of the N.Y. Movement against Police Violence!

I call tonight to just state that we stand with you – tonight, and in the days to come.

Like Occupy, few of us saw you coming, but that you are here now, is nothing short of remarkable.

We salute you!

And like Occupy, you will face the foul winds of betrayal, of attempts at media manipulation, of political schemes – and when all else fails, the toxin of political repression: the last refuge of government forces – violence.

Our great ancestor, Frederick Douglass, said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

So, continue to struggle!

But we are with you – will stand with you, through rain and fire – to help bring about a better day than today!

Thank you!

30 Dec - Friends of AK Press Prisoner Support Membership

For years, AK Press has offered incarcerated people discounts on their published and distributed books. The response has always been great - they get dozens of catalog and book requests every month.

MORE:

We now offer a discounted Friends of AK Press subscription for you to support incarcerated men and women.

By purchasing a Friends of AK membership for a prisoner, you are helping bring radical literature to some of society's most oppressed individuals. They appreciate it and so do we.

When you sign up, we will automatically charge your card for \$15, once a month...and the recipient will get every book we published that month, until you tell us to stop.

If you have a particular prisoner you would like us to send books to, please list their name and address as the shipping address when you place your order. Important: You must be sure to get their permission first and make sure that their prison will accept paperback books. If you don't have a particular person in mind, we will assign your subscription to the next person on our waiting list.

At this time, discounted memberships are only available on orders shipping to prisons within the United States.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments. Also, if you know a prisoner who wants to be sponsored, but you can't afford to do the sponsoring, please send their name and address to prisonbooks@akpress.org and we will add them to our waiting list.

Place orders at <http://www.akpress.org/friends-prisoner.html>

31 Dec - Letter from Mutulu Shakur

Please see below a letter we are passing on to you on behalf of Mutulu. He forwarded us this letter and requested that we share it with you as someone who provided invaluable support this past year in Mutulu's ongoing struggle promoting the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and seeking his release on parole.

MORE:

Thank you for giving me your support and resources during the recent parole hearing process. May (Allah) God bless you in the spirit of our ancestors. I deeply thank you.

As you may know, my parole hearing took place on August 12th in USP Victorville. My attorneys, Tarif Warren and Peter Schey felt hopeful after the hearing examiner notified us that she would recommend to the US Parole Commission to grant me parole.

On September 15, 2014, I received a notice of action from the National Appeals Board rejecting the parole examiner's recommendation to advance my release to April 2015. This rejection of the examiner's opinion and recommendation is not the first time that we have had this experience dealing with the US Parole Board. Last week, we appealed this rejection and asked the Board to reconsider and provide reasons for its decision. The appeal is now pending and we will keep all friends, family and supporters advised of developments.

We are very excited and in awe of how our mobilization was carried out in preparation for the August 2014 parole hearing. There has been a groundswell of people responding to our request for letters of support, contacts, resources, and encouragement. Your support filled the parole hearing with character, integrity, and principles that demonstrate how unjustified the decision of the Parole Board was.

Let's look at where we are: I am a political prisoner and our expectation for justice is not the paradigm. We seek relief and we wait for justice.

Due to their faulty calculations, my presumptive release date will be in 2016, if I continue as I have for the last 30 years to maintain a positive and proactive prison record. I will continue to evade the traps, set-ups, and to tolerate political targeting. There should be no legal or policy rationale to deny the February 2016 release date. I will once again be seen by the Parole Commission in May 2015.

In the interim, we are working on a commutation of sentence application to be addressed to President Obama and/or his Department of Justice. I kindly request that all those who supported me during many parole hearings now lend their support to a petition to commute my sentence. You will shortly receive a sample letter of support from my attorneys.

The petition for commutation of sentence will be based in large part on my passion and plans to develop a Truth and Reconciliation Commission narrative in the U.S. As far as I can tell, this will be the first opportunity for our modern society to request and develop such a body. I am committed to this task.

I want to thank you, my supporters, and my family for your sacrifices in my struggle.

In closing, do not feel discouraged that this recent parole was rejected. We have done a great job. Let us stay busy, let us stay encouraged. Let us be creative and have the audacity to put into the ethers a just cause,

deserving just results.

AIM HIGH AND GO ALL OUT.

STIFF RESISTANCE

31 Dec - Gov. Andrew Cuomo Refuses Clemency for Judith Clark

Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued only two pardons to end 2014, passing over a well-publicized request from Judith Clark, who was convicted in the 1981 Brinks robbery and murders.

MORE:

by Khurram Saeed (*The Journal News*)

Judith Clark is staying in prison for her role in the 1981 Brinks robbery in which two Nyack police officers and an armored truck guard were killed.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday afternoon said he had issued two pardons out of 171 applications for relief in 2014. The passed-over cases included Clark's well-publicized request for clemency, which was supported by more than 1,000 letters from people who said she had changed and deserved to be released.

Clark has spent 33 years in prison for the crime. The 64-year-old has been incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility since 1983.

Rockland District Attorney Thomas Zugibe heard about the governor's decision Wednesday afternoon from a Journal News reporter.

"Wow," Zugibe said. "Wow, that's good news.

"I'm elated that the governor was able to separate the true facts from the fiction that was presented in their clemency application," he added.

Zugibe was among those who argued to Cuomo that Clark should remain in prison for the killings of police Sgt. Edward O'Grady, Officer Waverly "Chipper" Brown and Brinks guard Peter Paige on Oct. 20, 1981.

Paige was killed at the Nanuet Mall when his truck was robbed of \$1.6 million. O'Grady and Brown were killed at a roadblock leading to the state Thruway. Clark was caught with two others after she crashed her car on Broadway in Nyack, where she was armed and threatened arresting officers.

A website that advocates for Clark's release said she was sitting in the get-away car, and was "neither a shooter nor a robber."

Clark's attorney, Sara Bennett, told The Journal News on Wednesday evening that she had not spoken to Clark about Cuomo's decision to pass over her request. Bennett said she was "disheartened to learn" the governor didn't grant clemency to any prisoner.

"Of course, I was hoping that he'd grant it to Ms. Clark, who meets all the requirements for clemency and certainly deserves it," Bennett wrote in an email. "But it is especially mind-boggling to me that Gov. Cuomo hasn't been able to find one prisoner in his four years in office who merits a second chance."

Suzanne Kessler, a dean at SUNY Purchase, said that Cuomo "failed to show leadership" on the clemency issue.

"Does he not believe that people can experience remorse and be rehabilitated?" Kessler wrote in an email. "I know that Judy is profoundly changed and assume there are hundreds of others."

Zugibe said Clark's application was "fraught with misrepresentation" about her true role in the heist, which he

said Clark helped plan with other self-proclaimed revolutionaries from the Weather Underground and the Black Liberation Army. The gang committed multiple robberies and bombings.

"The effort was to minimize her involvement and portray as a simply as getaway driver when she was an active participant in the planning of this crime and execution of this crime," Zugibe said.

Arthur Keenan Jr., who was O'Grady's partner and was with him in the car the day he died, told The Journal News on Wednesday that Clark still had no remorse.

"She's never contacted me in any way, shape or form," the retired Nyack police detective said, adding, "I'm elated that (Cuomo) stuck to her sentence of 75 (years) to life."

Supporters for Clark have said that she has reformed, as evidenced by her work with inmates through educational and social programs at the prison. They said she has effectively been given a life sentence since she is not eligible for parole until 2056.

Cuomo did grant pardons to two New York City men who have completed their sentences, bringing the total number of pardons he has issued to five. They are:

- Antonio Argibay, 62, who was convicted of criminal sale of a controlled substance in the second degree in 1979. He has been a licensed architect in New York for more than 30 years, Cuomo said.
- Alvaro Khalil Cumberbatch, 33, of Queens, was convicted of robbery in the first degree in 2003. After being released in 2010, he now works with prison re-entry organizations including the Fortune Society and is a board director for the Alternatives to Violence Project.

Cuomo said both men he pardoned were born outside the country but were now legal permanent residents who had deportation concerns because of their past convictions.

5 Jan - A Letter From Connor Stevens (Cleveland 4)

We recently received a letter from Connor Stevens and want to pass it along.

MORE:

NYC ABC,

I very much appreciate the letters. Despite my slacking on keeping up with correspondence, these letters, whether from groups or individuals, help me to maintain my focus and sense of perception. It is all-too-easy to go through life with blinders on, cutting ourselves off from our greatest sources of strength and purpose.

I am interested in learning how I can, in however small the contributions, offer more to our ongoing struggle.

I am currently engaged in the perpetual challenge of keeping up with the letter writing, as well as continuing my studies.

There is much I would like to mention, but for now I will limit this letter to an expression of my interest in being recognized as a political prisoner.

I hope my tardiness may be forgiven, as extenuating circumstances have until now caused me to be hesitant in pursuing both identification as a political prisoner specifically, and political engagement more broadly. But such silence must be broken.

With a gentle strength in a hard place, in living solidarity

11 Jan - MAD DIESEL/SCOWL/LUCID TERROR/SKUZ/MUTANT SCUM/LOWLIFE

WHAT: Punk show with funds going to NYC ABC

WHERE: Lucky 13 Saloon on 644 Sackett Street Brooklyn

WHEN: 5:00pm, Sunday, January 11th

COST: Free, but we're passing a hat so bring your wallet

MORE:

Come wish our comrade a farewell before he moves to Canada. Bands will play, drinks will flow, NYC ABC will be holding it down with a table full of free literature.

11 Jan - Irish Queers letter writing to prisoners

WHAT: Letter and Card writing to prisoners.

WHEN: 3:00-5:00 pm, Sunday January 11th

WHERE: 23 East 124th Street, #6B (between 5th and Madison Avenues)

COST: FREE

MORE:

Please join Irish Queers second Sunday of the month prisoner writing group and pass along info to others.

(The apartment has an old codger of a dog for those that might have a dog allergy.)

12 Jan - Winter Fundraiser for Books Through Bars NYC

WHAT: Benefit for BtB NYC

WHEN: 7:30-10:00pm, Monday, January 12th

WHERE: Fontanas Bar - 105 Eldridge Street New York, New York

COST: \$5 to \$20 sliding scale admission – OR bring a new or slightly used paperback English or English/Spanish dictionary.

MORE:

Here's why you should come:

- It will be two hours of a Monday night in January, after all the holidays are over. WHAT ELSE ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT'S BETTER?! Seriously, join us to gather for a great cause, one that's ALL-VOLUNTEER run, one where you know EXACTLY how your money is being spent, and one where you can see for yourselves in the letters we receive how much our work is valued by those we serve
- Chances to win great raffle prizes, like: books, gift certificates, movies, and generally awesome stuff (some specifics include veg restaurants, radical publishing companies, trapeze schools, and documentaries)
- 90s dance party ♥
- Free (Vegan) Food

Book Through Bars NYC is a non-profit community group and collective which sends free donated books to people in prison. We have been around for nearly twenty years and we are a project of the ABC No Rio activist center, although for the past few years we have been doing our packing work in Brooklyn at Freebird Birds. The Books Through Bars NYC comprises approximately twenty volunteers who work to provide reading material to people who value books tremendously but have extremely limited or—in the case of many people in isolation units or in facilities with no libraries—no access to books at all.

All the money raised at our fundraiser will go straight to our postage costs (on average \$3.19 a package).

For more information about Books Through Bars NYC please visit our website at <http://www.booksthroughbarsnyc.org> or email us at btb@abcnorio.org.

If you cannot make it to your fundraiser, please consider donating to Books Through Bars NYC here: <http://www.booksthroughbarsnyc.org/#!/donate/c1ghi>. You can donate money, stamps, packing supplies, or books. Just \$10 can send three book packages to three prisoners.

Fontanas has gender-neutral bathroom facilities, is near two accessible train stops, but there are a few steps to

enter the bar. Please let us know if you have any questions about accessibility.

17 Jan - "In the Tradition" 19th Annual MXCC Dinner Tribute to the Families of our PP/POWs

WHAT: Malcolm X Commemoration Committee Tribute Dinner

WHEN: 3:00-7:00pm, Saturday, January 17th

WHERE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center, 310 West 43rd Street

COST: \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door (all proceeds going to the commissary accounts of PP/POWs represented by Family at the Dinner)

MORE:

Nineteen years ago, many of you responded to the collective call that we honor the Families of our PP/POWs for their generational sacrifices to the Black Freedom struggle. It is in that tradition that the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee is pleased to announce "In the Tradition," our 19th Annual Dinner Tribute to the Families of our Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War.

Our guest speakers and cultural presentations will be none other than our Beloved Iyaluua Ferguson and Amina Baraka, two radical Black womyn who have long stood "In the Tradition" of holding up half the revolutionary New Afrikan sky.

Iyaluua Ferguson is an educator, former Chair of the People's Council of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika, former exile, editor of "Nation Time," co-author of "Herman Ferguson: An Unlikely Warrior, Evolution of a Black Nationalist Revolutionary" and founder of this Dinner Tribute. Amina Baraka is a legendary People's poet, song stylist, member of the Communist Party, endorser of the Black Radical Congress, contributor to several anthologies and raised her son, Ras Baraka, to be the newly elected mayor of the city of Newark. MXCC is extremely proud and honored to welcome both these freedom fighting womyn as invited guests.

It is understatement to say that the past year has brought us many unexpected changes: the Transitions of our Beloved elders and co-founding members Yuri Kochiyama and Chairman Emeritus, Baba Herman Ferguson, radical poet activist Baba Amiri Baraka and the resignation of Mani Gilyard, our several years co-chair. Through it all, MXCC stands firm in our commitment to the work carried out by our revolutionary elders, and steadfast in solidarity with the sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, wives, grandchildren and Loved ones of our captured Freedom Fighters.

The theme "In the Tradition" is a reminder that the struggle for Black self-determination, justice and Liberation continues forward. We send this letter to invite a community of new family, friends and younger people, as we look forward to the continued support and participation of those who for close to two decades have helped us pay well-deserved tribute to our captured Freedom Fighters and their families.

We ask that if you cannot attend to PLEASE MAKE A DONATION anyway, as this Dinner Tribute helps us absorb some of the financial costs the political imprisonment of their Loved ones places on our families.

On behalf of our PP/POWs and their Families, we say Asante Sana for making this annual fundraising event a valued community institution!!!!

FREE THE LAND!

Let's "Pick up the Work" to Educate, Agitate & Organize to Free our Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War
Malcolm X Commemoration Committee