



Updates for April 14th

31 Mar - Mumia Abu-Jamal Health Crisis and Update

On Monday, March 30th, Mumia Abu-Jamal was rushed to Schuylkill Medical Center. To give a complete picture of what has happened since then, we're including a chronology of articles below.

MORE:

March 31st - Mumia Abu-Jamal – Emergency Medical Crisis

Literally after 20 hours of torture Mumia remains disappeared. His family and his lawyers have been prevented from receiving any information.

On the morning of Monday March 30th, prison officials at SCI Mahanoy say that Mumia Abu-Jamal had a “medical crisis” and was transported from the prison to the intensive care unit at the Schuylkill Medical Center, in Pottsville. PA.

Shackled to the bed, alone, and prevented from knowing that his family is close by he remains in intensive care. Prison officials and hospital officials when not spreading misinformation are denying Mumia’s family access to visits, while also denying the family and his lawyers any information or records about his condition.

Mumia’s family is keeping vigil in the ICU critical care visiting room.

His supporters and lawyers were at trial challenging the Revictimization Review Act aka the “Mumia Silencing Act” in Harrisburg, PA when they received word that he had been taken to the hospital.

The Abolitionist Law Center’s Bret Grote is in Pottsville and vigorously preparing legal action to gain access to his client for the family and access to his medical records so that independent doctors can intervene.

Mumia Abu-Jamal’s brother Keith Cook stated “The rules that the prisons have are very arcane. They don’t give out any information about prisoners to their families or anyone else. It’s like you have your hands tied because you don’t know how the prisoner is and you have no way of talking to him. I remember a month ago— Phil Africa exercising in the prison, next thing they know they moved him to a hospital and didn’t tell his family where he was, and three days later he was dead.

“It’s scary. This situation needs to change. The prison authorities need to be more humane to the families of prisoners.”

Pam Africa stated “Prison Officials are lying. Mumia is going through torture at the hands of Department of Corrections through medical neglect. It is clear to people that they want to kill Mumia. They gave him the wrong medication which made his condition worse. Inmates on the inside who questioned what was happening have been subjected to direct retaliation by the superintendent. They have been moving concerned inmates out of Mumia’s unit in an effort to both bury and keep this critical information from the public.”

Johanna Fernandez of the New York Campaign to Bring Mumia Home noted “Mumia has been complaining about being ill since January. If he had gotten the proper care he needed originally, he would not be in this situation. This crisis illustrates the problem of health care in American prisons as a basic human rights violation. I am personally concerned because Phil Africa of the MOVE organization was rushed to the hospital not long ago in good health and a few days later he was dead. We need to fight to defend Mumia’s life, and that of all prisoners.”

We do not trust that the prison officials will provide any transparency on Mumia's medical emergency. They indeed told us Phil Africa was fine, and he passed away the next day.

April 7th - Update and Timeline

Mumia is in very poor health and has been back in the prison infirmary since Wednesday, April 2, 2015. His transfer back to the prison is an attempt to sever Mumia from the widespread attention this recent crisis has garnered in the media. It was also an attempt to shut down the movement's vigil at the hospital.

When Mumia arrived in the hospital on March 30th he was in diabetic shock. His blood sugar level was at 779. Diabetic coma, which is potentially fatal, registers at 800.

His sodium level was alarmingly high at 168 and potentially fatal. His sodium levels have now been normalized, but he has not yet been seen by an endocrinologist (diabetes specialist.) The doctors at the hospital reiterated that there was no diabetes specialist available. Our major demand is that he be examined immediately by an independent team of medical specialists, chosen by his family and supporters.

A small group of family and supporters visited with Mumia in the prison on April 3rd. At that time he seemed sicker and less alert than when we saw him in the hospital. His blood sugar on that day was at 336. He has lost approximately 50lbs since we last saw him in January. He was in a wheel chair, his speech was intermittently slurred, and by the end of the one-hour visit he had difficulty breathing.

Sing the petition here to get him immediate, independent and specialized medical assistance.

<https://www.change.org/p/john-e-wetzel-pa-secretary-of-corrections-tom-wolf-pa-governor-stop-the-medical-execution-of-mumia-abu-jamal-by-neglect-and-malpractice-3>

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1. In early January of this year Mumia had to be shaken out of a deep sleep by guards during count. For not being awake during count he was punished for two weeks. No visitors, phone calls or yard were allowed. This was the beginning of a precipitous decline in his health.
2. During those two weeks he became ill with a severe skin disorder that was diagnosed as eczema by the doctors in the prison infirmary. Mumia refused visitors because he was in pain, his skin was leathery, raw, and bloody, and he was falling asleep during visits.
3. The medication he was given produced a severe reaction. His skin ruptured. He was placed in the infirmary for two weeks. During this time he was given a battery of medical tests including, since February, three blood tests.
4. On the morning of Monday, March 30th Mumia walked to the infirmary where he fainted. He was taken to the ICU of a nearby hospital, the Schuylkill Medical Center. When he arrived at the hospital he was in diabetic shock. His blood sugar level was 779. Had it been 800, he would have been in a coma. He remained shackled to the bedpost during his entire stay.
5. On that same day, March 30th, Heidi Boghosian (former Director, National Lawyers Guild, Mumia's Legal Team) and Johanna Fernandez (Professor of History, Baruch College, Mumia's Legal Team) arrived at the prison for a visit. They were deeply concerned about his health after a phone conversation Fernandez had with Mumia on Friday, March 27th during which his voice sounded severely stressed. Upon arrival at the prison they were told that they couldn't see him. They pressed the issue and were finally told that he was hospitalized. They immediately alerted his wife and supporters. His wife called the prison and found out that he had been transferred to a local hospital and was in diabetic shock.
6. Boghosian and Fernandez found the hospital and went to the ICU where they immediately encountered a phalanx of prison guards watching over one of the rooms in the ICU. A nurse confirmed that Mumia was there.
7. On that same day the Third Circuit Court was hearing arguments on the constitutionality of the Revictimization Relief Act, otherwise known as the Mumia Silencing Law.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/17/pennsylvania-law-inmate-speech_n_5999962.html;
<http://watchdog.org/191836/first-amendment-revictimization-relief-act>

The court hearing was taking place about an hour away in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A carload of supporters including Pam Africa (International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu Jamal), Noelle Hanrahan (Prison Radio) and Mumia's Brother Keith Cook joined Boghosian and Fernandez, at the ICU

8. His brother, Keith Cook, was not allowed in, nor did he get any substantive information about Mumia's medical condition.

9. Supporters stayed at the hospital and kept watch in the waiting room of the ICU. Later the next day, March 31, his wife Wadiya Jamal and brother Keith Cook were allowed a 30-minute visit each, separately.

10. After a campaign of calls, the doctors/nurses finally started talking to his family. Medical staff informed us that had Mumia arrived 10 minutes later, he would have fallen into a diabetic coma. They also said that his sodium level was extremely high at 168.

11. Pam Africa called a press conference in front of the hospital. Approximately eight media outlets, including the AP and Philadelphia affiliates showed up and reported sympathetically on the story. One example can be found here: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/family-mumia-abu-jamal-treated-diabetes-complications-30032185>

12. The next day, on Wednesday, April 1, the prison changed the rules and did not allow his wife and oldest brother in. We pressed to have other members of his family see him. Mumia's younger brother, Bill Cook, and his son, Jamal Hart, were allowed very short visits. His son stormed out of the room in shock at his father's condition. He was distressed to see his father shackled, in pain and distress. Bill Cook reported that Mumia was shaking throughout the visit, that his breathing was labored, and that he was in generally terrible shape.

13. That same day, on Wed April 1, at 7PM Mumia was transferred back to the prison's infirmary.

14. On Thursday, April 2, his family and supporters were denied visits in the prison because, according to prison officials, his medical condition did not allow it. On that same day, Mumia collapsed in the prison infirmary bathroom and was found 45 minutes later on the floor by a doctor and another prisoner.

15. On Friday April 3rd, after pressure mounted against the changing policies of the prison (non-stop calls to the prison and on-site demonstrations) the prison allowed five people to visit him together for one hour. Mumia was brought to the visiting room in a wheel chair. Given his condition, the visit should have taken place in the infirmary. His spirit was strong, but his body was clearly in need of urgent medical attention. As of today, he has not yet been seen by a diabetes specialist and his blood sugar continues to fluctuate dangerously, reaching 336 on April 3rd. Yet, in spite of this dangerously high level he was given spaghetti for lunch. He was very weak and had difficulty breathing by the end of the one-hour visit. His skin is completely disfigured—hardened and jet black all over his body, except for his face. His speech was slurred during parts of our conversation, he was trembling and had difficulty breathing by the end of the visit. Since January he has lost at least 80lbs.

16. Mumia needs to see a diabetes specialist (endocrinologist), dermatologist, and nutritionist immediately, chosen by his family and closest supporters. Mumia is innocent and needs to be brought home immediately.

17. There are an estimated 80,000 prisoners with diabetes in the US prisons, and medical neglect of prisoners is rampant. We call for a full investigation of prison healthcare in Pennsylvania. The state's medical services are for profit and have been so neglectful and abusive that its entire healthcare operations warrant independent review. The unexpected and unexplained sudden death of Phil Africa of the MOVE 9 last year, while he was under prison medical supervision, is but one of many examples of the physical jeopardy, even mortal danger, faced by prisoners across the nation undergoing the system's healthcare procedures.

31 Mar - Obama Commutes 22 Sentences

Let's see if he commutes any non-drug related sentences...

MORE:

by Sam Stein (*Huffington Post*)

President Barack Obama commuted the sentences of 22 individuals on Tuesday, more than doubling the number of commutations he has issued in the six-plus years he's been in office.

The men and women granted the reprieves had been imprisoned under an "outdated sentencing regime," the administration concluded. Eight of the 22 inmates had been sentenced to life imprisonment and would have died behind bars.

Leading up to Tuesday's announcement, the president has tried to revamp his administration's approach to clemency, telling The Huffington Post in a recent interview that he felt recipients should more broadly reflect the entire applicant pool and not lean toward well-connected white-collar criminals. Those granted clemency on Tuesday were all sentenced to jail for intent to distribute an illegal drug, with 14 of those cases involving possession or distribution of cocaine.

"Had they been sentenced under current laws and policies, many of these individuals would have already served their time and paid their debt to society," White House counsel Neil Eggleston said in a statement shared in advance with The Huffington Post. "Because many were convicted under an outdated sentencing regime, they served years -- in some cases more than a decade -- longer than individuals convicted today of the same crime."

The president sent a letter to each of the commutation recipients encouraging them to take advantage of their post-prison opportunity. An administration official said that this was the first time Obama has sent such letters during his presidency.

"I am granting your application because you have demonstrated the potential to turn your life around. Now it is up to you to make the most of this opportunity. It will not be easy, and you will confront many who doubt people with criminal records can change. Perhaps even you are unsure of how you will adjust to your new circumstances," the letter reads. "But remember that you have the capacity to make good choices. By doing so, you will affect not only your own life, but those close to you. You will also influence, through your example, the possibility that others in your circumstances get their own second chance in the future."

Tuesday's announcement marks the beginning of a more aggressive approach on clemency from the White House, which has faced persistent criticism for being slow to grant pardons and commutations. Until Tuesday, Obama had only commuted the sentences of 21 people and pardoned 64, out of thousands of applications received.

The Justice Department expanded its criteria for clemency applicants last year, prioritizing defendants who would have likely been given a shorter prison term had they been sentenced today and who have served at least 10 years behind bars, have had good conduct in prison, have no significant ties to criminal enterprises and have no history of violence or significant criminal history.

Advocates for greater clemency have argued that Obama should follow through on the underlying principles of the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act that he himself signed, which reduced the disparity in federal treatment of crimes involving crack cocaine and cocaine powder. Tuesday's commutations suggest those advocates are being heard.

One of the prisoners whose sentence was commuted, Francis Darrell Hayden, had been sentenced to life in prison for growing marijuana back in 2002. Another, Donel Clark, was sentenced in 1994 and told The Huffington Post he had taken a job as a crack "cook" in his friend's kitchen to support his family.

Four of the prisoners granted clemency were represented by the Clemency Project 2014, a group of lawyers that works to provide pro-bono legal assistance to prisoners applying to have their sentences reduced. Cynthia Roseberry, the group's manager, declined to disclose their identities. The organization "continues to submit petitions at an increasing pace and looks forward to more regular grants by the President," Roseberry said.

2 Apr - New poem and blog by Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim

Jalil lays out further writings to induce discussion. As always, this is a good way to connect with him if you haven't already taken the time to write.

MORE:

Winter Wax

Captured in an icebox of racism,

as Winter dissolves into annual
oblivion, I am elated by the
warming of this frigid land.

America...

My only reprieve the Sun peering
through grey clouds dissipating
in the heat of young folks
championing the fight, opposing
the chill and darkness of hate
and exploitation, they the solar
cosmic array imposing climate
change.

Black Lives Matter!!!

Waxing poetically --
Not a chant or slogan --
Rather a desperate scream --
Expressing despair --
In human isolation --
Spiritual confineent --
Disparaging hope --
Desire and passion squelch --
Embracing loneliness --
A cherished companion --
To thwart insanity!?!

Revolution...

Life in a 6' x 8' cage musing a
mental exercise in futility, seeking
to share in the void the absence of
rage.

LOVE and FREEDOM!!!

Toward a National Coalition for a Changed America

The movement must address itself to the question of restructuring the whole of American society. There are forty million poor people here. And one day we must ask the question, "Why are there forty million poor people in America?" And when you begin to ask that question, you are raising questions about the economic system, about a broader distribution of wealth. When you ask that question, you begin to question the capitalistic economy."
--Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968)

Since my last posting, "Future Focus," I have received several letters from activists raising concerns about the development of a National Coalition for a Changed America. Obviously, coalition building is an essential organizing tool to bridge differences between several activist organizations addressing the needs of poor and oppressed peoples. As an organizing tool, one of the principle objectives of coalition building is to concentrate resources and personnel, uniting in uniformity to a specific demand and goal. Seldom will a coalition last longer than the specific task of the coalition's origin. However, the usefulness of a coalition as an organizing tool serves to strengthen activists' belief in their abilities to challenge corporate or government wrong (read: oppressive and/or repressive) actions, and overcome obstacles in the service of poor and oppressed peoples.

Therefore, while there are thousands of coalitions in cities across the country, very few address national issues, as proposed in Future Focus. Therefore, allow me to share some thinking on the development of a National Coalition for a Changed America.

There are approximately 20,000 American families (plutocrats) who control 99 percent of the wealth of this country. That means 20,000 families, through their various corporate and government institutions, dictate the socio-economic destiny of over 300 million people. Furthermore, subject to the corporate government foreign policy, this same number of families influences and dictates human conditions in the world, via international forums, i.e., Bilderberg Committee, Davos, IMF, World Bank, WTO, etc., notwithstanding China's growing influence in this arena of geopolitical power. Given this reality, it is incumbent on those interested in the development of the National Coalition for a Changed America to come to terms with specific aspects of the ruling class capacity to function and to oppose any substantial change. The principle factors of the ruling class security are based on these conditions:

1. The means from which the ruling class continues to propagate its ideas, philosophy and culture through the various media;
2. The maintenance of class divisions, national oppression, the struggle between nationalities competing as wage earners in the labor market, and the struggle between laborers and managers of the means of production. This is essentially the struggle between the poor with middle class aspirations, and middle class struggle to maintain its level of subsistence, while the rich continue to hoard the majority of wealth;
3. The maintenance of the threat or use of force by the police bureaucracies and judicial process, the power to take life and/or liberty, when the bourgeois ruling class laws are threatened.

These three essential aspects of the 20,000 families' security can be aptly understood in similitude to the power to persuade, manipulate and coerce the oppressed masses into control. Thus, the building of a National Coalition for a Changed America must comprise organizations with the capacity address each of the three above aspects of ruling class security and maintaining of power. Needless to say, in order for poor and oppressed peoples to wrestle power, demanding redistribution of wealth and restructuring of the social contract and institution of governance, will require an arduous and formidable revolutionary determination for change. Any national coalition organized to bridge ideological and political differences between the various activist groups, must come to terms with the primary objective in the service of poor and oppressed peoples. Evidently, the ruling class has differences, for example the issue of climate change; however, they are united on how they accumulate wealth, and continue to maintain class and nationalistic divisions. These points of contention must be addressed as part of consolidating and unifying the national coalition, just as they are addressed on local political and institutional levels. Yet, these concerns are questions of leadership development in the course of coalition organizational development.

"The coalition-alliance leadership is usually comprised of members of several different organizations, in principled working relationship, unified under the banner of the masses' struggle for social change and justice. Such leadership must be capable of subordinating their individual group's political aspirations to the unified goals of the coalition-alliance. In this way, the collective purpose of the coalition-alliance determines the relationship of the coalition-alliance with the masses' struggle. Its leadership must be capable of maintaining principled and congenial relationships under the guiding principles of democratic centralism, as these principles affect any member body of the coalition-alliance. It is important that the leadership recognizes the points of unity and the differences between each member/body of the coalition-alliance and secures the working unity based upon goals common to each member/body." (read: *We Are Our Own Liberators*, pp. 73-96)

Hence, the specific objective must be spelled out in no uncertain terms in direct relationship to the masses' struggle:

1. Seek to establish the Coalition in direct relationship with the masses' struggle, to ensure the Coalition's goals become the masses' political aspirations to achieve;

2. Keep politics in command. The political program subject to the above three areas of concern challenging the ruling class ability to govern, demand strategic objectives become the basis from which to secure internal discipline within the Coalition. This is to prohibit and prevent liberalism and opportunism from subverting the prospects of the Coalition from achieving its goals. It further builds principled and congenial working relationships between the various components of the Coalition, forging a progressive and revolutionary future;

3. To seek greater unity and working class relationships amongst other political groups and activists. Combat and dispel revisionism and sectarian manipulations by other groups and activist, broadening the base of support for the Coalition.

It is this quality of revolutionary leadership the Coalition must seek to achieve as part of the overall process of building substantial institutional change in America.

In closing, I offer these insights in furtherance of what was proposed in "Future Focus." I sincerely hope this will continue to deepen the dialogue and debate suggesting the building of a National Coalition for a Changed America.

We are called upon to help the discouraged beggars in life's marketplace. But one day we must come to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. It means that questions must be raised. You see, my friends, when you deal with this, you begin to ask the question, "Who owns the oil?" You begin to ask the question, "Who owns the iron ore?"
--Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968)

Remember: We Are Our Own Liberators!

4 Apr - Statement on the suspension of Barrett Brown's e-mail access and preemptive BOP retaliation

An hour or so after having used the system to contact a journalist about potential BOP wrongdoing, Barrett Brown's access to the TRULINCS prisoner e-mail system was restricted, for a full year until April 2016, without explanation.

MORE:

This is contrary to the BOP's own policy on several points, as noted in their 2009 documentation — the administration is only allowed to remove access to TRULINCS for thirty days pending an investigation of any potential misuse, and the inmate is supposed to be informed in writing of the reason for that.

Brown has not been able to use his TRULINCS account since the afternoon of March 31st, when all of his correspondents received an automated message informing them that his access had been rescinded. After speaking to others at FCI Fort Worth, he optimistically attributed this originally to a technical glitch, as other inmates had also experienced problems. But as of today it's been clarified that the restrictions on Brown's e-mail are unique, and no one in a position of authority seems to know what's going on. He has not been informed or accused of any possible infractions.

This is disturbing in light of Barrett Brown's professed interest in bringing to light wrongdoing by the Bureau of Prisons, as noted in his sentencing statement [0] and several recent interviews. The suspension of his e-mail access seems to be part of a pattern of retaliation against Brown by agencies of the federal government, for his journalism among other activities; the selective and retaliatory nature of his detainment having been made crystal clear by the prosecutory zeal and unconventional methods employed by the DOJ in his case and at sentencing.

Brown still has telephone privileges, so any members of the media who might be interested in speaking to him about this latest infringement of his rights may contact us with your phone number in order to be connected with him.

He's now looking into the administrative remedy process of filing a grievance, and we'll be providing more information as it comes in.

April 5th - Barrett Brown's account of the arbitrary suspension of his e-mail

Following is an account of the events surrounding the sudden termination of my inmate email account by the Bureau of Prisons. I will be submitting it as part of my legal challenge to this suspicious move in the coming week, with the intention of getting a court injunction by which to restore my access until such time as these issues can be clarified.

On Tuesday March 31, I used the inmate computer system to send an email to a journalist of my acquaintance in which I inquired about getting him in touch with another inmate who was interested in talking to the press about potentially illegal conduct by BOP officials. When I tried to log in to the system one hour afterwards, I received a message reading: "Denied: You do not have access to this service." I asked our Counselor Towchik about this and he called another office, from which he apparently received a vague explanation to the effect that they were "working on it", which we took to understand that this was a system maintenance issue; he told me to return to his office later that afternoon. I did so, and he told me that several people were having issues with the system and that he would make further inquiries, and that if necessary he would bring the technical staff over to our unit the next day to discuss it with us, assuming the problem had still not been fixed. The next morning I reached my mother by phone and learned that apparently everyone on my message contact list had received an automatic email to the effect that my messaging privileges had been temporarily suspended, but I reassured her that it was merely a mistake. When I met again with Towchik, however, he conceded that the problem didn't seem to be technical after all and that I should ask Trust Fund Manager Coleman about it at lunch. Failing to find Mr. Coleman, I met that afternoon with Unit Manger Ivory, who checked my files but could find no reason why my access should have suddenly been suspended and also advised me to meet with Mr. Coleman. At some point that day, my attempts to log in started to prompt a different message stating: "This account is on suspension until 4/1/2016 11:59:59 pm (from portal 16)". At the next lunch period on Thursday, April 2nd, I was unable to locate Mr. Coleman, but laid out my problem to the associate warden who told me to return in five minutes, when Mr. Coleman would be present.

I did so, and when I asked another group of prison officials if they knew where I could find Mr. Coleman, another individual came up to me and said that he was the person I was looking for. He pulled me aside and told me that he was the one who had cut off my email, as I wasn't supposed to have access to it in the first place due to my charges. I noted that I had three charges and asked which one precluded me from using the email service. He told me to list my charges and I did so. He then added that he had done a review of my email correspondence and found that I had "been using it for the wrong thing." I replied that I had simply been using it to communicate with the press. He confirmed that "that was the wrong thing." I asked him his name, which he gave as "Moore". Then I walked over to a group of inmates who told me that the individual is with the "SIA", which they explained is a level above the "SIS" internal security division.

BOP Guideline P5265.13 spells out the conditions by which inmates can be restricted from use of the email system. I'm going to hold off on going into the specific legal arguments that I'll be making through the BOP's Administrative Remedy process, and if need be, through the courts; for now, I don't think I'm giving too much away in noting that the sudden restriction of my email access about a year after I pleaded guilty to those charges, more than two months after I've been sentenced on those charges, and about an hour after I sent a message to a journalist concerning possible BOP misconduct, under circumstances that were not discernible to other staff, and followed by a warning from an internal security officer that by talking to the media I was doing "the wrong thing" is obviously problematic, is not exactly outside the pattern of state retaliation to which I've become accustomed, and which at this point has already been explained in further detail in dozens of outlets ranging from the New York Times to the Guardian. As journalist Glenn Greenwald announced the other day, this already suspicious move by the BOP also just happens to come as the two of us had begun email discussions about what I might write for his publication The Intercept in the coming months. Although I am still pursuing this and other projects as usual, this obviously has had its intended effect of making my work more difficult. On the plus side, I suspect that as this process goes forward, it should serve as a clarifying effect as to the true nature of the BOP.

5 Apr - New Jersey Supreme Court to Review Sundiata Acoli's Parole

Last year, Sundiata Acoli successfully petitioned a New Jersey appellate court to release him on parole. The state attorney general appealed that decision, and the New Jersey Supreme Court announced it would hear the case.

MORE:

by Mark Wilson (*find law*)

No Parole Just Yet

Acoli petitioned for parole in 1993, 2004, and 2011. Each time, he was denied. The New Jersey appellate court said that the parole board ignored his progress in prison; he hadn't received a disciplinary citation since 1996 (though he had tried to escape in 1982 and received 27 citations before 1997, reported New Jersey Advance Media). He had also expressed remorse for his crime, the court said, criticizing the parole board for focusing too much on his past crimes and not enough on how he had been rehabilitated.

Oh, and he's also 78 years old and has spent the last 42 years in prison.

None of that mattered to the state attorney general, who appealed to the state's highest court on the ground that the appellate court shouldn't have taken it upon itself to order Acoli's parole. Instead, the brief said, the court should have remanded the case to the parole board for another hearing.

For the time being, Acoli will remain in prison.

'Acoli has paid the penalty'

The other suspect in the 1973 shooting was Joanne Chesimard, who was also convicted of murder, but escaped from prison in 1979. She fled to Cuba, changed her name to Assata Shakur, and remains there as a "political refugee." The FBI classified her as a domestic terrorist and added her to its Most Wanted Terrorist List in 2013, earning Shakur the dubious distinction of being the first woman on the list.

The state argued that Shakur shot trooper James Harper, according to the Associated Press, but that Acoli killed another trooper, Werner Foerster, during the same stop. Acoli said he blacked out after being grazed by a bullet and didn't remember what happened.

While acknowledging the seriousness of Acoli's crimes, the court of appeals observed, "Acoli has paid the penalty under the laws of this State for his crimes."

5 Apr - Transitions: June 11, 2015

Below is the call out for June 11th events. Get planning!

MORE:

The last year has been full of changes and transitions for our imprisoned comrades and for those of us engaged in struggle on the other side of the walls. Now, solidly in the throes of spring, we feel compelled to celebrate these transitions and victories as new life and energy burst forth all around us. It is not often that we get a chance to truly mix celebration and struggle - but now is one of those times! On January 8th of this year the Eastern District Court of California ordered Eric McDavid released from prison. Our comrade Marius came out publicly as a man and began seeking resources for his physical transition. We believe these are both transitions worthy of celebration and reason for continued struggle. It is in this spirit that we bring you our thoughts about J11 2015.

First, a bit of housekeeping: We have a new email address: june11th at riseup dot net! If you sent something to the old address, it is likely we did not receive it. We would love it if there were many translations of this callout and other support materials (many thanks to ContraInfo and others for supporting translation over the years)! Please send information about the June 11th events you are planning this year, posters, zines, and any report backs to june11th at riseup dot net. We are looking forward to hearing from you and will post events as we

receive them at June11.org Every year events happen in new cities, and we hope you'll encourage your friends and comrades far and wide to join us this year.

This day is an annual day of solidarity with long-term anarchist prisoners, including Marius Mason and Eric McDavid. In calling for the day, we aim to deepen ongoing support for comrades facing long sentences. They, in particular, risk being forgotten within a prisoner support model based on reacting to spikes in state repression and other emergencies. We are committed to building a model of solidarity that is both long-term and capable of flexibly responding to new developments. It is also vital to constantly build new links of solidarity between prisoners and between struggles, rather than fall back on static networks of personal links and contacts.

Originating as a day of solidarity for eco-prisoners, J11 remains anchored in a project of ecological defense and struggle against a society based on exploitation and confinement. As the focus shifted to solidarity with Marius and Eric, two eco-anarchist prisoners serving roughly 20-year sentences, people have expressed their solidarity through letter-writing nights, fundraisers, educational events, demonstrations and attacks. Any real effort to aid prisoners cannot be based simply on passive support, but must also include a commitment to build on their struggles before and after their imprisonment. More explanation about the context for and strategy of June 11th can be found here: <http://june11.org/about/>

Last year, while organizing J11 events, we addressed challenging questions about the relationship between ecologically oriented struggles and anarchist anti-prison struggles. It is clear to us that the world which requires prisons also requires the destruction of the environment; as anarchists, we despise both. We are heartened by the growing movements against the tar sands, LNG pipelines, fracking and the myriad other ecologically destructive projects. The escalation of eco-struggles across the globe is both necessary and exciting. Both Marius and Eric remain committed to these struggles, as we remain committed to them, all eco-prisoners, and the struggles that they all - we all - are engaged in. But this year we have been given cause for celebration - and we would like to emphasize that as we move forward.

This year Marius Mason publicly shared his new name and use of male pronouns that better reflect his masculine gender identity. To quote his lawyer, Moira Meltzer-Cohen who is assisting with the legal aspects of his transition, Marius is someone "whose courage and integrity are made even more salient by the fact that his own liberation and autonomy have long been severely circumscribed." In the face of a world that systematically subjects trans people to violence, isolation and abuse, we hope that everyone shows their support of trans liberation by supporting Marius and the many imprisoned trans folks. This struggle should extend beyond mere fundraising. Trans prisoners are struggling not only for the material necessities of existence, but are also struggling against systems of domination which will stop at nothing to prevent them from simply being who they are. Our solidarity needs to be as creative and varied as the state's tactics are cruel and oppressive.

On January 8th of this year, Eric McDavid was released from prison after nine years of incarceration. Eric returned home to his friends and family after a federal court granted his habeas corpus petition, stating that the FBI withheld evidence during the trial phase of his case. Because of this, Eric was able to plead guilty to a lesser charge which carried a five year maximum sentence - four years less than the time he had already served in federal prison. Eric's incredible determination and the awe-inspiring support from his family, friends and comrades have not only contributed to his emotional and physical well-being while behind bars but also to his eventual release. His release from prison after 9 years is a monumental change. Eric is now faced with building a new life after almost a decade of incarceration. This is a new phase of struggle for him, and we are committed to continuing our solidarity with him post-release.

We face new questions about how to help Eric during this transition from a heavily controlled prison environment to a life in the open prison (the conditions that overlap between Eric's parole and the society of control in which we all live). Although he is no longer living his life in a cage of concrete and razor wire, Eric still constantly faces the repressive apparatus of the state. His movements are restricted, his communications monitored, and his time is spent in ways that aren't always of his choosing. All of this limits his interactions with the communities he has been away from for so long, the communities he wishes to engage with and be a part of.

We must figure out how to lessen the impacts of these kinds of restrictions and how to enable as smooth a transition and homecoming as possible. We are thrilled to be facing these questions nine years earlier than we'd expected.

The focus of June 11th events this year will continue to include Eric by aiding him materially and emotionally during this transition and maintaining channels for political engagement concerning Eric's entrapment. Eric's case remains one of the most obvious examples of the state targeting and entrapping anarchists in this country. But we must always remember that his case is in no way exceptional. Muslim communities have borne the brunt of these kinds of attacks from the FBI. We should always be finding ways to work in solidarity. Post release support is a vital component to our struggle, and we're obviously thrilled beyond words that Eric can walk and talk among friends and Earth according to his own desires again, and with every step we affirm that we want the destruction of all prisons.

The practices of ongoing solidarity should not solely serve as a soothing cultural custom: our actions carry potential for real material consequences – both positive and negative – for our imprisoned comrades. As we practice solidarity with imprisoned comrades and loved ones, our goal goes beyond simply supporting them; we aim to build social momentum against an entire system of domination and ecological destruction. These linkages add significance to all our gestures of solidarity, rendering them more potent tools on behalf of those inside, but also increasing the risks should these gestures be miscalculated or imprecise: as always, exercise care and sharp analysis when laying plans.

This reflection applies to the entire range of support projects, including fundraising. We hope though, that fundraisers also create spaces for discussion and struggle. A common anxiety among comrades facing long sentences is whether there will still be subversive projects and conversations underway when they get out. It's up to all of us to make sure that there are, and that these projects and conversations are stronger, richer, and more vital. And it's everyone's letters to prisoners that ensure their ongoing connection to this process.

A specific element of this process is building our capacity for ongoing prisoner support. There have been both victories and setbacks over the past year as anarchist and other rebellious prisoners have waged struggles against their conditions, including both hunger and work strikes. Nikos Romanos' hunger strike and the accompanying revolutionary solidarity reminded us of the subversive possibility of struggles coordinated across prison walls. But as anarchist prisoners, like Sean Swain in Ohio or Michael Kimble in Alabama, increasingly conduct similar fights in North America, the movement has frequently lacked the connections or strength required to offer meaningful solidarity. This is not a criticism of the dedicated support crews working with these rebel prisoners, but is directed to the rest of us, indicating the importance of generalizing active forms of solidarity with prisoners.

An important aspect of the long-term project of prisoner solidarity is maintaining old connections while building new connections with other prisoners in struggle. Recently released comrades Amelie and Fallon encompassed this idea well in their February open letter <http://en.contrainfo.espiv.net/2015/02/17/mexican-prisons-open-letter-of...> Generalizing solidarity means escaping the space of the small "activist scene" to allow surprising new relationships to form. Part of our proposal this year is to build stronger relations of solidarity with trans prisoners in struggle, both to offer immediate personal and political support, and to prepare to offer more meaningful aid in future struggles for safety, hormones/other medical resources, and dignity. <http://supportmariusmason.org/2014/07/07/free-marius-jacob-mason/> We were inspired by Chelsea Manning, who won access to hormones despite very adverse conditions, dramatically indicating the possibility of future victories for other trans prisoners.

We will continue to adapt to a changing landscape produced both by the victories won by our imprisoned comrades – including Eric's release, Marius' coming out, Nikos Romanos' seizure of "room to breathe," and just in the past few days, the amazing homecoming of Amelie, Carlos, and Fallon, — and by ongoing transformations of the repressive machinery. These transitions mark the expansion of the project and not any sort of stopping point.

“The struggle is not over ... it assumes new forms. No matter what its face, no matter what the time, it’s still war.”

6 Apr - Albert Woodfox could possibly be freed without a retrial after 4 decades in solitary

Angola 3 member Albert Woodfox could possibly be released from state custody after more than 40 years in solitary confinement without having to defend himself in court for a third time in the decades-old murder of a prison guard.

MORE:

by Emily Lane (*The Times-Picayune*)

Woodfox was re-indicted Feb. 12 in the 1972 murder of a Louisiana State Penitentiary prison guard Brent Miller. It was the third time Woodfox was charged with Miller's murder after courts had twice overturned his previous two murder convictions.

Now, Woodfox's lawyers argue in federal court that he should be granted an "unconditional writ." If U.S. Judge James Brady grants the writ, Woodfox could be permanently released and the state barred from prosecuting the murder charge against Woodfox for a third time.

Woodfox's lawyers argue since so much time has lapsed since the crime took place and nearly half of the witnesses are dead, jurors aren't able to properly judge the credibility of the case's evidence, which is largely witness-driven.

"It is unfathomable to imagine how an objectively reasonable juror ... could possibly evaluate the integrity of the State's case, or the credibility of the competing narratives between the State's case and Woodfox's case," his attorney George Kendall writes.

Woodfox's lawyers gave four examples of "extraordinary circumstances" that should legally qualify him for relief from a retrial: 1) Woodfox has been forced to subsist "decades of hardship and deprivation" in solitary confinement; 2) His old age and medical problems mean he might not survive the retrial process; 3) The state has a history of "troubling" conduct in the case, including prosecutorial misconduct during the first trial and racial discrimination leading up to the second trial; and 4) evidence of actual innocence.

Assistant Attorney General Kurt Wall, who is handling the case for Louisiana Attorney General Buddy Caldwell's office, said Thursday (April 2) if the writ is granted, the state would push back by filing an appeal or through other legal avenues. Granting an unconditional writ to a defendant who has an a murder indictment pending, Wall said, would be unprecedented.

"We would explore every possible avenue to prohibit (Woodfox) from being released," Wall said.

The state has until April 10 to file a response to Woodfox's petition for an unconditional writ, which was filed Monday (March 30).

Woodfox has always maintained his innocence in the murder of the 23-year-old guard, Brent Miller. His designation as a member of the Angola 3 stems from what the group's supporters believe are wrongful convictions for prison murders in which Woodfox and two other prisoners were implicated for the purpose of silencing their activism. The International Coalition to Free the Angola 3 believes the men essentially became political prisoners for organizing an official Black Panther Party chapter inside the prison, which led hunger strikes and other demonstrations opposing inhumane prison conditions. Those conditions, in the early 1970s, included continued segregation, corruption and systematic prison rape.

An affidavit stemming from Woodfox's recent indictment says the murder occurred as Miller was talking with

fellow inmate Hezekiah Brown on Brown's bed when Woodfox and two others pounced on him, leaving Miller with 32 stab wounds.

Woodfox's lawyers used Brown's death as an example of the limitations a jury would face at a retrial because of the time lapse since the crime occurred.

Brown, the state's key witness, died before the second trial in 1998. Brown testified at the first trial to having seen Woodfox and fellow Angola 3 member, the late Herman Wallace, committing the murder and running from the scene. Although Brown said at the first trial that he was not promised favors in exchange for providing an eye-witness account, testimony of Warden C. Murray Henderson during the second trial indicates Brown was offered help obtaining a pardon before he testified at the first trial. The petition also says he was threatened with solitary confinement should he refuse to testify.

Brown, imprisoned at Angola on multiple rape charges, was eventually pardoned in 1986 and died in 1996.

Old testimony from dead witnesses that is deemed admissible can be read aloud in court and cross-examined during a new trial. But Woodfox's lawyers cited case law that acknowledged how the jury's opportunity to observe "facial expressions, attitudes, tone of voice, eye contact, posture and body movements" of witnesses falls in stark contrast to "merely looking at the cold pages of an appellate record."

The petition also notes a lack of physical evidence linking Woodfox to the crime. A bloody fingerprint taken from the scene did not match Woodfox or the other suspects implicated by the state, including his alleged co-conspirator, Wallace, it says.

Wall suggested, though, that Woodfox's attempt to bar the murder charge from being prosecuted again is based on his knowledge about the evidence against him.

"Two juries have unanimously convicted him for the murder of Brent Miller, and I can certainly understand why they wouldn't want another jury to hear the compelling evidence that's already been presented twice before," Wall said.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in November found the latest conviction should be vacated on constitutional grounds because of racial discrimination in the selection of the grand jury foreperson during his 1998 retrial. He was granted the second trial after courts vacated the first conviction on the basis of discrimination during proceedings in the early 1970s.

While Louisiana law doesn't allow its admittance in court, the petition notes Woodfox "has passed a polygraph test."

7 Apr - Victory Bus Project Rides

Victory Bus Project is a project of the Freedom Food Alliance and the VROOM Bus Cooperative. The name comes from Herman Bell's Victory Garden's Project, where farmers in Maine grew organic vegetables to be distributed for FREE in the Bronx, Brooklyn and parts of New Jersey. Herman Bell continues to inspire the work we do from inside the prison walls.

MORE:

The goal of this project is to provide affordable transportation for families in urban areas going to visit their loved ones in rural prisons for a box of fresh fruits and vegetables, making farm produce accessible. During the rides we engage families on how we collectively address the prison industrial complex and food sovereignty. Pushing folks to demand FARMS NOT PRISONS.

Pick ups are available in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Westchester. Servicing 15 prisons in the Hudson Valley.

NEXT SCHEDULED TRIPS;

Saturday April 24th and Sunday April 25th trips to Greene, Coxsackie and Hudson

Saturday May 2nd and Sunday May 3rd trips to Green Haven, Fishskill, Downstate, Wallkill, Shawangunk.
(Switched to the First Weekend because of Mother's Day)

Saturday May 9th and Sunday May 10th, MOTHER'S DAY trips to Bedford, Taconic and Sing Sing.

9 Apr - Chelsea Manning Letter of Thanks

Thanks to supporters like you, Wikileaks whistleblower Chelsea Manning has received over 17,000 letters and messages of support while in prison!

MORE:

This outpouring of support is due in part to the efforts of Amnesty International. Last year, Amnesty asked supporters to back the call to President Obama to free Chelsea Manning as part of their Write for Rights campaign.

Amnesty International has shared Chelsea Manning's thank you note to them- and to all her supporters who have taken action:

I wanted to thank all of you so very much for your actions of support and solidarity. I understand that over 200,000 actions were taken – that's absolutely incredible!

I am also so grateful for all the heartfelt support from the tens of thousands of people out there who took the time to write to me and the President.

These cards and letters literally flooded the mail room and my cell during my birthday, the holidays and Amnesty's Write for Rights campaign in December. I read each one! And I greatly appreciated all of your strong words of support, and your warm words of comfort.

I wish I had the time and ability to thank each one of you for giving me a little bit of joy with each letter and card. But, as much as I can try, it is difficult to do from here.

My days here are busy and very routine. I work at a vocational wood shop during the week – about the same number of hours as a full-time job. I am taking college correspondence courses for a bachelor's degree. I also work out a lot to stay fit, and read newspapers, magazines and books to keep up-to-date on current events around the world and learn new things.

I am now preparing for my court-martial appeal before the first appeals court. The appeal team, with my attorneys Nancy Hollander and Vince Ward, are hoping to file our brief before the court in the next six months. We have already had success in getting the court to respect my gender identity by using feminine pronouns in the court filings (she, her, etc).

I finally began my prescribed regime of hormones to continue my overdue gender transition in February. It's been such an amazing relief for my body and brain to finally come into alignment with each other. My stress and anxiety levels have tapered off quite considerably.

Overall, things are beginning to move along nicely. I'm so thankful for having all of your support to keep me optimistic. I'm staying strong because of you!

9 Apr - Maroon Shoatz Update

It's been a momentous last couple years in the long struggle to free Russell Maroon Shoatz.

MORE:

Thanks to your persistent advocacy, Maroon's case, and the political pretexts to his over forty years of confinement, have garnered widespread attention and sparked outrage from justice-seeking people across the globe.

As of April, 2015, we have launched a new web presence at WWW.RUSSELLMAROONSHOATZ.COM. There, we will be posting updates on Maroon's health, legal efforts, writings, as well as related news, campaigns,

and culture. If you are interested in contributing art, poems, essays, or articles to Maroon's blog, please contact maroonconnect@gmail.com.

We have also begun a brand new Email Announcement List. Even if you think you are already connected with us, please follow the link and sign up!

For background on Maroon's activism and imprisonment, please see his Case History on Our Website.

Maroon Has Started Cancer Treatment

After repeated delays in treatment earlier this year, followed by an emergency outside call-in effort in February, Maroon has begun radiation treatment for prostate cancer. Beginning to document his Chronology of Major Health Problems, Maroon writes:

“As a seventy one year old Political Prisoner I have spent over forty three continuous years in over twenty three jails, prisons and a maximum security mental institution, with over thirty of those years being held in solitary confinement.

During that period ... the most challenging health issues I have been faced with ... fall in two categories: major difficulties with both eyes, and prostate problems that have developed into prostate cancer.

Over the years I have struggled to PURCHASE large segments of medical records the prison and mental institutions compile on me. In the absence of a court order, no copies of these records have ever been available free-of-charge!

At the present time I am in possession of those records, and my legal team has also acquired more, since it's almost certain we will soon have to institute legal action to compel the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and its medical contractor(s) to provide me with proper medical care.”

Spring Maroon Book and Culinary Tour 2015

On March 28th, we launched the Spring Maroon 2015 Book and Culinary Tour. We'll be hosting community discussions based on writings in Maroon The Implacable, breaking bread with healthy food, and strategizing around Maroon's recovery and freedom. Throughout the U.S., all spring long, Maroon's son, Russell the III, will be leading these events, some of which will include smoothies made with the special ingredient “Maroon Moss,” a blend of sea vegetables, apples, kale and lemon! To see if the Spring Maroon Tour is stopping by a town near you, please see the Itinerary.

Stand With Mumia!

As with justice workers across the globe, we are very concerned about the treatment of Mumia Abu-Jamal during his recent decline in health. We urge you to connect with the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home and to Donate to Mumia's Health Care Fund. He needs independent, specialized medical attention, urgently. This is our major demand. We need to step up the pressure and oppose the attempt at state execution of Mumia by medical neglect. Free Mumia!

Social Media ‘Get Well’ Shout Outs for Maroon!

As we wish a speedy recovery and immediate medical justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal and his family, we want to inform supporters that Maroon has officially started the first of 44 treatments of radiation therapy. In light of Mumia's current situation, the journey for the release of our loved ones and comrades has taken on a renewed sense of urgency. We must continue to raise the issue of medical treatment for an aging demographic of inmates in U.S. prisons. More importantly, we must stay vigilant in our conversations with loved ones regarding their

medial records, Department of Corrections policies and procedures, and family rights. We have already lost many giants, men and women comrades in this struggle of revolution and freedom. We can't lose them twice...

With the launch of the Spring Maroon Book and Culinary Tour, and our new online presence, we are asking supporters to send their thoughts to Maroon as he embarks on this medical journey. Your greetings can come in any form. Submit a spoken word piece, poem, music, rap, tweet, 30 second video, "get well" shout outs, etc. e-mail maroonconnect@gmail.com to have your greeting posted on the site, and/or tweet @RussellMShoatz.

Support Maroon's Global Network

As we embark on a renewed fight to bring Maroon home, the time has come for us to reach out to you for financial support. The Shoatz family has been the primary funder of this campaign since Maroon was initially locked up in the early 1970s. In the simplest of terms, we don't have the resources to continue being this struggle's main financial engine. Please hit the PayPal link below to contribute.

No amount is too little. Please also consider sharing this information with family members, friends, and colleagues who may be able to support.

We offer you our deepest gratitude, and our hope to celebrate greater victories with you in the months and years to come.

16 Apr - Pack the Courtroom For Jalil Muntaqim

WHAT: Court Support

WHEN: 9:30am, Thursday, April 16th

WHERE: Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse - 40 Foley Square, New York, New York 10007

MORE:

There will be oral arguments in Bottom v. Pataki in Room 1505 at 10 a.m. Although Jalil will not be in court himself, he would like people to turn out and show community support. Be there by 9:30 a.m. at the latest in order to be in the courtroom on time. nycjericho@gmail.com - 917.544.1577 For more info: freejalil.com

17 Apr - To Change Everything

WHAT: Discussion On Anarchy, International and Local

WHEN: 8pm sharp, Friday, April 17th, 2015

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

NOTE: The Base is on the ground floor, is wheelchair accessible, and has a gender neutral toilet.

COST: FREE, but this is a fund raiser for The Base, so bring your wallet

MORE:

Just one night before the 2015 NYC Anarchist Book Fair, NYC ABC is hosting an event to encourage anarchy in our city. It's happening at Brooklyn's only anarchist social center– The Base.

Today, even the entrenched representatives of the status quo admit that it is necessary to change everything. But the best they can come up with is to appeal to the same authorities and values that caused these problems in the first place. What will it take to make a clean break?

In this discussion, a participant in the CrimethInc. Collective will explore the most provocative themes in their international multimedia outreach project To Change Everything, tying them into struggles taking place around the world and in New York City today. Please join us for a lively conversation!

19 Apr – Anarchist Convergence

WHAT: Post Anarchist Book Fair Meet Up

WHEN: 11:00am, Sunday, April 19th

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

With the appearance of a contemporary anti-state region in Rojava, the vehemence of recent anti-police movement across the US, and global disengagement with/mistrust in hierarchical governance, the time seems ripe for anarchist systems of organization. We would like to call this convergence so that geographically separated anarchists can meet face-to-face and discuss their projects and ideas for driving the movement forward. We want to welcome groups and spaces from out of town and look forward to learning from you and sharing the strategies behind NYC-based projects.

We'll have a very brief spokes council where people can talk about the projects they are working on, and then we'll break out and have an opportunity to talk casually and make connections with other people working in tandem.

25 Apr - Lenny Foster on Native American Issues and Leonard Peltier

WHAT: Speaking event

WHERE: Room 10T, Riverside Church - 91 Claremont Avenue New York, New York

WHEN: 2:00-5:00pm, Saturday, April 25th

COST: FREE, but donations are appreciated

MORE:

Lenny Foster of the Diné Nation is the Director of the Navajo Nation Corrections Project and the Spiritual Advisor for more than 2,000 Native American inmates in ninety-six state and federal prisons in the Western U.S. He has co-authored legislation in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado allowing Native American spiritual and religious practice in prison and resulting in significant reductions in prison returns.

He is a board member of the International Indian Treaty Council, a sun dancer and member of the Native American Church. He has been with the American Indian Movement since 1969 and has participated in actions including Alcatraz, Black Mesa, the Trail of Broken Treaties, Wounded Knee 1973, the Menominee Monastery Occupation, Shiprock Fairchild Occupation, the Longest Walk and the Big Mountain land struggle.

Lenny Foster has received many accolades and honors for his groundbreaking work with Indigenous prisoners' human rights. These include the Dr. Martin Luther King Civil Rights Award in Phoenix, Arizona (1993) and Kansas City, Missouri (1996); the Petra Foundation Human Rights Award in Washington, D.C. (1997) and the Citizen's Award for Commendation of the Governor's Religious Advisory Task Force in Salt Lake City, Utah (1997). His program was awarded High Honors from Harvard University Honoring Nations 2003 Tribal Governance Excellence. He was awarded a fellowship by the Windcall Foundation in Bozeman, Montana in June 2004. He was the recipient of the Unsung Hero Award by the Utah Division of Indian Affairs on Indigenous Day, November 22, 2004 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He received the Volunteer of the Year Native American Spiritual Advisor from the Federal Correctional Complex in Tucson, Arizona in April 2009. He also received the 2013 U.S. Human Rights Network Movement Builders Award.

Sponsors: The Riverside Church Prison Ministry, NYC Free Peltier

For more info: nycfreepeltier@gmail.com • 646-429-2059

28 Apr - Rally and Pack the Court for the Brooklyn Bridge 5

WHAT: Court Support

WHEN: 9:00am, Tuesday, April 28th

WHERE: 100 Centre Street, Court 31 New York, New York

MORE:

The Brooklyn Bridge 5, are arrestees from a scuffle with cops following the Millions March in December. The

five have since been indicted on a range of felonies and misdemeanors, and will have their first day in court later this month.

The case against the Brooklyn Bridge arrestees is one part of a larger counterattack against the anti-police brutality movement that exploded across the country this year.

Let's push back, and keep our movement strong! Support these comrades against trumped-up charges, by flipping this court date into a rally, and packing the courtroom!