



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for September 15th

31 Aug - Memorial and Eulogy For Hugo Pinell

With the death of Hugo “Yogi Bear” Pinell, many have written memorials. We’ve included some below.

MORE:

August 31st - Hugo Lyon Antonio Pinell, aka Daddy

by Allegra Taylor (*SF BayView*)

Aug. 12, 2015, I sat waiting for the mail to come as I did each day. This day it was different because for the first time my dad was in his first lockdown on the mainline. He had only been there 15 days – abruptly moved on July 29 after a meeting with the DRB (Departmental Review Board) on July 28. Each day I waited to hear from him hoping and praying he was OK. Finally the mailman delivered the letter I was waiting for.

Here are quotes from Daddy’s letter I received the day he was killed. It’s dated Aug. 10, 2015 – a small sample of my loving Dad:

Hi, Presiosa. Thinking of you always and loving you more with each heartbeat. Sending more love to the family and to All other true loved ones. It is Monday morning and it appears that the program is getting back to normal because more prisoners were let out for work assignments, but nothing official. No yard today; I know for sure because it is 12:00 p.m. and we usually go out at 11 a.m.

My Sweetheart Daughter, I love you, love you honey. I felt uncomfortable posing for our first photo. I was nervous; somehow I mustered up a smile. Then you got almost behind me, put your arms around me and I felt wonderful. Do take much care, give everyone more love and Yogi Bear hugs, and keep loving me.

More hugs, kisses, and love,
Your Daddy, Hugo L. Antonio”

Just a couple of hours after receiving my Dad’s letter, wherein he was telling me not to worry because he was OK and the lockdown had been placed on modified program; the phone rang and I answered it – to hear the news of my Dad being killed.

My heart was instantly broken. I fell to my knees ... they killed my Daddy!

The news reports started coming in. On every television channel, they were talking about him being the most notorious and the most dangerous man in the CDCR (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation). To hear them describe my Dad that way was akin to killing him over and over again.

They referred to him as inmate A88401. To mainstream media, he was just another inmate, the worst of the worst. To so many, including many of the inmates, he was considered a living legend. He was considered to be the one who could not be broken.

He was the committed one, the one with vision and fortitude. To those who knew him personally, he was even more: He was the first born son, first grandchild, the big brother, the uncle, the nephew, and even the cousin. To me he was simply DAD!

My Dad was the best dad in the world. He used to say: “Honey I can’t give you much because I am here, and you are out there. The one thing I can give you is love.” Those words became the beginning of the best days of my life.

Each and every weekend I couldn't wait to see him. My Dad was soft spoken and honest in sharing with me anything I wanted to know about the past, the present and the future.

We had the best times together in our visits. He would talk and I listened. I talked and he listened. We cried and laughed together.

We went on imaginary trips back to San Francisco to our old neighborhood to Mission Delores Park, always together. It was our way of escaping the reality that he was in there and I was out here.

He would sing songs to me in English and in Spanish. He would tell me how blessed he felt to have me in his life and how spending time with me felt like a reward for the time he had invested in becoming a new man.

My Dad was a class act of love. No matter what he endured, he kept pushing on. He often stated that the continuous love and support he received was his backbone.

My Dad shall be remembered as unifier of people. He lived, fought and died with purpose. His conviction as a humanitarian made him a revolutionary and an agent for change. His principal sense of integrity and love was the foundation of his strength.

In Loving Memory of my Dad.

September 4th - Alvaro Luna Hernández on the life and death of Hugo “Yogi Bear” Pinell

POWER TO THE PEOPLE! POWER TO OUR FALLEN COMRADE BROTHER HUGO “YOGI BEAR” PINELL! We were saddened with the news that Yogi had been murdered last Wednesday, August 12, during an alleged “prison riot” at a Sacramento maximum security prison, after Yogi’s recent release from decades in solitary confinement in the California prison system. Our prison movement, as well as our outside social movement grieves at the loss of one of its most respected and beloved foot soldiers, within the belly of this fascist beast, in our mutual struggles against the common enemy of the human species — the systems of colonialism, neo-colonialism, capitalism, imperialism and fascism. Although I never personally met Comrade Yogi, through his letters, writings, and actual deeds, as one of the SAN QUENTIN-SIX and close confidant of Comrade GEORGE JACKSON, also murdered by the State of California on AUGUST 21, 1971, during the takeover and “liberation” of the Adjustment Center’s control unit in San Quentin prison. I met Yogi in revolutionary spirit as we were then, and are now, continuing to build our national prison movement to educate, re-educate, the entire prisoner class that we are all victims of social injustice, of the racist, criminal injustice system, and to expose the true nature of prisons under capitalism.

Commitment to our human transformation through social awareness in struggle for the defense of our human dignity and our human rights, to build the unity of prisoners across all racial lines, as advocates for national and international revolution, will bring down against us the entire totalitarian power and brutalities of the fascist capitalist state, from prison guard beatings, to horrible food, parole denial, denial of adequate medical attention, false prison disciplinary and criminal charges, to retaliation for exercise of rights, to decades in isolation in solitary confinement’s torture supermax control unit prisons, to being set-up by prison guards for murder either by prison pigs themselves, and/or allowing other racist, violent criminal elements from within to commit these heinous criminal acts, so the prison system can then attempt to wash its bloody hands of its murderous deeds. The fact that hours after Comrade Yogi’s death, California prison guards and other racist, reactionary elements got on “social media” to rejoice at the murder of Yogi, vicious nature of the State and its stoogies.

These cowardly vipers, rats and snakes came all out of their viper holes to rejoice at the murder of Yogi, showing how these racist, reactionary, fascist and vicious forces, inside and outside of prison walls, recognized Comrade Yogi as a living, historical SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE, and a “threat” to this same

capitalist system that breeds crime, poverty, racism, class and racial divisions, mass incarceration of the poor especially people of color who are disproportionately represented in this “NEW JIM CROW SYSTEM,” borrowing Michelle Alexander’s phrase from her book, a genocidal, murderous, plantation slavery system under capitalism, sanctioned by the 13th Amendment, U.S. Constitution, that must be abolished. YOGI was a “threat” to this criminal system, for he feared not to stand up and fight against the fascist state despite these brutal conditions, as being “BURIED ALIVE,” YOGI’s common expression in his many letters to others. His political revolutionary transformation and development, from a misguided, confused youth who was sent to prison at his early age, to his status as a “giant” of our prison movement, under the tutor of COMRADE GEORGE JACKSON, and the BLACK PANTHER PARTY, demonstrating a lifetime commitment to our resistance struggles, no matter the odds behind these racist, brutal, fascist walls in this steel –enclosed concrete tombs and concentration camps for the poor.

These state-actor criminals, and other accomplices in crime, that murdered Comrade Yogi are fools for they didn’t kill him, for Yogi lives on in our hearts, for they will never, ever, be able to kill our revolutionary ideas, and our aspirations to free ourselves, and the rest of humanity, from these chains of bondage and slavery that is this WAGE-THEFT socioeconomic system under bourgeoisie capitalism, a paradise for the rich, and a living hell for the poor, the workers who must sell their labor power to the slave-masters who not only trample on our social and humanity dignity, but are the same capitalist barbarians who are destroying the environment, our ecological systems, wildlife, and MOTHER EARTH for private, corporate profit. ANOTHER FOOT SOLDIER HAS ALREADY STEPPED UP TO FILL THE VOID LEFT BY THE TRAGIC LOSS OF OUR COMRADE BROTHER HUGO “YOGI BEAR” PINELL. I AM HONORED TO BE FEATURED IN THE MOST RECENT POW, POLITICAL PRISONER POSTER PUT OUT BY THE JERICHO MOVEMENT, NEXT TO COMRADE YOGI.

TO ALL PROGRESSIVE, SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONALLY, I SAY TO YOU, DO NOT ALLOW THIS LOSS, LIFE, TO GO IN VAIN, WE MUST RE-DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS AT MASS MOBILIZATION, OF THE OPPRESSED, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PRISON WALLS, AND WORK DILIGENTLY TO INFUSE OUR MOVEMENTS WITH REVOLUTIONARY ENERGY AND DETERMINISM, TO HOLD EACH OTHER BY OUR HANDS, AND OUR HEARTS, AND LINK ALL OF OUR INTER-COMMUNAL STRUGGLES IN OUR OPPRESSED BARRIOS, FAVELAS, GHETTOS, COMMUNITIES, IN PRISONS, IN OUR UNIVERSITIES, AND AROUND THE WORLD, FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS YOUR STRUGGLE.

LET US NOT FORGET THAT THE VICIOUS, CRIMINAL, FASCIST MURDER OF COMRADE YOGI IS THE SAME CAPITALIST PRISON DESIGN OF FASCIST, RACIST VIOLENCE AGAINST THE POOR, AS SOCIAL CONTROL MECHANISMS TO ELIMINATE OUR FOOT SOLDIERS AND TO DESTROY OUR “PRISON MOVEMENT” AND SUPPRESS OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS, IN THE BELLY OF THE NERVE CENTER OF FASCIST IMPERIALISM. WE ARE THE REVOLUTIONARY VANGUARD AND WE MUST ACT LIKE ONE.

THIS BLACK AUGUST, WE SALUTE AND HONOR AND MEMORIALIZE ALL OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS, WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE WITH THEIR BLOOD, , LIKE MALCOLM X, JONATHAN, GEORGE JACKSON, THE ATTICA BROTHERS, RUBEN SALAZAR, DIAZ, WARD, HUEY NEWTON, MARILYN BUCK, SACCO AND VENZETTI, HUGO “YOGI BEAR” PINELL, AND MANY, MANY MORE SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE. WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU! SEIZE THE TIME! DEATH OF U.S. FASCISM! ABOLISH ALL PRISONS! BUILD THE UNITED FRONT AGAINST FASCISM! POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

HUGO “YOGI BEAR” PINELL, PRESENTE!!!

31 Aug - Barrett Brown’s notebook confiscated as “contraband”

Just days out of Segregated Housing, still under heavy restrictions, Barrett Brown continues to endure prison retaliation.

MORE:

Barrett reports, "A guard seized a notebook of mine right outside the law library despite my objections that it contained privileged legal information." Barrett says that he will discuss this further in his next Intercept column. The incident report, dated 23 August 2015, indicates that Brown was in possession of contraband: "unauthorized green notebook."

31 Aug - Update on Nicole and Joseph

Two animal rights activists, accused of freeing animals and acts of vandalism, yet being tried for terrorism, had a recent court appearance waived, but will be back in court September 14th.

MORE:

A motion was filed by their attorneys to have their September 9th, San Diego court appearance waived and today that motion was granted by the judge. Nicole and Josephs attorneys will be there in court, and not guilty pleas will be entered in their absence. They will not have to travel to San Diego and will be staying home in Oakland for this one.

Thank you to everyone from the bay area, LA area, and San Diego that were planning on coming to court next Wednesday to support Nicole and Joseph, and thank you to everyone in all corners of the world who have been donating to the support fund, buying items off the amazon.com wish list, and stepping up in any way you can.

Please continue to check out the support site for further updates on the case and to learn about ways to show your support.

1 Sept - "We Are At the Very Beginning of a New Epoch:" Chelsea Manning On the Luxury of Privacy

PAPER is proud to present this conversation between an affiliation of artists and activists and Chelsea Manning.

MORE:

In the following exchange, conducted via US mail and encrypted web platforms, Manning takes questions from electronic-music artists Holly Herndon and Mat Dryhurst; design duo Metahaven, aka Daniel van der Velden and Vinca Kruk; and Web-activist Jacob Appelbaum. Together, they weigh the strictures and possibilities not just of government, but of technology, culture and gender.

Jacob Appelbaum: This is Jacob. I am an American by birth and for the last two years, I have been living in exile in Berlin as a reward for my work with WikiLeaks and The Tor Project.

Holly Herndon and Mat Dryhurst: Hi, this is Holly and Mat. We are musicians who are interested in creating new fantasies for new realities.

Daniel van der Velden and Vinca Kruk: Hi, we are Daniel and Vinca of Metahaven, an Amsterdam-based group of designers who are interested in identifying radical aesthetics with progressive politics. We collaborate on numerous projects together. Most recently, we designed a "FREE CHELSEA MANNING" T-shirt that contained the slogan "INFILTRATE WITH LOVE." We first sold the shirt at a packed concert in Berlin we played recently, and were able to deliver a speech in honor of those who have taken a stand for transparency and compassion. It was a beautiful evening. We have managed to raise thousands of euros so far, and all proceeds are being donated to your legal defense fund. As may be clear from our questions, we are interested in other ways we might help you in our capacities as public artists, designers, journalists and activists.

Herndon & Dyhurst: We see our digital selves as emotionally integrated with our physical selves, which we try to represent through our work aesthetically. Has your relationship to your digital self or your avatar changed since your incarceration, in that your avatar is able to interact with the public through Twitter?

My relationship with my digital self has changed a lot over the last few years of incarceration. I feel that my digital representation — my avatar, as you put it — has been restricted by the various filters that I've had imposed on it, first throughout my initial confinement at Quantico, Virginia, then through my court-martial, and now my time here at Fort Leavenworth. It — or rather she — has been through several changes, including gender, voice, and frequency and intensity of interaction. Beyond the obvious physical disconnection with me, personally — she has been filtered through the administrative restrictions — mostly military-specific — imposed on what I can and can't say through her. It can be frustrating, but the challenge is absolutely worth it.

Kruk & van der Velden: The American philosopher and activist Cornell West has said about whistleblowing that “justice must be rescued by something deeper than justice, namely love”; “justice is what love looks like in public”; “you’re a militant for gentleness”; “a subversive for sweetness”; “a radical for tenderness.” This pretty much sums up how we feel about you! Do West’s words resonate with you?

I don't consider myself a “radical.” In fact, none of Cornell West's statements come across as radical to me. Radical in American society has, I think, become this buzzword that makes a lot of ideas and discussions seem foreign or new to people — whether for or against them. Is it radical to seek justice? Is it radical to be rescued by love? Is it subversive to be sweet? I think if you go around the country and ask people they will almost universally agree — at least in principle. Instead of trying to be “radical”; I just try to be true to myself! Is it radical to be true to yourself? Maybe it is? I don't know, but it just makes sense to me, haha!

Appelbaum: The African National Congress and their allies struggled for nearly 100 earth years before they brought post-racial democracy to South Africa. The resistance movement against apartheid, just as apartheid itself, cost lives. Looking at Aaron Swartz, Barrett Brown, Jeremy Hammond, Edward Snowden, Sarah Harrison, Julian Assange and yourself, one asks oneself, Is our struggle of this magnitude? Is this only the start of things with darker times to come, or are things starting to turn around, where we can see the dark times as a matter of history?

I believe that we are just at the very beginning of a new epoch. I've believed this for a very longtime, probably starting around my early teens when I was really spending a lot of time online to “escape” my life — school, bullying, my awkward relationship with family, my gender identity — at night. I think that with ubiquitous and total access to highly connected information technology, and with ubiquitous digital and robotic automation, and with increasingly elegant and intuitive human/machine interfacing we are slowly beginning to blur the lines between the concepts that have seemed so separate for generations, such as the relationships between gender, sexuality, art and work. As we begin to ascend into a new era — which sometimes includes ideas of “transhumanism” and the information, economic and technological “singularity” — perhaps we are going to begin to slowly embrace, or fear, a post-human world? If it happens quickly enough, we might even find out ourselves!

Kruk & van der Velden: In a push for a more just, less hierarchical social and political model, with more solidarity, maybe what we need are new and unexpected coalitions. Maybe there is such a coalition around you, consisting of people (including ourselves) who feel deeply inspired and touched by your work, who care about you and publicly support you. We also need new shared actions for a more horizontally democratic and thriving community embracing progress, crypto, complexity and beauty. What could a next chapter be, and who should meet and form coalitions?

I absolutely believe that there is a coalition that is forming. I don't think it's new or unexpected at all though. It's the coalition of humanity! We've been slowly acting and encouraging and inspiring and

discovering for thousands of years, and we're only just scratching the surface. I think that we've been realizing the existence of structural and institutional problems in our society for millennia, and challenging them and improving them — especially in the last five hundred years or so. As for our next chapter, it's already starting to happen. We're starting to realize that there are other people who don't look like us or experience the world like us that actually think and feel the same way that we do. It's an incredible leap for humanity to start to break down the automatic factionalism that gender, race, sexuality, and culture have been the basis of since time immemorial. In America, we can see this with all the different vectors and factions that are starting to align with each other in a way that doesn't fit into a "one size fits all" category. This will continue at an exponential rate, I hope.

Herndon & Dryhurst: Since your avatar plays such a vital role in your participation at the moment, how do you feel about platforms such as Facebook not allowing people to choose their own identities online, including name and gender? Is it liberating to use an illustration instead of a photograph to represent yourself online?

Facebook's policies are a reflection of their unique history — first as a Boston/Cambridge area student social media site — and current business model. I think that their targeted advertising and "big data" search filters require taking discrete and "accurate" — from the perspective of their advertising clients — data for tracking and analysis. This is why they do what they do, and why such big institutions resist allowing us to define ourselves, because it takes away from their power — either directly, especially in the case of governments, or indirectly, as in social media's advertising models.

Appelbaum: In a struggle for the Internet — which represents in a sense, a civil society in an ideal form — what are the actions each person might take, and what are the values that we should work to attain as realities? In the varied Cypherpunk communities, we see a trend of running Tor relays, of using encryption for communications, for writing and using Free Software for Freedom. What should we do to declare our independence from anti-democratic forces seeking to monitor, to censor, to tamper and even to eradicate other humans?

I think it's an odd paradox that technology is providing for us. We are more diverse and open as a society — yet we also seem to be more homogenous and insecure than ever before. I think that today's technology certainly provide tools that can be used to declare a kind of digital independence from institutional control through monitoring, censorship, and political — and physical — eradication. But, I don't think these tools are any more necessary than they are without them. We can still be independent without technology. Some people might even find their independence in embracing the Luddite philosophy and shunning technology. Ultimately though, in this constant technological arms race, we are always only one breakthrough away from making our methods to get past such institutions irrelevant or unusable. We might wake up tomorrow and find out that the Riemann hypothesis has been solved by some brilliant person or group of people, suddenly making most of our encryption algorithms weak — or we might wake up tomorrow and find out that a six-to-ten-qubit quantum computer has been built, accomplishing the same thing! My point is, technology only takes us so far. For me, the most important element is the human one — let's try not to forget that!

Appelbaum: Your situation is intolerable and beyond reason; you sit in prison for thirty-five years while those who carried out torture, murder and other war crimes walk American streets freely. While many fight to free you, the system is simply stacked against us all. Given these restraints, what are the specific things that we could do or rally around to improve your situation?

You can certainly work toward improving my situation by donating to my legal defense fund. We're working on a lot of big issues in my case — which has the potential to become landmark precedent in the American jurisprudence system — that affect a lot of people in America. It's so very important that they get help too. Paying the legal bills is the biggest logistical hurdle to that at this point. Ultimately though, keeping me motivated — because sometimes it can get pretty tough emotionally — and ensuring that

people haven't forgotten just how important this case is for our ensuring that our rights are protected in our society, will certainly work toward that end as well.

Herndon & Dyhurst: How might we, or others, use art to ensure that the things that you and others expose are not in vain?

Read everything. Absorb everything that is out there and act as your own filter. Hunt down your own answers to questions. This is the only advice that is actually worth anything. If you don't read these things yourself, then you can't say that you truly understand what humanity has done, and where we are going. We can't spend our lives getting spoon-fed all of our information every day and then expect to understand our world. Only then will you understand that people are still hurting and dying in the world around us.

Herndon & Dyhurst: London-based economist Guy Standing writes about the left's collective need for paradisiac alternatives to our contemporary conditions, something that the right has understood for some time. We see our art practice as an arena to develop and enact new fantasies — without relying on nostalgia or past ideals. What would be your idea of a paradise politics? What are your fantasies for the future?

It's difficult to say what my kind of political paradise or utopia would look like. I mean, given the fact that humanity has thus far managed to avoid it, yet still improve upon it, a practical and realistic vision of utopia is, I think, currently beyond our biologically imposed ability to construct or comprehend. I do believe that three things would likely contribute to a situation in which we might figure it out: an abundance-based economy where energy and matter are never scarce, virtually instant and infinite access to every other person and all the available information in such a society, and a wisdom or insight that allows such a society to act in harmony. Is it possible? I don't know. I guess we'll find out, won't we?

1 Sept - Landmark Agreement Ends Indeterminate Long-Term Solitary Confinement in California

Settlement Reached in California Class Action Suit Moves Out of SHU Those There 10 Years or Longer, Ends Solitary Purely Due to Gang Validation.

MORE:

Today, the parties have agreed on a landmark settlement in the federal class action *Ashker v. Governor of California* that will effectively end indeterminate, long-term solitary confinement in all California state prisons. Subject to court approval, the agreement will result in a dramatic reduction in the number of people in solitary across the state and a new program that could be a model for other states going forward. The class action was brought in 2012 on behalf of prisoners held in solitary confinement at the Pelican Bay prison, often without any violent conduct or serious rule infractions, often for more than a decade, and all without any meaningful process for transfer out of isolation and back to the general prison population. Ashker argued that California's use of prolonged solitary confinement constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and denies prisoners the right to due process.

"This settlement represents a monumental victory for prisoners and an important step toward our goal of ending solitary confinement in California, and across the country," the plaintiffs said in a joint statement. "California's agreement to abandon indeterminate SHU confinement based on gang affiliation demonstrates the power of unity and collective action. This victory was achieved by the efforts of people in prison, their families and loved ones, lawyers, and outside supporters."

"Today's victories are the result of the extraordinary organizing the prisoners managed to accomplish despite extreme conditions," said Center for Constitutional Rights President and lead attorney Jules Lobel. "This far-reaching settlement represents a major change in California's cruel and unconstitutional solitary confinement system. There is a mounting awareness across the nation of the devastating consequences of solitary — some key reforms California agreed to will hopefully be a model for other states."

When the case was filed in 2012, more than 500 prisoners had been isolated in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay for over 10 years, and 78 had been there for more than 20 years. They spent 22 ½ to 24 hours every day in a cramped, concrete, windowless cell, and were denied telephone calls, physical contact with visitors, and vocational, recreational, and educational programming. Hundreds of other prisoners throughout California have been held in similar SHU conditions.

Today's settlement transforms California's use of solitary confinement from a status-based system to a behavior-based system; prisoners will no longer be sent to solitary based solely on gang affiliation, but rather based on infraction of specific serious rules violations. It also limits the amount of time a prisoner can spend in the Pelican Bay SHU and provides a two-year step-down program for transfer from SHU to general population.

The agreement creates a new non-solitary but high-security unit for the minority of prisoners who have been held in any SHU for more than 10 years and who have a recent serious rule violation. They will be able to interact with other prisoners, have small-group recreation and educational and vocational programming, and contact visits.

Extensive expert evidence in the case established severe physical and psychological harm among California SHU prisoners as a result of prolonged solitary confinement. Plaintiffs worked with 10 experts in the fields of psychology, neuroscience, medicine, prison security and classification, and international human rights law. The resulting reports provide an unprecedented and holistic analysis of the impact of prolonged solitary confinement on human beings and provided guidance in the construction of the settlement reforms.

Federal Magistrate Judge Nandor Vadas will oversee these reforms for two years, a term that may be extended if the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is found to be violating prisoners' constitutional rights.

Representatives of the prisoners who brought this lawsuit and plaintiffs' counsel will meet with CDCR regularly to ensure compliance. Plaintiffs' counsel will receive extensive documentation of the new policies and practices and will meet frequently with Judge Vadas to oversee the agreement.

"The seeds of this victory are in the unity of the prisoners in their peaceful hunger strike of 2011. That courageous and principled protest galvanized support on both sides of the prison walls for a legal challenge to California's use of solitary confinement," said Carol Strickman, staff attorney at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, which is co-counsel in the case.

Ashker v. Governor of California amended an earlier lawsuit filed by Pelican Bay SHU prisoners Todd Ashker and Danny Troxell representing themselves. In addition to Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, co-counsel in the case are California Prison Focus, Siegel & Yee, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, Christensen O'Connor Johnson Kindness PLLC, Ellenberg & Hull, and the Law Offices of Charles Carbone. The case is before Judge Claudia Wilken in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

2 Sept - Report On Albert Woodfox's Oral Arguments

Below is a corporate media account of Albert Woodfox's recent oral arguments before the 5th circuit court of appeals.

MORE:

by Emily Lane (*The Times-Picayune*)

The potential release of Albert Woodfox, who has spent more that 40 years in solitary confinement in Louisiana prisons, will be considered by a federal appeals court Wednesday (Sept. 2) in New Orleans.

Woodfox is under a third indictment in West Feliciana Parish for the 1972 murder of a Louisiana State Penitentiary prison guard, at Angola.

At issue in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Wednesday is whether or not an order issued June 8 by U.S. District Judge James Brady, who granted the unconditional release of the 68-year-old inmate, should stand. Brady ruled not only that Woodfox should be freed, but that he should not be tried a third time for the 43-year-old prison murder.

Louisiana State Attorney General appealed Brady's decision and successfully secured an injunction to block Woodfox's release during the appeals process.

Woodfox has always maintained his innocence, claiming he was implicated in the murder of the 23-year-old guard to silence his activism as an organizing member of the prison's Black Panther Party chapter.

Brady listed five factors in Woodfox's case that qualify as "exceptional circumstances" to merit barring a third trial.

"The five factors include: Mr. Woodfox's age and poor health, his limited ability to present a defense at a third trial in light of the unavailability of witnesses, this Court's lack of confidence in the State to provide a fair third trial, the prejudice done onto Mr. Woodfox by spending over forty-years in solitary confinement, and finally the very fact that Mr. Woodfox has already been tried twice and would otherwise face his third trial for a crime that occurred over forty years ago," Brady wrote.

Amnesty International, one of the largest human rights organizations, has called for Woodfox's release.

"Today, Albert Woodfox remains doubly trapped -- both in solitary confinement and in a deeply flawed legal process that has spanned four decades," said Jasmine Heiss, a representative with Amnesty International USA who attended Wednesday's hearing. "Judge Brady's writ of unconditional release should have been the final chapter in Albert's 43-year nightmare. Now we can only hope that the courts will finally provide Albert some measure of justice."

Woodfox's 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, the late Herman Wallace and Robert King were implicated in retaliation 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 racial segregation, corruption and "systematic prison rape," Tory Pegram, the manager of the International Coalition to Free the Angola 3 Pegram, has said.

Teenie Rogers, the widow of slain guard Brent Miller, recently reiterated previous statements about her belief that Woodfox and Wallace were not responsible for her husband's death. Miller's brother, Stan Miller, and other family members, however, have said they believe Woodfox murdered Miller and should remain imprisoned.

3 Sept - Support Parole For Eddie Africa

In October 2015, our brother Eddie Africa is set to make another appearance before the Pennsylvania Parole Board and your letters of support are urgently needed. All necessary information is below.

MORE:

We are asking for your support at this critical stage to secure the freedom Eddie deserves. Feel free to use the sample letter below and write in your own words.

NOTE: Please send all letters of support to **Orie Ross, Post Office Box 575, Times Square Station, New York, New York 10108-0575** so they can be reviewed and sent to the Board. The deadline for letters is Wednesday September 30th.

Sample Letter:

Board of Probation and Parole
Attn: Inmate Inquiry
1001 South Front Street, Suite 5300
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17104

September 3, 2015

Regarding October 2015 Parole Hearing for: Edward Goodman #AM-4974

Dear Honorable Members of the Parole Board:

As a concerned citizen interested in helping Mr. Goodman successfully transition into life outside prison, I am writing to ask that you please grant him parole. He has served now 37 years of a 30-100 year sentence, even though the average sentence for his charges is 10-15 years. He is still in prison years after his minimum sentence despite having no major disciplinary problems in the last three decades. The notice provided to Mr. Goodman for his last parole denial lists the reasons for the denial as: "Your minimization/denial of the nature and circumstances of the offense(s) committed," "Your refusal to accept responsibility for the offense(s) committed" and "The negative recommendation made by the prosecuting attorney."

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

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

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

Sincerely,

4 Sept - New Writings By And Urgent Alert For Mumia Abu-Jamal

Recently, prison staff boxed-up all Mumia's personal effects from his cell while he was in the prison infirmary trying to recover from the prison's medical malfeasance and neglect that nearly killed him. We need you to call on his behalf.

MORE:

September 4th - From Katrina To Ferguson

It's been 10 years since the watery carnage of Katrina, and 1 year since the fiery rage lit the night skies of Ferguson Missouri and between the two harrowing events lay the state of Black America isolate, demonized and damned.

When the levees broke and the rushing waters of Hurricane Katrina swept into the wards of New Orleans, the 9th Ward - the Blackest ward – received the greatest damage, and the least relief.

Today, 10 years after its horrific flooding, the 9th is barely half of its former population of working class and poor inhabitants. It is a shell of its pre-flood glory.

What the residents of the 9th learned was the hard, cold truth that they were all on their own – alone facing the fury of the storm.

Oh – they could call 911, and they may even have gotten an answer –but no one came for them.

For they were in the 9th Ward – as Black as they were expendable.

Flip to Ferguson, summer of 2014, the time of Mike Brown's killing by a cop, and the subsequent explosion of protest by Black youth.

Young Black men, women and children took to the streets, and faced police sniper rifles, automatic weapons, Humvees and scared, paranoid white cops.

How many of us knew that protests have continued, daily, since then?

The media may've fled the story, but the people haven't. Some have pitched tents. Others have set daily times to join the protests.

But they are there – every day – to remind us of their very deep and very real discontent with an oppressive system that has soured their days and nights.

For the fires of Ferguson still burn; they burn in their hearts, they simmer in their souls, they roar in their minds, these fires of discontent.

And Katrina? If ever we wondered if Black lives mattered, the squalid treatment of the people of New Orleans, especially the 9th Ward, answered that question –decisively.

Politicians, banks, media and entrepreneurs plucked what they could, and kept on moving, leaving the intrepid souls of the 9th to fend for themselves; isolated, demonized, damned.

Katrina & Ferguson: Touchpoints for Black America.

September 11th - 'When We Fight, We Win!'; Why Movements Matter

As protests and demonstrations sprout across the land, young organizers and activists need to know why and how movements are sustained and grow.

That resource has arrived. It's a slim volume, chockfull of artwork entitled "When We Fight, We Win!" (The New Press: 2015) A work of activists, artists, and organizers, "When We Fight, We Win!" cites the observation of LGBTQ and immigrant rights movement worker, Paulina Helm-Hernandez, who described the book as "a love letter to movements."

“When We Fight...” addresses six major movements: sexual liberation; the struggle for public education; the prison abolition movement; immigrant rights; economic rights for workers, and the struggle for a healthy environment. It discusses victories and losses high points and depths, lessons learned and missed opportunities.

The core of its message is that social movements really matter, and when they are smart adaptive, determined and focused, they can win against tremendous odds. For such movements change minds, they transform consciousness, and they build social power that their opponents cannot resist.

They echo, in action the words of one the greatest Black leaders in American history, Frederick Douglass: “Without Struggle, There is No Progress”.

September 8th – Alert For Mumia

The handling of prison property in the absence of a prisoner is a violation of prison procedures. After signing the forms required when prisoner property is placed in storage, Mumia asked if he was about to be moved to a different facility, since the boxing up of a prisoner’s property usually precedes a transfer. An officer assured him that he would not be transferred; but this all seemed really strange to Mumia.

A retaliatory transfer to some other prison would be a new blow against Mumia’s health, and would steep him and his family in greater fear and uncertainty.

Why do we sense retaliation? Because Mumia’s attorneys have filed a lawsuit charging the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections with medical neglect, i.e. with failure to diagnose his disease in a timely way and with continuing to deny him adequate treatment of his debilitating and life-threatening Hepatitis C condition. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections was set to respond to the lawsuit this Thursday in court. A transfer to another prison, without giving him fully professional healthcare, would be retaliatory. Indeed it would be an attack Mumia, another way for his enemies to see him dead. We must stop any retaliatory transfer. No transfer of Mumia should take place that does not take him to a quality medical center for cure of his very serious, but treatable, Hepatitis C condition. Keep up the fight for Mumia’s life!

CALL the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and Mumia’s prison – starting now. Here’s the message:

Stop Any Retaliatory Transfer!
Treat-to-Cure Mumia’s Hepatitis C Now!

Phone in both of these demands to:
John Wetzel, Secretary of Corrections, Pennsylvania
Phone: 717.728.2573
John Kerestes, Superintendent, SCI-Mahanoy prison
Phone: 570.773.2158

5 Sept - Maliki Shakur Latine Releases Statement for Running Down the Walls 2015

Maliki Shakur Latine wrote a statement to be read at Running Down the Walls 2015 events. It was written particularly for the NYC Anarchist Black Cross run/walk/ride in Brooklyn’s Prospect Park on Sunday, September 6, 2015.

MORE:

The NYC ABC RDTW will not only benefit the ABCF Warchest fund, which has sent regular stipends to Maliki and others for around a decade, but also his legal fund for his release on parole! That said, the statement was written with all of the runs and events in mind. He has long enjoyed affinity, support, and solidarity from Running Down the Walls, from its inception though LA ABCF, to the growing events spread across the u.s. and beyond today!

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As Salaamu Alaikum (May Peace Unto You), Revolutionary Greetings and Salutations, and a Warming Embrace of Loving Solidarity to You ALL!

It is indeed an honor and noble privilege to be invited to share with you all here today, a few words of heartfelt and sincere appreciation for all the support that all of you have shown for many years, towards myself as well as all PP/POWs and those lingering in prison unjustly. Your selfless sacrifices, time and resource made towards the cause of winning our Freedom, shall forever be recorded in the annals of Eternal Truth and Justice.

Today is a very special day for many of us, both present as well as those of us (who are held captive) who are absent. This is the day of "Running Down the Walls." It is a Day of Solidarity as well as a Day of Focus. It is a Day of Focus because it is a Day in which we must remind ourselves that there is a segment of the human population that is isolated, separated, being dehumanized, and who serve as slaves in this country's Prison Industrial Complex. So this is a Day of Running Down the Walls, a Day of Focus, a Day of Solidarity and a Day in which the Common Cause of our Humanity—FREEDOM—is the Objective and Goal.

In Truth, this solidarity expressed and demonstrated by the "Run" proves to every concerned soul, that the Unity of our Humanity shall always prevail over all man-made obstacles and schemes erected to divide and separate us into "hostile" groups. I see in the symbolism of "Running Down the Walls" another important lesson and quest. It is also the quest to "Tear Down the Walls/Barriers" of all hostile dehumanizing and repressive rules, laws and ideas; those that are found to foster and promote Oppression.

Such as the Walls erected to serve as "mental blocks," often resorted to whenever one refuses to acknowledge one's own fault, error/mistake and/or refuses to accept constructive criticism or the Wall erected and called "racial superiority" that is entertained whenever we consider/deem ourselves superior to another Ethnic Tribe and/or member of our Human FAMILY; or the Walls of the erroneous idea that one's own self-righteous gauge of morality entitles one to violently abuse/attack another because the person happens to be a member of the LGBTQ community; or the Diabolical Wall erected (and foolishly attempted to be maintained) that supposedly gives man the inherent and unchallengeable right to DECIDE, DICTATE, AND/OR DETERMINE THE RIGHTS, CHOICES AND DESTINY OF ANY WOMAN!!!

Such are just some of the "Walls" that also need to be removed and eliminated from within ourselves, and then from society. Society shall not change until we (ourselves) change (e.g. our views, attitudes, relationships and our aspirations toward LIFE, undergoes a complete transformation).

In conclusion, I would like to share with you a few verses from the Noble Quran that shed Light upon the points raised herein:

"O Mankind! Behold, we have created you all out of a male and a female, and have made you into Nations and Tribes, so that you might come to know one another. Verily, the noblest of you in the Sight of God is the one who is most deeply conscious of God. Behold, God is All-Knowing, All-Aware." (Quran: chapter 49 verse 13)

"O Mankind! Be conscious of your SUSTAINER, Who has created you out of one living entity, and out of it created its mate, and of the two spread abroad a multitude of men and women. And remain conscious of God, in Whose Name you demand your mutual rights from one another, and of these ties of kinship. Verily, God is Ever Watchful over you.

And among God's Wonders is this: God creates for you mates out of your own kind, so that you might incline towards them, and God engenders Love and Tenderness between you: in this, behold, there are messages indeed for all people who think!" (Quran: chapter 4 verse 1, with chapter 30 verse 21)

“And among God’s Wonders is the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth, and diversity of your tongues and colours: for in this , behold, there are messages indeed for all who are possessed of innate knowledge.” (Quran: chapter 30 verse 22)

“Art thou not aware that God sends down water from the skies, whereby We bring forth fruits of many hues—just as in the Mountains there are streaks of white and red of various shades a swell as others raven-black and there are in men, and in crawling beasts, and in cattle, too, many hues? Of all God’s servants, only such as are endowed with innate knowledge stand truly in awe of God: for Verily God is Almighty, Much-Forgiving.” (Quran: chapter 35 verses 27-28)

So now I shall conclude this here; I only ask that you feel free to ponder over what I shared with you by way of reminder. I also ask that you consider embarking upon the Path of elevating our consciousness to the level that WE usher in; a heightened era of struggle to include “Tearing Down” those additional Walls I’ve described above (Insha Allah).

My Peace and Love to You All, and know that: When the Prison doors open, the Real Dragon will fly out!

The Black Dragon
Maliki Shakur Latine

September 6th - Bill Dunne: RDTW statement

Salutations and Felicitations to all the RDTW comrades!

Running Down The Walls has become a fine and honored tradition on our side of the barricade. I could run like the wind in past RDTWs even where I ran alone because the sense of solidarity took away the pain of physical exertion and of distance from my community – from you all. This year, unfortunately, I will be unable to physically run with you. I’ve been relegated to FCI Herlong’s dungeon because in the agency of repression’s mythology, an anonymous note purports that I’m planning to run from them. It was most likely written by a person of the porcine persuasion actually worried I might be planning more litigation. But so it goes in life with big brother! I will be with you this day nevertheless, if not in person, in mind, in heart, in solidarity as you – as we – run, walk, roll, move however we can down the road to revolution. See you closer to the finish line!

September 6th - Jaan Laaman: Running Down The Walls 2015

Hello to everyone, from New York City to Los Angeles and all the towns and cities north and south who are Running Down The Walls today - Sunday, September 6th.

This is Jaan Laaman, and yes, many of us will be running here inside the federal prison in Tucson, along with all of you in other federal and state prisons and everyone running outside.

Let me put forward that RDTW 2015, be called a Memorial Run in honor of Hugo Pinell who was killed in Folsom prison on August 12th.

Many of us know that Hugo was a legendary California prisoner rights activists. Hugo was one of the San Quentin Six and an original comrade of George Jackson. Hugo Pinell was held in prison for 50 years and spent most of that time in isolation-segregation cells. It is reported that Hugo was killed by 2 fascist minded prisoners, but it is clear that the real force behind his assassination was the capitalist police state prison system that holds over 2 and 1/4 million men, women and children in captivity.

Let us uphold Hugo Pinell's unbreakable spirit of resistance in our runs today. Just as Hugo fought for prisoners rights, dignity and freedom, and for racial and revolutionary unity among all prisoners, let us run for all these principles today. Let us Run Down These Walls in revolutionary unity, for Freedom and Justice for political prisoners and for all prisoners.

Less Talk - More Action! -- lets get to running

September 11th - Running Down the Walls 2015 – A Reportback

Running Down the Walls (RDTW) 2015 was a success in building relationships, feeling the solidarity of running as our imprisoned comrades did the same, and raising funds for the ABCF Warchest and Family and Friends of Maliki Shakur Latine (Maliki is a New York state held political prisoner whose support crew is currently raising funds for his parole campaign). We arrived early, to avoid getting beaten to a sweet spot in Prospect Park (Brooklyn), which gave us time to set up our hand-painted RDTW banner, tables of literature and food, and mark turns along the route of the run. The route is commonly known as “The Inner Loop” by local runners and two laps around equals almost exactly 3.1 miles, or 5 kilometers.

Given that this was also a picnic– outdoors, breezy, and mildly unpredictable, we set up a scaled down version of our literature table. This meant our ubiquitous red wire rack of free literature, including copies of the recently published *Battle Tested*, *After Prison*, the NYC ABC Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoner and Prisoners of War, and all of the tri-fold pamphlets about many of the prisoners we support. We also sold our ASL All Cops Are Bastards (ACAB) t-shirts.

We had printed bib numbers for the participants. The flipside of the bib numbers had information about NYC ABC and guidelines for writing to prisoners, making it both a memento and a useful reminder to write to folks.

A few serious runners arrived as early as 1:30pm, though the announced time of the event was 2:00-7:00pm and we typically use the first half hour to register folks and take sponsor forms from those who hustled to get sponsors. Even with this schedule in mind, anarchist time prevailed and the run actually started closer to 2:45, following a group photo around the RDTW banner.

Before the run, an NYC ABC collective member went over some basics, while also kicking facts about political prisoners and state repression. We then played a greeting from Jaan Laaman, recorded specifically for the event. Jaan recommended we dedicate RDTW 2015 to the memory of our fallen comrade Hugo “Yogi Bear” Pinell. As a special treat, Dequi Kioni-Sadiki started the race with the drop of a red bandana.

At this point, it’s impossible to write about the event without mentioning that squarely in the middle of the Inner Loop, our run path, sat the inaugural installation of a foodie event that shall not be named. Our participants had to run through a sea of yuppies, starving for local micro-butchery, artisanal ice cubes, and whatever other contrived bullshit passes for authenticity to the ruling class. On the upside, this drove a lot of folks to our literature table and put us in the position to talk to individuals who would likely never otherwise approach us. Of course anarchists won’t be happy until the last capitalist is hung with the guts of the last bacon-infused mustache wax-wearing yuccie (“Young Urban Creatives”), but until then it was good practice to talk to strangers about our political prisoners. A fair number of park guests stopped at the table to get information about the prisoners, Running Down the Walls, and NYC ABC.

Of the 60-70 folks who came to RDTW 2015, about 45 participated in the 5k. The age range was 3-71 years old. Hashtag multi-generational. Several runners were serious, several were fast, and the venn diagram of those two categories resulted in the same person running the fastest laps this year as last.

After running, bronchial passages fully dilated, through clouds of meat smoke and whatever cologne investment bankers wear, what sounds better than a plate of barbecue and potato salad? Chorizo tofu empanadas? You’re right.

The picnic consisted of Texas style barbecued jackfruit sandwiches with fresh pickles; potato salad; pasta salad; empanadas; chocolate-coconut cream layer cake; and plum-peach lemon almond polenta cake. Yes, a lot of folks came just for the food.

Before we got too deep into socializing, we read a statement written for the event by Maliki Shakur Latine, and then gave prizes. Oh yeah, RDTW had prizes this year. Friends from AK Press and Combustion Books donated prizes that were given for the three folks who raised the most money in sponsorships as well as for the person who made the single largest donation at the event. We also had a laser cut acrylic “ACAB” plaque for the runner who completed the 5k in the least amount of time.

One participant garnered over \$1,300 in sponsors, and several others raised hundreds of dollars each. All told, between the event and what was sold through our table, we raised a respectable amount of loot.

Folks sitting around, talking, having just shared the run, felt good. The group consisted of folks from diverse backgrounds, many of whom were new faces to our collective. Twitter followers brought IRL friends and comrades & allies turned up as well. South Brooklyn ABCF, Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP), NYC Jericho Movement, International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, Family and Friends of Maliki Shakur Latine, the campaign the Bring Mumia Home, Marius Mason’s support crew, and the campaign the Free the MOVE 9 prisoners were among the represented organizations that explicitly work on political prisoner support. We were also thankful for the presence of Sekou Odinga, former political prisoner and consistent example of solidarity through action.

Most folks had left by 6:30 and those who stayed did so to help clean up and transfer everything to the cars. So the event went as scheduled, almost to the minute.

Knowing the history of the run and the imprisoned comrades with whom we ran in solidarity elevated Running Down the Walls 2015 to an even more inspiring level.

And that’s how we get down (the walls).

6 Sept - #BlackLivesMatter – FORWARD!!! by Jalil Muntaqim

Please read the latest blog entry from our comrade Jalil Muntaqim.

MORE:

After watching some of the reported discussion between Black Lives Matter (#BLM) activists and Hillary Clinton, I thought there was one thing important that happened: Hillary asking those activists to provide her with an agenda and policy she could support and advocate. When considering the diverse ideological composition of the #BLM campaign it is important to review our history of struggle. For example, the civil rights movement success was based on the development of a national coalition. The leading spokes persons came from the SCLC, the legal was represented by the NAACP, the youth movement component was SNCC, while CORE and the Urban League primarily assisted in organizing the urban communities and raising funds for the overall movement. Of course, there were other associated groups from churches to labor unions, etc., yet, what was the cohesive determinant of the era of struggle was its focus on ending Jim Crow segregation. The success of the civil rights movement was its ability to identify specific racist institutions and practice, and forge campaigns challenging them. Beyond marches and protest demonstrations, the movement proposed specific policy changes. The Voter Rights Act, the ending of segregated schools, using the Commerce Act to end segregated travel accommodations, etc., were tactical successes in a broader strategic campaign to end all vestiges of Jim Crow segregation.

When Clinton asked #BLM activists to provide proposals for policy changes beyond sloganeering and protest demonstrations, the activists did not provide an answer(?). For me that was disturbing, as she said without such in ten years we would be here again making the same arguments. The moral compass in terms of changing hearts in a capitalist social order is to demand institutional changes as the civil rights movement achieved in what I qualify as a bourgeois social democratic movement.

In previous blogs, I raised specific goals to be achieved in the evolutionary political development of the #BLM. Since the reality is activists are challenging political candidates to raise these concerns onto the

national debate, it is incumbent on #BLM to forge specific national proposals and policy for these politicians to advocate if they want the support of #BLM in particular, and the progressive community in general. Hence, I humbly suggest the forming of a national platform and program for #BLM to further substantiate the national organizing of a mass and popular movement. Needless to say, it is when the diverse ideological composition of #BLM begins to speak in one voice, makes the same demands, and advocates for the implementation of specific policies, will the entire initiative become a formidable movement as occurred during the civil rights movement. While the oppressive/repressive conditions confronting New Afrikan people are varied, there are particular concerns we must challenge in a national determination. Because of the myriad problems besetting the New Afrikan community, it would be prudent to expect #BLM to concentrate its political capital on the immediate issues most detrimental to Black lives survival and prosperity. Therefore, in my opinion, #BLM should be making the following demands and structure specific proposals for policy development:

1. The Immediate End of Police Profiling, Brutality and Murder. Demand the De-Centralization and De-Militarization of Police. That police officers must live in the community they are assigned to patrol. Greater diversity in the hiring of police officers, more representative of the community they patrol.
2. End the School to Prison Pipeline. Demand quality education in Black/Brown communities, including ending discriminatory disciplinary practices and criminalizing students.
3. Student Debt Relief offering greater numbers of scholarships for college entry programs to poor high school graduate candidates.
4. Stop Gentrification of Black/Brown communities, providing secured low income housing and stable rent control zones in targeted communities.
5. Immediate End to Mass Incarceration and End the Prison Industrial Complex. Demand the End to Corporate Prisons for Profit. For the Implementation of Restorative Justice and Community Adjudication Programs. Demand the removal of the clause in the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that permits Prison Slavery and Involuntary Servitude.
6. The Development of a National job STEM Training Program for the poor communities; Demand Full Employment with a Living Wage.
7. The Immediate Recognition of the Existence of U.S. Political Prisoners and the Immediate Amnesty and Release of COINTELPRO victims.

Each of these issues should be developed into specific Demands and Proposals for policy development in a national campaign. These Demands must be made part of the #BLM campaign challenging political candidates. Furthermore, these Demands should be talking points for all progressive groups challenging elected officials across the country toward the building of a mass and popular movement. These Demands provide the #BLM specific objectives to achieve to broaden full recognition of Black People's Human Rights. Obviously, the Demand for the recognition of the existence of U.S. political prisoners serves to raise consciousness on the depth and breadth of the overall struggle for civil and human rights. It challenges the U.S. corporate government's brutal repression of militant resistance to racist oppression.

I sincerely hope #BLM will give serious consideration to what is here proposed. At no time in the future should any candidate on the national election scene think they can instruct #BLM activists how they should organize a challenge to the corporate government. Our history is replete with examples of successful campaigns building mass and popular movements. It is time for this generation to "bring the heat," making it uncomfortable, if not impossible, for the status quo to ignore or negate the suffering of our poor and oppressed peoples. The ultimate task is the building of the socio-economic and political institutions Towards a New American Revolution to Demand equitable distribution of this country's wealth.

Remember: We Are Our Own Liberators!

9 Sept - Support Political prisoner Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin

On September 3rd Jericho Amnesty Movement received a call from a Political Prisoner at USP Canaan concerning Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin. Imam Jamil is in serious need of medical attention. His jaw is swollen to at least twice its normal size, and he is experiencing a lot of pain.

MORE:

According to his family it is clear that he needed to remain in a medical facility. In addition to his having smoldering multiple myeloma, he has Sjogren's syndrome, which is another auto immune condition.

The Imam's family appreciates our continued support and dissemination of information. He has put in a request for a transfer to a warmer climate which he feels may help his condition. In addition, he hopes to be closer to his attorneys and family members.

His family is considering filing a legal action concerning his condition and lack of medical care, but in the meanwhile they ask that we continue to keep him in our discussions.

Please call or fax USP Canaan and ask, demand, that Imam Jamil be given immediate adequate medical attention.

Phone 570.488.8000

Fax 570.488.8130

Let them know you are concerned about Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin #99974-555.

10 Sept - Did the FBI Try to Crush a Leftist Group with the Buffalo News' Help?

A number of pages from a vast secret file kept by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on a Buffalo, New York leftist political activist, received by him through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit, indicate a years-long surveillance of his activities.

MORE:

by George Sax (Artvoice)

And they raise the question of whether the bureau used the Buffalo News to thwart his organization's lawful programs. Leslie J. Pickering and others also believe his constitutionally protected rights were infringed upon in the process.

When 24-year-old Buffalo native Pickering returned to this city from Oregon in 2002, he wanted to continue the political work he'd done for several years, but by other means. He hoped to attract less attention from governmental authorities and news media than he had in Portland. There, with a former college roommate, he had operated the North American Earth Liberation Front Press office, an information clearinghouse for ELF, a radical secretive group that has been accused of terrorism. ELF has admitted committing destructive acts, including arson, against the property of private entities the front considered posed threats to the environment and natural resources as they exploited them for profit.

Pickering was never a member of ELF, although he was not unsympathetic to its aims. Now, back in Buffalo, he wanted to keep a lower profile, to interact with people in city neighborhoods and communities. He and some like-minded individuals envisioned educational forums, lectures, showing documentary movies, and similar activities. Before long, they'd formed a new group, Arrisa, and were doing those things. They also spent the better part of one summer on city streets conducting interviews with residents to get their views on local political and social problems. "They knew there were serious problems," Pickering says, "but they didn't think there were ways to do much about them." "These were all educational endeavors," he observes. He and his associates weren't interested in media attention, he says. (In fact, he turned away an inquiry about a possible article from Artvoice.)

In 2005, Arrisa entered into an arrangement with the Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP), a West Side community organizing group that operated out of an office in the Northwest Public Library building on Grant Street. The library had been closed by Erie County because of budget pressures, but the city owned the building and allowed MAP to use it. It also helped fund MAP's operations. MAP agreed that Arrisa would reopen the lending library with volunteer staffers and use the space for its meetings and programs.

Only a week after Arrisa had begun its use of the library space, at the beginning of February 2006, MAP director Christina L. Akers ended it. The termination followed hard on a February 9 story in the Buffalo News by reporter Sandra Tan that cited an alleged link between Arrisa's "leadership" and "a national extremist group that espouses the use of arson and sabotage to achieve political reform." The "link" was, of course, Pickering, and Tan's story makes clear that "when the Buffalo News began asking (Akers) about Arrisa," the MAP administrator informed herself about "the organization's leadership" and "severed ties." Cause and effect. It's also clear that the "leadership" to which she refers is Pickering. He's the only person in Arrisa she quotes. (Pickering says that Akers was aware of his background when the agreement was made.)

Tan's story is reproduced in full in the papers given up by the FBI as a result of Pickering's FOIA suit. He allowed Artvoice to examine a small selection of the almost 400 pages he's received so far. The lawsuit was filed over two years ago when the extent of governmental investigation and monitoring became clearer. Pickering learned from friends that bureau agents were asking people who knew him about his activities and beliefs. More striking, over two years ago, he learned that his personal mail was being monitored after what was almost certainly a serious error by the postal service. A form containing that information was left in his mailbox, in violation of regulations.

Much of the material in the documents obtained by Pickering and reviewed by Artvoice seems routine. There are pages of announcements and statements that were copied from Arrisa's website. There are reports from agents and summaries from informants about meetings at which Arrisa representatives spoke or which they attended, here and elsewhere in this state. One document from September, 2005 reports that Arrisa showed a movie, *Ghosts of Attica*, about the 1971 prisoner uprising at the penitentiary and its violent quashing by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. "A major theme" of the film, it was noted, was "that the rebellion could have been avoided if the authorities had heeded the warnings from the inmates and correctional officers." The writer of the FBI report asserts that the film "supports Arrisa's belief that change can come about only with revolution." There are numerous redactions in these pages, some of them curious, none more so than a reproduction of a statement the bureau copied from Arrisa's website that contains a redaction, as if these weren't words the political group had itself posted. Some of these documents are headed "precedence: routine," apparently indicating a low priority. Others are designated as "priority" precedence for no obvious reason. None of this material pertains to Arrisa's ejection from the library space except for the reproduced Tan story.

Pickering points out Tan's story reported Akers' decision even before Arrisa was informed of it. Just after it was published, Niagara District Common Council member Dominic Bonafacio, who had helped obtain city funding for MAP, demanded a meeting with Akers, with Arrisa members in attendance, during which he demanded the group be denied access to the library and threatened to withhold MAP's monies if this wasn't done, according to Pickering, Arrisa member Nate Buckley and Pickering's wife, Theresa Baker-Pickering.

Former council member Bonafacio told Artvoice, "Whatever happened was strictly the result of MAP's decision." He said he didn't remember Arrisa or its proposed use of the library.

Pickering and others want to know who tipped Tan off about the deal with MAP. "Most people (in Buffalo) didn't even know we existed," Pickering says. The FBI was one of the very most avid readers of Arrisa's website and literature, the released documents indicate. Did it pick Tan as a tool to crimp Arrisa's activities? Arrisa member Buckley thinks that's likely, that what he calls the "synchronicity" of events argues for that. Aaron Bartley, a Harvard Law School graduate and the founder of PUSH, a West Side

community organization with an emphasis on housing—a long article about PUSH from Artvoice was copied by the FBI—remembers the article. “It certainly seemed meant to cast Arrisa in a negative light,” he said in a brief interview. (Attempts to locate former MAP director Akers to get her response were unsuccessful.)

In a telephone interview, Tan said she had “only the vaguest recollection” of the story. She added that she had “no recollection of being tipped off by any government agency about this story. I have little memory of how this story came to my attention.” She said she stands by the facts. Not long after the MAP events, the Paul Robeson Center on the city’s East Side told Arrisa it could no longer use its facilities because of a remodeling project. Arrisa was never asked back.

Michael Kuzma, co-counsel on the FOIA suit, said the government’s surveillance of Pickering and Arrisa is “not just an attempt to restrict but to quash leftist political education. The objective is to stamp out such organizations.” He says that the federal Privacy Act of 1974 guarantees citizens the right to express political and other kinds of ideas without governmental review or interference.

One other result of Arrisa’s troubles—the group no longer exists—has been the establishment three years ago of Burning Books bookstore on Connecticut Street by some of Arrisa’s former members. There they not only stock leftist literature but hold public meetings and other events in a space they can control. Pickering is a founder of the store. And he’s awaiting thousands of more documents from the FBI over the next several years, as per the settlement of his suit.

12 Sept - Prison Dispatch: Leonard Peltier on His 71st Birthday

Leonard’s birthday just passed and here’s what he had to say about it.

MORE:

Well, today is another b-day for me — my 71st. I had hoped I would not be here at this age, but that’s not to be. So, I have to take a deep breathe and slowly let it out... and prepare myself for yet another day in here.

February 6th marks my 40th year in prison. How many of you know that when I was indicted a life sentence was 7 years? I was sentenced to 2 life sentences, so with good time I have served 6 + life sentences. I suppose all of this time has taken its toll on my body. I have a number of different health issues that come with old age. The one I’m most concerned about is my prostate.

Otherwise, I’m still getting compliments on how good I look for my age (smile). People can be nice and say things that make me feel good once in awhile. But I’m told this so often that I’m starting to believe it (smile).

Hey, did you know that the last time I went before the Parole Commission (2009), I was denied because I looked young and healthy... and a reason given for denying me parole was that I might be too much of an influence on the young Natives? Yeah, only in America.

And get this... In October 1984, when the Parole Commission was repealed by Congress, the Commission was given 6 years to give me a parole date... all of us “old time” prisoners really (those convicted prior to 1984). Yes, this is all true. All you have to do is research it, and I bet you will come away shocked as hell that this can happen in your country. The Parole Commission is the only Government agency that has been repealed and reinstated 35 days later without having to go through the normal congressional channels and signed into law by the President. How does this happen in a democracy?

I’ve been encouraged by things I’ve read recently though. And looking back... It’s been over 60 years, maybe a little longer. I was around 7 or 8 years old when I heard the old People talking about taking care of Mother Earth. But for me anyway, as with all young People, I did not really understand what they were trying to tell us, I guess?

But I see today the traditionalists were correct and AIM People were right when we took it up as a rallying cry to the world. Still, when we spoke out against the destruction of Mother Earth, we were called a bunch of nuts. Well, today, it is called climate change, and there are now millions of us crying out against the destruction of our Mother Earth. Amazing, huh? Thankfully I have lived this long and can see we just might win this war. I know it's not over — far from it — but the world is waking up and talking about it now. So, it can be won in our lifetime.

Well, People, I don't know how much longer I have left on Mother Earth — or if I will even be around for the next few years — but I always hope and pray that I can be out there to spend my last few remaining years with you. If not, so be it. I have been in here too long to cry now. I just wish for more time to give to my People and to all freedom loving People in the world.

Thanks again for all of the love you have shown me over these 40 years. You have all been worth it.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse...

16 Sept – The Promise Of Anarchism: An International Panel Discussion

WHAT: To Change Everything

WHEN: 7:00pm, Wednesday, September 16th

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

MORE:

Climate change, economic crisis, unrest from Baltimore to Brazil: the prevailing order is unsustainable in every way. Today even the most entrenched authorities admit that it is necessary to change everything. But all the solutions they offer rely on the same structures that produced this mess in the first place. How do we change everything?

This panel brings together organizers from Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the US to discuss what anarchist ideas and strategies have to offer in the 21st century. Comparing experiences in the social movements and uprisings of the past decade, they will explore questions about reform, democracy, and self-determination.