



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for October 27th

7 Oct - Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin: A Legal Update

Imam Al-Amin continues to appeal his Georgia conviction as he maintains his innocence of the murder and assault of two Fulton County Georgia sheriff deputies.

MORE:

His federal habeas corpus filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia raises numerous grounds for reversal of the conviction and sentence, including ineffective assistance of trial counsel, the failure to investigate the confession of an individual who continues to assert his guilt since March 2000, misidentification, and FBI misconduct. In addition to addressing discrepancies, the habeas challenges constitutional errors that occurred during the Georgia trial that resulted in Imam Al-Amin's conviction.

In March 2013, Karima Al-Amin, attorney and wife of Imam Al-Amin, submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to produce documents on her husband. On June 27, 2013, the FBI responded that it had identified and would produce 21,649 pages of records from more than 44,000 pages it held on Imam Al-Amin. Finally, on August 20, 2014, the FBI released the first of 44 CDs.

On September 24, 2015, two days after the close of discovery in the federal habeas case, the FBI forwarded the 4th Interim CD release. After a careful review, the attorneys found several documents supporting Imam Al-Amin's innocence that were not produced before trial. Of significance is one document, a BOLO ("be on the lookout") bulletin issued to all law enforcement agencies the day after the March 16, 2000 incident that specifically described the height and weight of the shooter as being within the range of 5'8"-5'9", and 150-160 lbs, on foot and wearing a black coat. This description is inconsistent with Imam Al-Amin's body type—6'5" and 185-190 lbs.—and consistent with the body type of the confessor. Additionally, Imam Al-Amin produced two witnesses at trial, who were not interviewed at the time the BOLO bulletin issued, and who gave the same description of the assailant. Their testimony at trial was discounted, and this document is one of perhaps many that could have been used to exonerate Imam Al-Amin, if released to his defense counsel.

On October 6, 2015, the newly-disclosed FOIA documents were presented to the Court as a supplement to the habeas. As a result, the legal fight to exonerate Imam Al-Amin continues in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

9 Oct - Mumia Update + Writings

We have new writings by Mumia, as well as important updates.

MORE:

October 9th - Sign Appeal for Hep C Treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal and 10,000 Pennsylvania Prisoners

Send messages to the Pennsylvania Governor, Secretary of Health and Secretary of Corrections demanding Pennsylvania policy makers allow political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and an estimated ten thousand other prisoners in PA infected with Hepatitis C to receive proper health care, including treatment with a new direct-acting, anti-viral medication which has a 95 percent cure rate.

Amnesty International and other human rights organizations say Abu-Jamal was unfairly convicted in the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia policeman. A solidarity movement won his removal from death row, but he

is still in prison and will die of medical neglect from untreated Hepatitis C unless state officials are forced to give him proper treatment. Furthermore, as an innocent man, he should be released from incarceration.

The PA Department of Corrections currently has no standard procedure for treating prisoners with this disease which, if left untreated, can lead to diabetes, heart disease, liver failure and even death.

Untreated Hep C in the state's prisons is spread to the broader population outside when prisoners return home. Called a "silent epidemic," Hepatitis C has a disproportionate impact on impoverished communities and people of color, and increases public health care costs.

A protocol for treating prisoners suffering from Hepatitis C is reportedly being hammered out by officials from the PA Dept of Corrections and the PA Dept of Health. Doctors, nurses and other health care providers have urged officials to treat HCV-infected prisoners with the new effective cure.

Now – as officials are considering how prisoners with Hep C will be treated – is the time to raise our voices! PLEASE SIGN NOW at tinyurl.com/mumiahepcappeal

October 15th - Centuries of Struggle: 'Big House' Blues

'Plus ça change ...' say the French; or 'The more things change, of course, the more they stay the same.'

That thought, with all its despair and wisdom, resonates with particular power when we look at the Black Freedom Struggle, which, despite its ebbs and flows, has a sameness that seems to suspend it in its own time, akin to a Biblical narrative that exists in its own realm, strangely separate from our day-to-day immediacy, yet existing in consciousness.

But this is not a metaphysical discussion.

No.

It is existential. It is blood and bullets. It is the hard bricks and cold steel of prison. And it's not just the sameness of things for extended spaces of time, nor its sinister intensification of repression, but the incessant nature of such repression as a bipartisan expression of American hegemony over and antipathy towards, the Black Freedom Struggle that gives it its malevolent character.

For generations, Black leaders and organizations have been in search for some solution to our oppressions, some appealing to the international community, as expressed in William Patterson's "We Charge Genocide" of 1951 (a charge supported by the late Malcolm X). Some 15 years later the Black Panther Party would produce a list of grievances, called the 10-Point Program, decrying the police state's violence against Blacks, slum lords exploiting Black home renters, and the bane of Black imprisonment, among other concerns. Seven years thereafter, the Black National Political Convention convened in Gary, Indiana, where it denounced the two capitalist parties, Democrats and Republicans, the continuous police violence against Blacks, and called for the formation of a National Black Independent Political Party to give voice to the needs of Black people.

The foundational documents of these Black activists and organizations, if read today, would seem to have been written today – instead of 50 or 60 years ago.

That tells us that our conditions – or real material conditions – have not changed substantially for over ½ century – over 60 years.

Indeed, in many ways, those conditions have worsened, such as the phenomenon of mass incarceration.

Why? Because the material conditions of millions of Black folk have changed due to de-industrialization, the resultant loss of the tax base, the corporatization of the public school systems, and the explosive expansion of the imprisonment industry – the creation of what I call the White Rural Jobs Program – prisons.

From the earliest days of Black arrival in what would one day become the United States; Africans were seen as resources to be exploited for white profit. And despite relentless rhetoric in the mouths of the Founders of the State, there existed a nightmarish reality of un-freedom and state supported terror waged against Black life, proving the white words of freedom were little but lies.

For under the sweet nothings of liberty lived a world of repression, targeting, isolating and destroying the Black Freedom Movement and its leaders. From Dr. Martin Luther King to Malcolm X; from the Black Panther Party to Black actors and artists, agents of state power sought to weaken and neutralize Black freedom and Black Nationalist movements, using every means – fair and foul.

This wasn't episodic meanness – random attacks on Blacks because of official distaste of Blacks.

No.

There's method in this madness; the same madness, which animated lynchings during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Such repression served to instill fear and apprehension in the minds of millions. State terrorism turned people away from the Nationalist and self-determination road towards more acceptable and less critical roads of political acquiescence with dominant capitalist parties.

The State thus canalized Black thought into the sterile roads of the personal instead of the collective, into the parties of personality instead of the programmatic. It also de-radicalized Black response to state terrorism.

That, in a nutshell, is the essence of the governments CoInTelPro initiative, where the U.S. government functioned as both race police - and political police.

These actions of alienation of a population continued, ironically enough, under the play of Black votes (or should we say, 'the ploy of Black votes?') who voted overwhelmingly for Bill Clinton, who ran on 'hope' and 'change'. 'Change' it might've been; but change doesn't necessarily mean better.

Elected by a plurality of narrow percentages, Clinton, in the name of bipartisanship would prove the architect of a prison expansion boom that would be the beginnings of the mass incarceration that we see today.

This neoliberalism in politics required an operative of considerable skill, one in which Blacks, the most loyal and consistent voting bloc within the democratic coalition, voted for a candidate who would promote and vote for a series of positions against Black interests, while simultaneously voting for white anxieties, fears and longings for white supremacy.

Clinton demonstrated that expertise.

As the late historian Howard Zinn (1922 - 2010) has written; 'despite his lofty rhetoric, Clinton showed, in his eight years in office, that he, like other politicians, was more interested in electoral victory than in social change.

To get more votes, he decided he must move the party closer to the center. This meant doing just enough for Blacks, women, and working people to keep their support, while trying to win over white conservative voters with a program of toughness on crime, stern measures on welfare, and a strong military.’ (Zinn, 428)

The neoliberal Clinton regime ushered in a program of repression that included the scuttling of habeas corpus via the anti-terrorism and effective death penalty act; the closing of the courthouse doors to prisoners via the Prison Litigation Reform Act; and the notorious 1996 Crime Bill, which spent billions on new prisons, and added some 60 new death penalties to the books.

The emblems of Clintonism that emerged after two terms in power were the empty factories and the overcrowded prisons - overcrowded with Black men and increasingly, women.

We referenced earlier Patterson’s “We Charge Genocide”; not that the charges in the book were written as a petition, and filed in the U.N charging the U.S. with genocide against Negroes. The UN neither acted on, nor decided the petition. Rather, the media focused on Paul Robeson, and using charges he was a communist, demonized the petition, as he was one of its authors. For, in the public mind, to be communist was akin to being crazy.

Blacks, absent an independent politically representative entity, were - and are_ voiceless in spaces like the UN.

So, after many, many years, protest again rages against the repression of the state, a fuse lit by the killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. These protests have spread across the country like kudzu in summer.

And now you see the corporate media trying to conspire to denounce Black Lives Matter as some kind of hate group engaged in an alleged ‘war on cops!’

But, here again, there’s some method to their madness. The point that the corporate media serves the capitalist state couldn’t be clearer in this instance. For the BLM throws words at cops who’ve beaten, shot and killed almost countless Blacks, Latinos - and even poor whites!

Guess how many people cops have killed in 2015?

Over 800. Over 800!

If this be war, the BLM is losing.

Over 150 years ago one of our most revered ancestors tried to convince his fellow abolitionists to continue to struggle. You see, the Civil War had ended, and slavery was legally dead.

Frederick Douglass warned them; “[You and I, and all of us, had better wait and see what new form this old monster will assume, in what new skin this old snake will come forth.]”

He was right then. He is right now.

We must be mindful of the old snakes in new skin amongst us.

The struggle continues!

October 16th - Tamir

Question: When is a child not a child?

Answer: When it's a Black child.

That question and answer came to me when I heard that the police killing of 12 – year- old Tamir Rice of Cleveland, was ruled “justified” by two so-called ‘independent’ boards of inquiry recently.

The cop was justified, they ruled, because he saw a gun.

Period.

Did it matter that the gun was a toy?

Or that Tamir was a boy?

No. Both facts were declared irrelevant.

And a beautiful Black boy is dead.

What kind of system is this, where a child's life can be so easily, so utterly, dismissed?

What kind of country is this, where this can happen?

For almost a year, state forces dithered around the case. Now they have issued their cold, leaden decision: No biggie.

The cop was scared.

It's justified.

Next.

What's next? Killing pregnant women? Pregnant Black women- who are suspected of birthing Black boys?

In the name of protocol; in the name of tradition; in the cold name of fear; children are killed, so that killer cops can feel safe.

If this be the system supported by Black taxes and Black votes, then such a system must be abolished.

October 16th - Representative or the Represented?

Recently, a Black congresswoman from Florida revealed that white legislators from the state's redistricting body changed her district to include the states overcrowded but under represented prisons, thereby insuring her defeat when the next election comes along, for prisoners can't vote.

While legislator Corrine Brown (D, 5th District), has a claim, the better solution shows us how the Congressional Black Caucus has failed its constituencies and its members by not fighting for deeper, broader voting rights – like enfranchisement of prisoners.

In South Africa, the post-apartheid government opened the door to prisoners voting. The same practice holds for Israel.

If the Congressional Black Caucus had fought for and prevailed on prisoner enfranchisement, Rep. Brown would have no viable argument against her redistricting, for prisoners would be allowed to vote as everyone else.

The nation that claims to be a democracy should not exclude people from voting, but seek the broadest, deepest constituency. All of the people should be represented – not just some.

The prisoner exclusion from voting arises from state attempts to weaken Black political power of the Reconstruction, which outlawed all Black voting under white supremacist legislatures and governments.

The echoes of that tradition remain a principle in American Law, with little, other than tradition itself, as justification.

This is no solution to the crisis of mass incarceration.

Not by a long shot.

But Mao famously said, “Politics is war without bloodshed.”

It has its place too, to combat the extreme isolation facing captives of the biggest imprisonment boom on earth.

It’s not a solution. It’s not a talisman to be worshipped. It’s a tool.

And the oppressed need every tool that they can touch.

October 16th - The Chair

To the young, the life of the elderly is as distant as another country.

To the healthy, illness happens to other people.

It takes time and change to teach us that all of us are united on the wheel of life, and that, if we live long enough, we will all enter the House of the Elderly.

When I recently became ill, it was more a shock than even the symptoms themselves, for, after almost thirty years on Death Row, sickness only touched me briefly, able to be counted on one hand with several fingers remaining. In fact, it rarely lasted longer than a day.

Then it struck like thunder, helped along by improper drugs administered by prison doctors.

The resultant effects, the systemic weakness, left me nodding in a wheelchair, for I was simply unable to ambulate. And even though I’m no longer in the chair the experience taught me more than I ever wanted to know.

I cannot pass someone in a wheelchair, without at least nodding to them. For they are me.

I know, from bitter experience, that such chairs can be painful after hours of sitting.

Who knew?

Now, I know.

Illness, like aging, is part of the life cycle of the living.

We are all on The Wheel of Time, waiting our turn to learn something anew.

October 19th - Join Us at Inside the Activist Studio

The Campaign to Bring Mumia Home is thrilled to announce our new project titled, Inside the Activist Studio (IAS). Inside the Activist Studio is an interview style, web-based series, modeled after the popular T.V. show Inside the Actors Studio.

Each episode will feature an interview with an activist about their political awakening and biography of activism. We seek to:

- 1) educate and document social justice activism
- 2) humanize activists and inspire others to become active in changing the world
- 3) learn the lessons of struggle
- 4) connect activists and build a culture of resistance
- 5) build awareness about a cross section of social struggles

The first episode of Inside the Activist Studio will feature political prisoner, Sekou Odinga, on Nov. 10, 2015 at Medgar Evers College.

Inside the Activist Studio aims to raise the profile of political prisoners and build the movement to end mass incarceration. It is rooted in the tradition of Mumia Abu-Jamal's groundbreaking political journalism.

We look forward to seeing you at Inside the Activist Studio.

In struggle,
The Campaign to Bring Mumia Home

13 Oct - Report on Sundiata Acoli Hearing

Please keep in mind the following article is written by some hack for a corporate news outlet.

MORE:

by Salvador Rizzo (*NorthJersey.Com*)

The court heard oral argument Tuesday in the case of Sundiata Acoli, now 78, who received a life sentence for killing trooper Werner Foerster during a chaotic midnight shootout on the Turnpike in 1973. Known as Clark Edward Squire at the time, Acoli was one of three members of the Black Liberation Army who faced off against Foerster and another trooper who was injured but not killed.

One of Acoli's accomplices was Joanne Chesimard, a fugitive who was placed on the FBI's "most wanted" list in 2013. She was convicted alongside Acoli, but escaped from a Hunterdon County prison in 1979 and is now living in Cuba.

The state Parole Board has denied four of Acoli's applications to be released from prison since 1993. A New Jersey appeals court reversed one of those rulings last year, finding that Acoli no longer posed a risk to the public after reaching old age in prison.

The Supreme Court, however, is focused on a separate issue: Whether New Jersey's appellate court even has the authority to parole some inmates convicted of murder.

Attorneys for Governor Christie's administration argue that the appeals court went too far in ordering Acoli's release. State law requires that murder convicts go before the full Parole Board for an exhaustive final interview before being released. Acoli did not because his parole application could be denied without that interview. Instead of releasing him outright, the appeals court should have ordered the final hearing at the Parole Board, the state argues.

"The full parole board hearings are extremely in-depth, sometimes hours and hours long," said Lisa Puglisi, an assistant state attorney general arguing against Acoli. They are designed to measure how inmates "have internalized what they've learned, how they've taken steps to reduce the risk of recidivism," she said.

Acoli's attorney, Bruce Afran, argued that the full Parole Board already conducted an "expanded review" of all the documents in the case, even if it skipped the in-person hearing. The only thing left for the Parole Board to weigh would be a statement by the victim's family, if they chose to provide one.

"There really is no evidence to support the denial of parole," Afran said. "It would be unjust to impose this process in the end for an inmate who has gone through this for years."

In ruling to release Acoli last year, the three-judge appeals panel noted that he had observed good behavior in prison since 1996 and "completed at least 100 different programs for self-improvement."

A psychologist recommended parole for Acoli, the court said. The appeals panel said the Parole Board "ignored Acoli's explanations of why he has turned from violence ... and discounted all the positive information presented, including the opinion of the evaluating psychologist."

Although he has expressed remorse for his role in Foerster's murder, Acoli has maintained since his trial in 1974 that he "blacked out" amid the gunfire and does not remember who killed the trooper. Among other reasons for rejecting Acoli's application, the Parole Board found that this version of events did not square with the facts and was a sign that Acoli was "still in denial of the execution-style killing."

Two justices of the Supreme Court seemed reluctant to allow Acoli's release without a final hearing by the Parole Board.

Justice Anne Patterson said that in New Jersey's law outlining parole conditions for murder convicts, "We see a legislative intent that there be a voice for the victims at the stage of release."

In Acoli's case, if he were to be released without the full hearing, "the victims are suddenly out of the picture." "How would that possibly make sense?" Patterson asked.

Justice Jaynee LaVecchia wondered whether the appeals court had overstepped its bounds. "How can the Appellate Division take upon itself greater authority, greater procedural room to act?" she asked.

16 Oct - Eric King Update: Trial Continuance and Mailroom Censorship

We have just received word that Eric's trial is likely to be continued yet again. Eric's public defender has entered a motion to continue his trial date until March 8th, so that we can have more time to prepare for trial or otherwise resolve the case.

MORE:

We expect that the judge will grant the motion.

As you may know, it's been over a year since Eric's arrest and pre-trial incarceration at CCA Leavenworth (a private prison operated by the Corrections Corporation of America) in Leavenworth, Kansas. Although for Eric and the rest of us it feels like it's been a very long time, for a trial of this caliber, it's pretty standard to spend a couple years in prison awaiting trial.

Many warm thank you's to all those who have been making preparations to come to Kansas City for the trial. We hope to be able to give plenty of notice so that people can make clear plans to attend trial and show their support. We hope that, should Eric's case go trial, friends and comrades will fill the courtroom.

We are also happy to report that Eric's mail situation seems to be improving! Thanks to all of the efforts of people across the country to pressure the CCA mailroom to abide by the laws it purport to uphold. Although we dream of a world without "laws" or "rights," in the meantime we'll do what we can to keep our friend's mail out of the trash. Thanks to all those who were willing to join in the effort!

For now, you can help by writing a letter to Eric, hosting a letter-writing night for him, donating money to his legal fund or buying a t-shirt. The road before us is long and expensive and it's going to take a lot of support to get through it. Again, many thanks to all of you who have continued to show your support throughout this arduous process.

Link to Eric's Fundraiser
<https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/0yo>

18 Oct - New issue of prisoner written/edited magazine, 4 Struggle #25

Check out the brand spanking new issue of 4 Struggle magazine #25!

MORE:

It is edited by comrades in Toronto and political prisoner Jaan Laaman and has articles on Mumia Abu-Jamal, Marius Mason, released prisoners, the death of Hugo Pinnell, Eric King, Jericho, Peter Collins and more.

All issues of 4 Struggle are FREE to any prisoner.
Free people can sponsor subscriptions or donate at
<http://4strugglemag.org/subscribe>

Contact:
jaanlaaman@gmail.com
<http://4strugglemag.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/4strugglemag>

Intro to Issue 25:

Hello interested readers, activists, fellow revolutionaries, friends and comrades, to issue 25. Yes, it has been over a year since our last issue, 4sm 24, came out in Spring of 2014. We have had several obstacles and problems to deal with. Our printers, good movement activists and great professional printers, have had their own struggles with the state, but are now back in operation. Most hard copy subscribers are receiving both issues 24 and 25 in this mailing.

You will see from our revised "Welcome to 4strugglemag" on the inside cover, that we have had to change our printing schedule. 4sm is now producing 2 hardcopy issues a year. One in July/August and the second

issue in December. We will now be publishing on this new schedule. Your material/monetary support is always needed.

This issue has many important and informative selections. You'll certainly want to check out Jalil's "Future Focus" analysis and call for action. We also have a great interview with Lynne Stewart and her husband Ralph. There are lots of updates and information about political prisoners. With the continuing police killings of so many men, women and even children of color, you should check out "Thoughts on Killer Cops – MOVE/May 13". This issue is full of useful information. As always, we welcome your feedback and original writings, letters and poems. And for all you online readers, 4strugglemag.org online now posts new material and information early each month.

Freedom Is A Constant Struggle! Jaan Laaman, editor

19 Oct - New TED Talk Goes Inside Secretive Prison Units on U.S. Soil

We're very happy to announce that Will Potter's new TED talk is featured on the TED homepage <<http://go.ted.com/Cpn2>>.

MORE:

Investigative journalist Will Potter is the only reporter who has been inside a Communications Management Unit, or CMU, within a US prison. These units were opened secretly, and radically alter how prisoners are treated — even preventing them from hugging their children. Potter, a TED Fellow, shows us who is imprisoned here, and how the government is trying to keep them hidden. “The message was clear,” he says. “Don’t talk about this place.”

October 20th - "Little Guantamos" in the United States

SHARMINI PERIES, Executive Producer, The Real News Network (SP): Welcome to the Real News Network. I'm Sharmini Peries coming to you from Baltimore.

Little Guantamos. This is the phrase that some are using to describe prisons known as communications management units, CMUs, highly secretive and dubious of legality. And they're right here in the United States. And an estimated 70 people might be held there. CMUs, largely unknown to the general public and media, are rarely granted access. Well, one journalist was recently able to get inside one of them in Marion, Illinois. And he joins us now to share what he saw.

Will Potter is an investigative journalist and TED senior fellow, and author of the book *Green Is The New Red: An Insider's Account of Social Movements under Siege*. Will, thank you so much for joining us today.

WILL POTTER (WP): Thank you for having me, Sharmini.

SP: So Will, I guess on everyone's minds is how did you manage to get inside the prison? And of course, once you got inside, what did you see?

WP: Well, journalists are not allowed in CMUs. But I had been writing about one prisoner in particular for quite some time. From the day of his arrest I'd followed him all the way through the legal process, up through his conviction. And so I was able to visit Daniel McGowan, who's an environmentalist who is in the CMU, as a friend. And I was quite surprised by that, even, because I'd uncovered evidence that the counterterrorism unit had been monitoring my work and speeches about CMUs and writing about CMUs that I had done. But I quickly found out how that happened. And it's because Daniel was told that if I asked any questions or if I reported about our visit that he would be punished for my work. And when I arrived at the prison I was reminded of the fact that I was not allowed to ask him any questions.

Nevertheless, it was an important insight into how CMUs operate, and an opportunity to see this from a perspective that other journalists have not been able to.

SP: And what does one have to do to be relegated to one of these prisons? How is the process determined?

WP: That's exactly the problem, is that we don't know. Even considering lawsuits that are pending right now, we still don't have clear answers to that question. All the prisoners I've talked to were transferred to the CMU without any warning. They were just notified in the middle of the night or early morning, and then sent off to this secretive unit without explanation. When they asked for some opportunity to appeal their designation, or some explanation for what has happened and why they're there, they were either ignored or answered in very simplistic terms, and not really elaborated.

For some of them it was clearly because of their political beliefs. We found out through legal proceedings and open records requests that the government sent some people to CMUs because of their, quote, anti-government and anti-corporate views. For other prisoners I think it is quite clearly because of their race and religion. The majority of prisoners in CMUs are Muslim, and many of them have connections to very dubious terrorism prosecutions that involve FBI informants and potential entrapment, even. So that's really the breakdown of these prison units right now.

SP: And the communications management units, why are they called that?

WP: I think that's a really good point. As a writer and someone who is very careful about language, I admire the creativity and how benign that title is, of communications management unit. It sounds very straightforward. And it almost gives the perception that other prisoners do not have their communications managed. That's simply not the case, though. Every communication with every prisoner in a federal prison is monitored. It's received by prison officials. The letters are reviewed. Phone calls can be reviewed. All visitation is monitored.

The question then is why are some prisoners singled out for much harsher treatment? And like I said, we don't have a good answer to that. But we've begun to see some of the government's rationale. And that really boils down to their political beliefs.

SP: And the other curious term behind all of this is the term 'inspirational significance'. What does that mean, and how are prisoners classified as such?

WP: So as I was saying, the CMUs were opened secretly, and in many people's opinion, illegally. They didn't go through any administrative oversight. And only until years later did we start seeing some language describing what these prison units are supposed to do. And the government described them as facilities for prisoners with, quote, inspirational significance.

And I think that's a very, again, very benign and quite brilliant way of describing what I think in any other environment would be considered political prisons for political prisoners. People are sent to the CMU because of their race and their religion and their political beliefs. In Daniel McGowan's case, for instance, I think he clearly has inspirational significance in relation to the social movements that he advocates for on environmental issues, on conservation, on climate change and things like that. And all of this, his writings about this while imprisoned, ended up in counterterrorism unit files and were used as evidence of why he should be imprisoned in a CMU.

SP: And tell us a little bit more about his case. How did he end up in this classified prison?

WP: So Daniel McGowan, like all the other prisoners in CMUs, has been convicted of crimes. In his case he was convicted of participating in two arsons in the name of the Earth Liberation Front, which is a clandestine group which has used property destruction in the name of defending the environment. But like all the other prisoners in the CMUs, or I should say almost all the prisoners, he had no disciplinary

violations, and he had no communications violations. He was previously at a low-security prison. In other words, he didn't have anything on his record prior to going to prison or after being incarcerated that would reflect this need for heightened security measures, which I think makes it even more clear of being singled out because of his political beliefs.

SP: And how did you manage to convince the prison authorities to allow you as a friend into the prison if he's under such surveillance, as far as his communications is concerned?

WP: I was--it didn't take any convincing on my part. I mean, I just submitted my request, just as any visitor would. It didn't take any convincing on Daniel's part, either, which is quite surprising. It was approved, really, without any fanfare until, like I said, McGowan was told that if I wrote anything about our visit he would be punished. And then when I arrived I was told they knew all about my work, they knew about interviews on Democracy Now! and in places like that, and that if I asked him any questions the visit would be immediately terminated.

SP: And how many of these kinds of prisons are there, and also answer whether--why these are in Indiana and Illinois.

WP: There are two CMUs that we know about. One is in Marion, Illinois and the other is in Terre Haute, Indiana. They both exist within larger federal prisons. So they are really prisons within prisons. They were opened, as I was saying before, without any oversight or accountability. There are similar facilities, such as in Carswell, the prison in Texas for women, but that are not being called communications management unit but seem to restrict prisoners in similar ways. And really, the story is still emerging on that, of how--what the government's plans are. If there will be additional CMUs. There's a move to make these facilities permanent now rather than experimental. And we don't know how that's going to play out.

SP: And the restrictive nature for the media is something that's written, or did you, did anyone tell you as a journalist you're not allowed to enter this prison? And if so, why?

WP: Yeah. It's communicated in several ways. It's through some of the procedural moves that I mentioned about going through the official process now to make these facilities permanent. It's also been communicated and exposed through a lawsuit by the Center for Constitutional Rights, which is taking on the case of Daniel McGowan and others, and advocating for prisoners within the CMU. And as part of that they've obtained, must be thousands of pages of documents through the discovery process, which I was able to use in my presentation with TED to an extent as well. And also through direct communication to me, when I was there at the facility.

SP: Right. And you say many of these prisoners are Muslim. Is there any reason to believe that any of these prisoners, Muslim or otherwise, are any security threat to us in the U.S.?

WP: No, not at all. I mean, I think that really speaks to the discriminatory nature of these prison units, is that spectre and that fear, that outright racist stereotyping, is being used to create this fear of this community that frankly doesn't exist. The Muslim community that is imprisoned in the CMUs are not the Zacarias Moussaouis of the world. They're not the 9/11 hijackers, they're not anything like that. They're people like [Yasin Arif] who is an imam from upstate New York who was asked to bear witness to a loan, and it turned out one of the people that he was, that was involved in that loan, was an undercover FBI agent who was trying to entrap someone else in a fake attack. And Arif didn't know anything about it. So it was really a manufactured plot that Arif found himself wrapped up in, and as a result of that ended up eventually in the CMU. Those are the types of cases that we're talking about here.

SP: Will Potter, I thank you so much for joining us today, and shedding light on these prisons that are within our borders. I thank you again for your work.

WP: Thank you for having me.

SP: And thank you for joining us on the Real News Network.

19 Oct - Court Support for Tyler's Sentencing Hearing

On November 9, Tyler Lang has his sentencing hearing for his charges under the AETA for releasing thousands of animals from a fur farm.

MORE:

If you can be in Chicago, please attend the hearing to show support for Tyler. It is important that on this difficult day for Tyler that he feel surrounded by love and solidarity, and that the judge see that Tyler is part of a community that is there for him.

What: USA v. Lang, Sentencing Hearing

When: Monday, November 9, 9:15am

Where: Courtroom 1241, Judge Amy St. Eve

U.S. District Court, Northern District of IL

Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse

219 South Dearborn Street

Chicago, Illinois 60604

To attend, please wear court-appropriate attire and behave respectfully. Please also be aware that you will likely have to show ID and be subject to search to enter the courthouse. Arrive early as the courthouse may be busy.

Kevin Olliff's sentencing will be scheduled for a later date. He is currently in federal custody, so please continue to write him.

20 Oct - Warrior -- Film about Leonard is finally up on Youtube

This is the definitive film about Leonard Peltier's life and legal case. It is not new but the facts are still the same. Unfortunately, due to distribution problems, up until now it has been very difficult to see this film. Just a few days ago, Suzie Baer, who produced and directed the film, put it up on Youtube.

MORE:

Here is the link: https://youtu.be/RsYAYf_2WQU

Copies of the film and posters are also available by contacting Suzie at:
warriorthelifeofleonardpeltier@gmail.com

NOTE: This film covers Leonard's case well but what also makes it special is that we get to hear so much from Leonard himself, and also his family.

This film is really important now because Leonard needs really needs support. His only hope is executive clemency and President Obama's time in office is rapidly coming to a close. This film is a wonderful tool to educate people about Leonard.

Please, watch it, buy it, show it.

20 Oct - A letter from Doug Wright

Still being held in the SHU, Cleveland 4 prisoner Doug Wright needs help.

MORE:

Comrades,

I'm wanting to update everyone on my situation here in United States Penitentiary - Terre Haute, in Terre Haute, Indiana.

I'm in S.H.U. (Special Housing Unit) AKA "The Hole", again. I'll probably be in here a while, too. USP Terre Haute has a MAJOR problem discriminating against the Muslim population. they just beat up one of my muslim brothers back here in SHU on 9-25. when I came in SHU they gave me a mattress that's only about 1/4 of a mattress thick. Just a small piece of foam. My back is killing me from it, too. I came in SHU Sunday September 20th. The program statement for the mattress is 5270.10 ss 541.31 part "d". If anyone can make it happen, I need a "Noble Quran" (might be spelled Koran). No other Quran.

I also need a massive call-in campaign to target the administration here and BOP central office in Washington D.C. about the discrimination of Muslim inmates and us being given mattresses that don't stand up to BOP policy. I'm going to give the mattress situation until next Friday (October 9th) then I'll begin a hunger strike and will NOT end it until I get a transfer to where I want to go. I have the BOP program statement on hunger strikes. Program statement #5562.05.

Also, they have me and my cellie on a disciplinary segregation range, but neither of us have an incident report and they're keeping my cellie (who has asthma) from possessing his inhalers.

21 Oct - The Price You Pay for Speaking Truth in America: Jeremy Hammond's Life in Prison

At just 30 years old, Jeremy Hammond has lived a very prolific life as an activist. He is a passionate advocate for justice and peace and has spent much of his adult life selflessly helping to restore the shattered world in which we live.

MORE:

by ReAnna Ruiz (*AntiMedia*)

His main goal has been to expose government corruption, and he has encouraged others to stand up against injustices, as well. His efforts throughout the years have been both brave and heroic.

Between July and August of 2004, Jeremy was a panel speaker at DEFCON 12 and discussed Electronic Civil Disobedience and the Republican National Convention. He spoke to a very large crowd of people and his words were captivating. He certainly made an impression on audience members in attendance that evening.

Another monumental moment for Jeremy came in the fall of 2009. On September 29, several people took to the streets of Chicago to protest against the city's bid to host the 2016 Olympic games. Later in the evening, several protesters, including Jeremy, gathered in front of the Picasso statue at Daley Plaza. They misplaced pieces of a commemorative wreath that was to be adorned on the statue in honor of the upcoming games. Because of the damage caused to the scattered laurel, they were targeted for their actions. During the chaos, Jeremy was unfortunately singled out when law enforcement arrived on the scene and a scuffle ensued. By night's end, Jeremy and five other protesters had been arrested.

Perhaps the most infamous of Jeremy's mischievous endeavors as an activist was the Stratfor hack. It had long been suspected that a third party security agency hired by the U.S. government, Strategic Forecasting

Inc., was conducting illegal operations under the direction of the CIA. Jeremy's main objective was to hack into the Stratfor databases to retrieve documentation that proved illegal activity.

Upon review of the material, it became abundantly clear that Stratfor was, in fact, conducting invasive surveillance on unknowing individuals who were not guilty of any criminal activity. Additionally, several incriminating emails were discovered that detailed sinister plots and corrupt, off-the-record negotiations between border and government officials to the tune of greed and murder. These horrifying revelations, and the onslaught of illegal activity performed by Stratfor, should have been investigated further after they were exposed. The fact that they weren't supports the notion that the government could care less that Stratfor was actively partaking in criminal activity and conducting illegal surveillance on innocent Americans. Instead, the government focused solely on capturing the individual who administered the hack, as well as anyone else involved.

Barrett Brown, a writer and journalist who worked closely with Jeremy during this time, did an exceptional job reporting on the findings. Shockingly, both Jeremy and Barrett received lengthy fines and prison sentences for their involvement in exposing Stratfor's illegal operations. It is because of this unfortunate incident that Jeremy is currently incarcerated.

I have been in regular contact with Jeremy during his time behind bars and he has expressed on many occasions that the medical treatment in Manchester is incredibly scarce. This is one of the primary reasons he has given me permission to tell his story of prison life to the public. Negligence runs rampant and many inmates, including Jeremy, are left to suffer through illness and injury.

Federal prison is not only Jeremy's reality, but Barrett's, as well. Jeremy always acknowledges this and shows a tremendous amount of respect for Barrett in that regard.

For many reasons, Jeremy does not fit the stereotypical description of a prisoner. However, he has managed to adapt to the prison environment at Manchester. Jeremy is a well-respected individual in the quarters where inmates and inner circles gather, also known as "the yard." It is very clear that other inmates admire him and that he has a good reputation and relationship with many of them.

Jeremy enjoys being active and has developed several hobbies and interests during his time in prison. His indoor activities of choice are chess and spades, and when the weather is nice, he participates in organized softball games outdoors.

Exercising has become his favorite past-time of prison life. Although he has always been quite tall and slender, since his incarceration, he has spent a great deal of his time working out in the weight pile and has bulked up as a result. Quite often, the weight pile is closed due to inclement weather, which is an annoyance and frustration for him. It's located outside, and when he is unable to access it, he must revert to working out in his cell.

Jeremy is a very giving individual and he is always willing to lend a helping hand to other inmates who are struggling with their studies. He has tutored several inmates who are taking classes for their GED. Sadly, there are restrictions on his educational opportunities as he is not permitted in the prison library, which seems to be a deliberate tactic to hinder his ability to learn. However, he recently took a carpentry class and was very pleased with the projects he completed, as he doesn't have any prior experience in that field. He was particularly proud of the work he accomplished.

Prisoners have minimal access to television programming. The news broadcast at Manchester is mainstream media and the coverage is corrupt and lackluster. This is precisely why Jeremy frequently asks

his friends and supporters for books and alternative media print-outs, as it helps to keep him stay well-informed and up to date with current events.

Inmates are usually given a job or temporary duty to adhere to. Jeremy does not like his current job responsibilities and feels they are a frivolous waste of time. Typically, he is assigned to laundry services or vocational training. He recently refused a job offer making flag boxes and plaques for retired officers. When he declined the job, he was quickly shafted to petty and pointless manual labor.

Jeremy is no stranger to mischief and has gotten into trouble several times for breaking prison rules and regulations.

His visitation rights were revoked for almost two years. This penalty was part of the punishment he endured after testing positive for marijuana while he was incarcerated in NYC, shortly after his sentencing in 2013. It was because of this incident that he was transferred to Manchester FCI in Kentucky.

Most recently, he was caught with alcohol in the beginning of July, which landed him a two-month stint in Manchester's Segregated Housing Unit (SHU), and also tacked on an additional 41 days to his already excessive ten year prison sentence. Phone and email privileges were also taken away during that time, but were reinstated once he was released from SHU in the middle of September.

Jeremy has expressed on many occasions that medical treatment in Manchester is incredibly scarce. Negligence runs rampant, and many inmates, including Jeremy, are left to suffer through illness and injury.

Manchester offers free dental, but there is a lengthy waiting list. Jeremy applied nearly 2 years ago and he has never heard back from the administration. He has cavities that need to be filled and suspects he has developed more since his incarceration due to the lack of dental treatment he has received.

Jeremy had to wait nearly his entire time in prison thus far before he was finally able to see an optometrist. He just received eye glasses eight months ago.

At one point, he acquired a very significant injury to his finger and was not given proper medical attention. His finger healed improperly as a result of the medical neglect.

Recently, he was terribly ill at the end of June. He was vomiting profusely and was exhibiting food-poisoning and flu-like symptoms. However, he never received any medical attention, which caused severe weight loss and dehydration over the course of several days.

Shortly after being released from SHU in September, he injured his foot quite badly. When he reported the injury to administration and medical staff, he was told to "Walk it off."

One of the obstacles Jeremy continues to face in Manchester is continued complications with visitation. He was unable to have visitors for more than a year, as those privileges were revoked during the earlier years of his incarceration. At that point, he was strictly permitted to closed family visits only. He recently had his general visitation rights reinstated, so he is very eager to have visitors again. However, he hasn't had much luck.

Initially, inmates must send their desired visitor an application to be completed. Once the form is completed, it must be sent directly to the inmate's counselor to determine approval or rejection.

The application in and of itself is highly suspicious, as it requires the applicant to divulge certain information that seems irrelevant. Additionally, many of the inquiries are far too vague to be considered legitimate factors when determining visitor eligibility.

Applications are constantly rejected by the prison administration at Manchester. Approval is rare and reserved only under very special circumstances. This is because there is a policy statement that prohibits visits from individuals who did not know the inmate prior to incarceration. However, there have been applicants that knew Jeremy prior to his incarceration whose applications are still rejected. It would be interesting to find out why this is occurring, but the answer remains unclear as the policy does not provide an explanation for that — and neither has the administration. Jeremy believes this is a deliberate attempt to prevent him from seeing certain people, especially since the rejections have been selective.

The warden is the only individual with the authority to overrule a rejected application. Unfortunately, he has not made any exceptions in this regard, and Jeremy believes it is highly unlikely the administration will do him any favors.

Although Jeremy does a fine job of keeping himself busy with different activities, there's one thing he truly loves that he doesn't always get to enjoy in prison: music. Many are not even aware that he loves music as much as he does.

In federal prison, inmates have access to MP3s for purchase, however, Jeremy is currently incarcerated at Manchester, which is a federal prison located in the state of Kentucky. The genre of music that is generally available, country music, is not one Jeremy enjoys.

He grew up on classic rock, which he still enjoys, but his favorite types of music generally tend to be punk, ska, reggae, and rap. In particular, he enjoys bands like Operation Ivy and Bad Brains. He fondly recalls the days when he used to incessantly play their albums on cassette. It also comes as no surprise that Jeremy likes Manu Chao's music, as well. He even has print-outs of lyrics from the *Clandestino* album, which he also uses as a tool to learn Spanish.

Jeremy loves a good show, concert, or festival. He used to attend Hempfest and PeaceFest in Chicago regularly, and his band even played there one year. He has always wanted to go to Burning Man or a Rainbow Gathering — something he hopes to do one day as he is a fan of big parties, gatherings, and raves. However, when it comes to shows, he appreciates the modesty of watching unknown artists and bands perform in smaller venues, as well.

Jeremy is also a musician and played bass in a ska band, Dirty Surgeon Insurgency, with his twin brother, Jason.

To be sure, Jeremy holds opinions on certain geopolitical issues. He has also been very vocal about the groups he supports and his opinion of the “movement.”

He thinks it's incredibly sad that the U.S. is actively engaging in more war across the globe. His hope is that the American people will focus their efforts on exposing the corrupt infrastructure of the U.S. military. Moreover, he is vehemently opposed to U.S. military actions in Iraq and elsewhere.

He was particularly impassioned while reading *The Rejova Revolution* a few months ago, as he thought it was amazing that the Kurds independently defended themselves from ISIS in order to start establishing a revolutionary society. This sort of reading material very much entices him.

He is a passionate supporter of cannabis and hopes that by the time he is out of prison, it is legalized nationwide. He is proud that medical marijuana is legal in his home state of Illinois, however, he finds the process to obtain manufacturing and selling permits to be an arduous hassle.

He has always shown a tremendous amount of support for the LGBT community and was very pleased when the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage. Of course, the constant hate and homophobia displayed by other inmates at Manchester sickens him deeply.

Lastly, he still identifies with the Anonymous ideology and continues to show love, support, and dedication to the collective.

Jeremy is incredibly proud of the efforts put forth in the movement. He attributes the success of these efforts to camaraderie and would like to keep the momentum going. Clearly, he has a strong belief in unity among the people and believes we can accomplish great things if we continue on that path.

In the year 2020, Jeremy will be released to a halfway house to complete the rest of his sentence. He truly appreciates the many friends, family, and supporters he has in his corner, so please continue to advocate for him and make every effort to support all of his pages.

Jeremy has cited the following as his official support pages: www.freejeremy.net (Website), [@freejeremynet](https://twitter.com/freejeremynet) (Twitter), www.facebook.com/freejeremy.net (Facebook).

The entire Anti-Media family sends Jeremy and his family much love and continued support.

21 Oct - "A Warming Embrace of Loving Solidarity to You All!" an update on Maliki Shakur Latine

Please take time to read the latest about Maliki Shakur Latine.

MORE:

Thank you so much for your love and solidarity and for growing with us in these past few months! Thank you especially to NYC Anarchist Black Cross, and to everyone who donated to Maliki Shakur Latine's legal fund!

Thanks to you, Maliki Shakur Latine's wonderful and tireless lawyer was able to file an Article 78 on his behalf in early September to challenge his unjust 2014 parole denial. Like many people in New York correctional facilities, Mr. Latine has never been able to choose his own lawyer before and it is already making a world of difference! While awaiting the result of the filing, his lawyer, family, and friends are beginning to prepare for Mr. Latine's next appearance before the parole board in April 2016.

Also thanks to you, people are finally beginning to know the name "Maliki Shakur Latine" and his story. Awareness about parole and prison injustice and mass incarceration is growing and more and more people and their stories are coming to light!

As Maliki Shakur Latine said in his statement for NYC ABC's Running Down the Walls event in September, "A Warming Embrace of Loving Solidarity to You All!"

22 Oct - 'Right to Hunt' Act would criminalize first amendment rights in Wisconsin!

The proposed 'Right to Hunt' Act in Wisconsin would criminalize documenting hunting practices.

MORE:

The act was introduced by Wisconsin State Rep Jarchow in direct response to Wolf Patrol's work in national forests (public land) in Wisconsin.

The text of the proposed Right to Hunt Act (SB338) in Wisconsin is available here:
<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/proposals/sb338>.

Our Wolf Patrol crew have simply been filming and documenting bear baiting & hound hunting practices on public lands to bring them to the attention of the public. These hunting practices frequently put hounds and wolves in conflict situations, with hounds dying and wolves being further demonized. Clearly we are having an impact if representatives with hunters interests at heart are trying to criminalize our activities. What are they trying to hide by stopping us documenting hunting practices?

Wisconsin already has hunter harassment laws, and hunters have a lot of protections for their activities on public lands. Please help us stop the 'Right to Hunt' act, which would inhibit the ability of ALL residents of Wisconsin to practice first amendment rights on public lands.

24 Oct - Jalil Muntaqim Arbitrarily Denied Books

On October 7, 2015, Jalil was arbitrarily denied receipt of four books after they had been approved by the package room. Jalil would like folk to write to Commissioner Annucci regarding this matter.

MORE:

There is a reoccurring problem at the package room pertaining to the receipt of books and reading materials.

Today, I was called to the package room to receive several books (*Billionaires: Reflections on the Upper Crust*, by Darrell M. West; *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else*, by Chrystie Freeland; *Clandestine Occupations—An Imaginary History*, by Diana Block; and *Escaping the Prism—Fade to Black*, by Jalil Muntaqim). The last book is of my own writings, my third published book. All of the books were originally approved to be received when received by the package room. However, when the package room officer started to give me the books, seeing the one written by me, he decided the books were no longer permitted to be received. I then requested the books be sent to media review pursuant to Directive 4911(H)(1)(b). The officer refused, demanding they be sent from the facility or be destroyed.

This is not the first time I've been denied publications and books from package room officers, or books were not processed according to Dir. #4911 and/or Dir. #4572. For example, as here enclosed, a publication was sent to Media Review without my being informed of receipt to the facility. The only notice of the publication receipt was from Media Review, informing the publication violated specific guidelines. This is not the correct protocol or procedure when books and publications received by the facility are sent to Media Review.

Again, when the officer today recognized one of the books was of my own writing, sent by my publisher, he decided at the window I could not have the book after first giving me the receipt paper for me to sign to receive the book. He then rejected the three other books out of hand, again denying they be sent to the Media Review Committee, although invoices for each indicated they were properly ordered.

I would prefer not to presume the officer at the package room was prejudiced due to my being the author of the book. However, the only conclusion to be reached, after the books were initially approved to be

received, is that the officer's refusal to permit me to have the books at the window obviously provides no other plausible reason than his personal disdain and prejudice.

Needless to assert here, there is a plethora of legal cases and Court rulings that deny violation of First Amendment guarantees as pertaining to free speech and receipt of literature for prisoners. This includes the procedural due process right for the handling of literature for prisoners. In this case, those procedural due process rights are promulgated in DOCCS Directive(s) #4911, #4572 and Employees Manual §14.4

This is my first formal complaint to your office, although this has been a reoccurring problem. I sincerely hope your office will investigate this matter, and assure future receipt of books, publications and literature will be processed according to stated Directives, and not subject to officers' prejudice, capricious or arbitrary discretion.

Write to Commissioner Annucci at:
Anthony Annucci
Commissioner of DOCCS
1220 Washington Avenue
The Harriman State Campus, Building 2
Albany, New York 12226-2050

24 Oct - Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar 2016 Available

The calendar is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal and Toronto, and three political prisoners being held in maximum-security prisons in New York State: David Gilbert, Robert Seth Hayes and Herman Bell.

MORE:

The initial project was suggested by Herman, and has been shaped throughout the process by all of our ideas, discussions, and analysis. All of the members of the outside collective are involved in day-to-day organizing work other than the calendar, on issues ranging from refugee and immigrant solidarity to community media to prisoner justice. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer and trans positive position.

Buy Individual copies at <https://www.leftwingbooks.net/book/content/certain-days-calendar-2016>

Bulk order of Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar are ready. Contact them to get 10 or more at http://www.certaindays.org/?q=order_us

25 Oct - Cleveland, i miss ur misery by Connor Stevens

Here's a new poem by Cleveland 4 prisoner Connor Stevens.

MORE:

we bury dead gods
in unknown soil
grated against the jagged
rocks of sidewalks
pierced by the lying light
shooting off metal
ants swell around
soda cans and intersections

adrift in the police line-ups
of the public busses
yearning for the touch of your breath
of smoke through the snow
dripping sticky down the staircases
and alleys coagulating blood
lacking ground to stand upon
or grass to lay in
The stomach turns to cement
in the onslaught
of broken bottles, elevators
gunshots and dog barks, butts
the dying loved ones and
the thriving fools,
that great inert mass
of cold indifference:
The City.

2 Nov - Pack the court for the Brooklyn Bridge defendants

The cases of the five people still facing charges from the Millions March in December are coming to a head. Please pack the court for this important hearing.

MORE:

Show up at 9:00am, Monday, November 2nd at 100 Centre Street (Manhattan).

Also, use caution: court guards have been harassing friends and comrades who are showing support for this case. Be safe, watch out for each other, and let them know we won't be scared away from having each other's back.

While in the courtroom, please do not talk to each other or use your phones or computers at any time. Dress appropriately, and do not forget to take off your hats.

7 Nov - 7th Annual Freedom Dance

WHAT: Party With A Purpose

WHEN: 8:00pm until midnight, Saturday, November 7th

WHERE: National Black Theater - 2031 Fifth Avenue (at 126th Street)

COST: \$20 (includes a drink)

MORE:

Celebrate 36 years (YES!) of freedom for Assata Shakur and SUPPORT the fight to free all U.S. held political prisoners. There will be great food and DJ Revolution (a/k/a Lumumba Bandele) - so you know you WILL dance. All Proceeds benefit the political prisoners— some of whom remain behind the walls after more than 40 years - FREE THEM ALL!

Mark your calendar, watch for further details, get ready to PARTY WITH A PURPOSE!

12 Nov - Let the Fire Burn Screening and Raffle

WHAT: End-of-the-Year Fundraiser for Books Through Bars

WHEN: 7:00pm, Thursday, November 12th

WHERE: The Commons - 388 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11217

COST: \$5-\$20, suggested donation and bring money for raffle tickets

MORE:

Join us for Books Through Bars NYC's annual end-of-the-year fundraiser at the Commons Brooklyn on November 12th at 7:00 p.m. We will be screening the documentary, Let the Fire Burn, about the events leading up to and surrounding a 1985 stand-off between the black liberation group MOVE and the Philadelphia Police Department. We will hear from one of the incarcerated members of MOVE afterwards.

The Commons Brooklyn (388 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY) is most accessible the Atlantic Terminal (2, 3, 4, 5, N, Q, R, B, and D trains).

Suggested donation at door \$5-20; all proceeds go towards buying postage to send free books to people in prison, BTB's only operating expense.

We will also be having a raffle. We will raffle prizes from AK Press, Verso Books, Life Floats (sensory deprivation tank center), Birds of Lace Zines and zine subscription. More prizes will be announced soon, so stay tuned! One raffle ticket will be \$2 and three tickets will be \$5.

BTB NYC is a non-profit community group and collective which sends free donated books to people in prison. We have been around for nearly twenty years and we are a project of the ABC No Rio activist center, although for the past few years we have been doing our packing work in Brooklyn at Freebird Birds. Books Through Bars NYC comprises approximately twenty volunteers who work to provide free reading and educational material to people who value books tremendously but often have extremely limited access to them. The money raised on November 12th goes towards our only operating expense, which is postage for the book packages.

If you cannot make it to the fundraiser, please consider donating to Books Through Bars NYC here: <http://booksthroughbarsnyc.org/wp/index.php/donate>. You can donate money, stamps, packing supplies, or books. Just \$10 can send three book packages to three people in prison. Unfortunately the need for our services increases every month.

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