



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for November 10th

28 Oct - Instead of Pardoning a Turkey, Obama Should Free This Man

While we don't see why both the turkey and Peltier can't both be pardoned, as opposed to one or the other, the following is still interesting.

MORE:

by John Kiriakou (Other Words)

As Thanksgiving approaches, I've got a suggestion for President Barack Obama.

Instead of following the White House tradition and “pardoning” a turkey destined for a holiday dinner table, Obama should extend that courtesy to some of the thousands of human beings caged up in America's federal prisons.

Leonard Peltier should be one of them.

Peltier was a Native American activist on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the 1970s. On June 26, 1975, two FBI agents went to Pine Ridge to look for a young man named Jimmy Eagle, who was wanted for robbery. Soon after they spotted his car, a shootout ensued.

Both agents and one of the occupants of the car were killed. A later shootout at the gunman's home ended in two more deaths.

An FBI investigation turned up a gun with Peltier's fingerprints on it, although there was no evidence he'd been involved in the murder of the agents. Peltier was placed on the FBI's most wanted list and eventually captured in Canada.

His trial was controversial.

The prosecution's evidence showed that the two agents were killed at close range — evidence that hadn't been presented in the trial of two earlier defendants, who were acquitted. Peltier admitted to firing at the agents from a distance, but insisted that he hadn't been in close proximity to them and hadn't killed them.

Nonetheless, Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences.

In the years after the trial, new evidence emerged indicating that Peltier couldn't have killed the agents. An FBI ballistics expert found that the firing pin and cartridges used in the killings didn't come from Peltier's gun. And all three witnesses who placed Peltier at the scene of the killing later recanted, saying that they'd been coerced by the FBI and denied access to their attorneys.

Even the federal parole board wrote in 1993 that it “recognizes that the prosecution has conceded the lack of any direct evidence that Peltier participated in the executions of the two FBI agents.”

More than two decades later, Peltier still sits in a federal penitentiary in Florida, where he won't be eligible for another parole hearing until he's well into his 80s. He's been incarcerated for 39 years.

An array of progressive, libertarian, and human rights groups have urged for Peltier to receive clemency. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark acts as his pro bono attorney. But the only thing that can help Peltier is presidential action.

It really looks like our government has locked up an innocent man. Isn't it time to fix it?

With his presidency coming to a close and Thanksgiving around the corner, it's the perfect time for Obama to offer a gesture to help make amends with our nation's original people. Instead of pardoning a turkey, he should pardon Leonard Peltier.

29 Oct - Appeal Filed Over Experimental Prison Units That Restrict Prisoners' Communications

The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) appealed a federal district court decision, which essentially ruled prisoners who were confined in Communication Management Units (CMUs) did not have their rights violated.

MORE:

by Kevin Gosztola (*Shadowproof*)

The United States Bureau of Prisons set up CMUs in 2006 and 2008, in Terre Haute, Indiana, and Marion, Illinois, in order to restrict the communications of prisoners it considers to be higher-risk, such as individuals convicted of terrorism-related offenses. However, CCR describes the units as "experimental" because the Bureau of Prisons didn't establish any meaningful procedures or criteria for placing prisoners in CMUs. The lack of procedures and criteria led to "haphazard and retaliatory" designations, according to CCR.

CCR's appeal [PDF] argues the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia committed an error when it dismissed the organization's challenge to CMUs on March 16. The segregation that plaintiffs in the case experienced threatened their due process rights and caused "atypical and significant hardship," which a court should review. But the district court "erroneously" assessed the "significance of plaintiffs' lengthy time in the CMU" and also ignored the "stigmatizing nature of CMU designation."

CCR brought the lawsuit on behalf of Yassin Aref and Kifah Jayyousi, who were convicted terrorism-related offenses, and environmental activist Daniel McGowan, who was convicted of conspiracy, arson, and attempted arson. Jayyousi and McGowan were placed in CMUs on the basis of false and incorrect information about their past history, and Jayyousi was kept in a CMU for leading a Jumah prayer sermon in 2008, and McGowan for his writings from prison on environmental issues.

Jayyousi and Aref are still in prison, but McGowan completed his sentence and was released in 2012.

McGowan told Shadowproof, "The fact the Bureau of Prisons confined me in a CMU two times shows that they aimed to silence me and prevent me from blogging on what was happening behind the walls."

"Prior to that, I had engaged in writing about the effects of the drug war, prison conditions, and current events. I do not think I censored myself in what I wrote though I was conscious that the BOP was seeing everything I wrote through a very narrow filter and thus using my words and articles to attempt to justify their actions," McGowan added.

He was transferred into the Marion CMU in 2008 and, after being released into general population more than two years later, he was moved to the Terre Haute CMU.

McGowan used the Bureau of Prisons' administrative remedy process after the Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU) described his "offense conduct" as including "destruction of an energy facility," and "teaching

others how to commit arson.” This appeared to fit the description of what a co-defendant had been accused of doing and were offenses never alleged in his case.

As McGowan explained, he recognized the administrative remedy process was “fraudulent” and to some extent like a “kangaroo court.” However, prisoners are expected to exhaust this process before filing any lawsuits against their confinement conditions. In fact, not exhausting this process can lead to judges throwing out lawsuits on technicalities. He also found it important to file complaints through this process because it would document what was going on and “contribute to the historical record.”

Though McGowan filed more than twenty complaints during this time, at no time did prison officials deem any of his complaints to be valid.

The Bureau of Prisons opened CMUs without any public notice or opportunity for public comment on rule making. The effect of this was evident to McGowan during his incarceration, as he could tell staff was making up procedures as they went along.

McGowan and Jayyousi were not told why they were put in a CMU. Through discovery, McGowan learned he was transferred from a federal facility in Sandstone, Minnesota, to the Marion CMU because of correspondence “with numerous associates” of radical environmental and anarchist groups.

“Through his communications, McGowan continues to provide guidance, leadership, and direction for activities, publications and movement practices in order to further the goals of radical environmental groups,” a secret March 22, 2010 memo quoted in the appeal indicated.

There was no way for McGowan to know he was engaging in conduct the prison opposed because no officials ever instructed him to stop this conduct. So, this is just one more way prison officials make it difficult to contest being placed in a CMU.

Prisoners in CMUs are segregated from general population and only permitted to have non-contact visits. They cannot touch hands or hug their spouses or children and are separated from family by thick plexiglass. They talk to family over a telephone. Visits to CMU prisoners may be limited to four hours with “immediate family members” each month. Up until January 3, 2010, CMU prisoners were only allowed “four hours of social visitation per month and could only schedule visits on weekdays.” After January 3, 2010, BOP increased visitation to “eight hours per month, in two four-hour blocks, excluding Saturdays.”

Similarly, CMU prisoners were only permitted one 15-minute “social telephone call per week” until January 10, 2010. The calls had to be “scheduled for a weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., when most prisoners’ loved ones are typically at work or school. After January 10, 2010, CMU prisoners were permitted two scheduled 15-minute calls per week with “immediate family only. But Bureau of Prisons regulations allows personnel to restrict CMU prisoners to three 15-minute calls per month.

Prisoners visiting or speaking with family are required to speak in English unless facilities have been able to schedule translation.

Additionally, a prisoner can be in a CMU for years because there is no limit. There are “harsh consequences” for being in a CMU for a long period.

The appeal notes, “Jayyousi was not able to hug his young daughters for almost five years ... McGowan was unable to embrace his wife for nearly four years. Aref describes the lack of physical contact with his children for the 47 months that he spent at the CMUs as a ‘kind of torture.’”

Administrative segregation, in contrast, may only last a few weeks. So, this is part of why CCR believes it is critical to challenge CMU restrictions.

“Communications Management Units impose harsh restrictions on prisoners’ communication with their families and with fellow prisoners for years at a time,” declared CCR staff attorney Rachel Meeropol. “All we are seeking is an explanation of why these prisoners are being singled out for such a restrictive unit, and the chance to contest false or retaliatory placements.”

31 Oct - “I refuse to make a habit” a poem by Eric King

We’ve included the latest poetry by pre-trial, imprisoned anarchist comrade Eric King.

MORE:

I refuse to make a habit
of being oppressed or oppressive
to wear chains and pretend
they’re bracelets
nothing orange is stylish
these meals aren’t gifts
and these captors aren’t our pals
don’t give a fuck how their day is
or if they’re breathing
that pepper spray isn’t cologne
these beatings aren’t for show
the fire got put out in our cans
but the power is in our hands
till they rob the air we breathe
i’ll stand on the side of action
lessons learned today
mental weakness overcome today
will make a better me tomorrow
for refusing to be broken
and refusing to make a habit
of being oppressed
or of being oppressive
such will keep me free
no matter what they bring

31 Oct - New Prisoner Publication: UNSTOPPABLE

A new prisoner publication is beginning. It is unstoppable.

MORE:

Unstoppable is specifically by and for incarcerated folks who identify as women, gender variant, and/or trans. This anti-authoritarian publication seeks to blend radical political analyses with personal experiences and observations. We want to elevate the voices on the inside that are often excluded from political dialogues, while also asking people on the outside to convey their social and political realities to people on the inside. *Unstoppable* aims to build bridges across prison walls and beyond them by facilitating dialogue and engagement between those who are incarcerated and those who are not.

Unstoppable is asking for contributions in the form of artwork, poetry, writings, social commentaries, fieldnotes from the prison yard or the streets, critical views of power structures and more. *Unstoppable* is particularly interested in focusing on gendered issues and systems of social control in the U.S. context, but we invite a wide array of topics. Such topics might include: organizing against police terror; personal triumphs in overcoming past or ongoing trauma; community-based responses to gendered violence and abuse; self-care in high stress environments; the consequences of deprivation in the U.S. prison system; environmental liberation; forms of resistance in women's prisons; do-it-yourself ethics; astrology and planetary transits; et cetera!

Please email unstoppablepublication@gmail.com if you wish to be involved with this project in any way or if you have a contribution to share (<http://unstoppable.noblogs.org/>)

Or you can write us at unstoppable, post office box 11032, pueblo, colorado 81001 to contribute or to get a free subscription if you are currently incarcerated! Please spread the word to folks on the inside and out; we want this distributed broadly!

2 Nov - Chelsea Manning Reflects on Army's Punishment for Expired Toothpaste & LGBTQ Literature

In letters from the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Chelsea Manning reflects on the punishment she received from the United States Army for having an expired tube of toothpaste and possessing books and magazines, which had to do with LGBTQ and political issues.

MORE:

by Kevin Gosztola (Shadowproof)

Manning is serving a thirty-five year prison sentence at Leavenworth. She was convicted of offenses stemming from her decision to provide WikiLeaks over a half million U.S. government documents, which exposed war crimes, diplomatic misconduct, and other instances of wrongdoing and questionable acts by U.S. officials.

The Army imposed 21 days of "recreational restrictions," which went into force on September 17. She was not allowed to go to the gym, library, or outdoors. And, more significantly, administrative "charges" she received for what the Army considered misconduct became a part of her permanent record.

"The timing was awful emotionally," Manning recalled, in a letter to me. "The day that I started the restrictions lined up in such a way that the awful news about the fact that I'm going to have to go through another long, drawn out legal battle over something very simple and personal happened about the same time."

What Manning meant is the Army had notified her it would prohibit her from growing her hair, and the Justice Department would back up the Army while it defended the hair restriction in court.

"I felt very hurt—a lot more than I expected," Manning shared. "To make matters worse, my main outlet for emotional support and comfort when I'm feeling depressed, anxious, lonely, or hurt is music. I don't have access to anything that stores music whatsoever, but I do have a radio—and that was taken away on the same day."

"It compounded everything by making me sit alone in a quiet empty cell. I felt really, really small and insignificant. I haven't felt that bad in years," Manning added.

Prior to a disciplinary board hearing, Manning requested a “formal demand for trial by court-martial.” She explained she was denied a “formal trial” because the prison claimed the “charges” were “administrative” and not criminal.

“This is troubling because these boards for prison discipline yield far, far more power than most other administrative boards in the military, such as the ‘non-judicial punishment’ boards under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ),” Manning argued. “They are basically rigged by the senior staff,” and “you cannot win once your charges go to a more serious ‘three member’ board.”

Yet, Manning was not put in solitary confinement for any part of her punishment. She attributed this to “public scrutiny” and “fear of pressure from the military leadership.” She also asserted she received a lighter punishment to prevent her from “being able to appeal to a higher authority.”

Chase Strangio, Manning’s attorney from the ACLU, commented, “Despite some progress in our lawsuit resulting in Chelsea receiving critically important treatment including hormone therapy, the government continues to enforce and defend its application of male hair length and hair grooming standards to Chelsea, thereby undermining her medical care and violating her rights to be treated like all other women in military prison.”

“This unconstitutional treatment is causing Chelsea to experience extreme anxiety and depression and we will keep fighting for her safety and right to equal treatment,” Strangio added.

As previously indicated by Strangio, one of the harshest aspects of the punishment she incurred is the “charges” will follow Manning through the parole and clemency process. She will be imprisoned “longer in the more restrictive custody, where she is now incarcerated.”

And now, on top of that, Manning must fight the U.S. Army, backed up in court by the legal arm of the U.S. government, in order to be herself and grow her hair to “female standards” in the Army.

3 Nov - New Writing by Mumia Abu-Jamal

We’ve included the latest commentaries by Mumia Abu-Jamal below.

MORE:

November 3rd - Disturbing the Peace

The video is stunning.

A muscular cop leans over a skinny schoolgirl, flips the chair in which she sits, sending her to a hard fall to floor on her back.

Before she can disentangle herself from the desk-chair, she is seized and thrown across the room, like a ragdoll. She is immediately handcuffed and arrested, for ‘disturbing’ her class room.

According to published accounts, she was said to have been a non-participant in class, and ordered to leave the classroom. When she refused to leave, the schools so-called ‘resource’ officer was notified.

When policeman Ben Fields arrived at the classroom, he went into Rambo mode on the child!!

The rest is infamy.

Several months ago, a video showed a mad 'Robocop' assaulting a young teenaged girl in a bikini.

This latest police attack on a young girl is almost identical - except it happened in a classroom.

Consider this: the girl in class never assaulted anyone, she merely refused to leave. Was this more 'disturbing' than the madcap cop response, which looked more at home in a WWE ring than a classroom?

It tells us the nature of public schools, and more ominously, the nature of police. Are cops there to protect the students, or the staff from the students?

What is the function of teachers, to teach obedience - or to teach freedom?

Events such as these show us an ugly, unpopular, uncomfortable truth about American schools, and how they interact in the lives of children, especially Black children.

The imagery of a beefy Black cop throwing a white teenaged girl across a classroom would've evoked an immediate response.

That this has not, speaks volumes about the degraded value of the lives and well-being of Black children in America today.

November 3rd - Electing Enemies

The U.S. Presidential elections are over a year from now, but if you relied on national media accounts, you'd think that they were all but imminent.

But this isn't the elections; it's like an obstacle course, a year ahead- a fest for the wealthy, the well-connected or those with moneyed support.

It's long, and expensive, not for the voters - but for the funders - those who buy or rent candidates, to serve the interests of capital - not the people.

If recent elections have proven nothing, they have proven this: those candidates are chosen to betray the electorate, and to serve Wall Street and the corporate elite. Few did this better than Bill Clinton; a master politician; a master betrayer.

Blacks worshipped him as 'the first Black president' - even as he savaged their interests to placate racist white fears and anxieties. He drove a stake into the middle class by supporting NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), and exporting jobs abroad that never could be replaced.

That fealty to Wall Street was duplicated during the terms of Barack Hussein Obama, and Blacks lost more wealth during his administration than at any time since reconstruction.

Only belatedly, in his last months, has Obama addressed the horrors of the racist prison system - and - pushed by protest, has begun to half-heartedly address the unrelenting scourge of police violence against Blacks.

Voting hasn't been our solution; it's empowered forces that have exacerbated our problems, while fastening new chains over our existence.

5 Nov - More ways to spread the word and show your support for Nicole and Joseph

Thanks to everyone who has bought a t- shirt, to those who continue to donate small and large amounts, and to all those who are still visiting Joseph's wish list that is still live while he remains on house arrest.

MORE:

Now we have two options for stickers and buttons. So, if you donate at least \$10 we will send you two buttons, and two stickers of your choosing.

The buttons come in the two different varieties, and the stickers come in black and white or purple and white. So, when you visit the donate page and donate your \$10 or more please leave a note letting us know which stickers and/or buttons you would like.

To donate, visit <http://supportnicoleandjoseph.com/2015/07/27/donate-to-the-defense-fund>

5 Nov - National Action Campaign for Imam Jamil/H.Rap Brown Transfer & Medical Treatment

The Imam Jamil Action Network (IJAN), family and allies call for a national action campaign to transfer Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin/H. Rap Brown to Georgia or Yazoo City, Mississippi.

MORE:

He Needs:

QUALITY MEDICAL TREATMENT BY SPECIALISTS
TO BE CLOSER TO HIS LAWYERS

WRITE: U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Complex
346 Marine Forces Drive
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051
EMAIL: GRA-DSC PolicyCorrespondence@bop.gov
CALL: 972.352.4400
FAX: 972.352.4395

Reference: Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, #99974-555

Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown has worked tirelessly standing and speaking out for justice and against oppression. From the years of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to the Atlanta Community Mosque and national Muslim community and beyond.

In addition to having Smoldering Myeloma, Imam Jamil Al-Amin/H. Rap Brown is suffering from Sjogren's Syndrome. He continues to suffer severe pain, swollen jaws and other symptoms. He must be afforded quality medical attention by specialists.

Urge the Federal Bureau of Prisons to ensure adequate treatment for Imam Al-Amin's medical condition, by transferring him to a warmer climate, i.e., a Georgia facility or Yazoo City, Mississippi. The cold climate in Waymart, Pennsylvania, more than 700 miles from his attorneys, aggravates his illness. While his health is priority, Imam Jamil must have constant contact with his legal team. It is urgent he is transferred to one of the above facilities.

5 Nov - Three Members of Everglades Earth First! on Trial for Defending Florida Forest

Below is a corporate news article about activists in Florida.

MORE:

by Dierdra Funcheon (*Broward-Palm Beach New Times*)

A trial taking place today brings attention once again to the plight of the 700-acre Briger Forest, a rare tract of pristine land in Palm Beach County that environmentalists have been trying to protect for years. Developers have begun to clear trees and build roads to construct homes, stores, and laboratories for the private, nonprofit Scripps Biotech Institute.

Activists have fought the project in hopes of protecting the indigo snakes and gopher tortoises that live in the forest habitat. The activists have also pointed out that Scripps conducts secretive research using potentially hazardous pathogens that could present a danger to local residents. Furthermore, they say, this is an egregious case of a private entity receiving handouts from taxpayers.

Five years ago, activists staged a tree-sit to protect Briger, refusing to leave the forest for six weeks. They were ultimately arrested. Last November, three people — Bailey Riley, Ryan Hartman, Ashley Lyons — were arrested when they chained themselves to a van and blocked access to the construction site to protest the development. They pleaded not guilty prior to their trial today. Panagioti Tsolkas, a friend of the defendants and a longtime activist with the Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition, says the activists intended to use a so-called “necessity defense” that is sometimes invoked in cases of civil disobedience— i.e., arguing that they broke a law, but for good reason.

It was 2003 when Jeb Bush and the Florida Legislature lured the Scripps Research Institute to Florida with a \$310 million economic development plan. There was a lot of buzz about this new employer that would bring intelligent scientists and well-paying jobs to northern Palm Beach County; the private, nonprofit organization pays a reported \$40,000 to \$190,000 to staff working on biomedical research and pharmaceutical development.

But environmentalists have always decried the government handing over some of the state’s last undeveloped acreage to private entities. In the mid-’00s, the county spent \$100 million buying 2,000 acres of land — formerly a citrus grove called Mecca Farms — and preparing for construction. But environmentalists fought the project in federal court and prevailed. In 2006, Scripps instead located to a site in the Abacoa area of Jupiter, and the county later sold the Mecca Farms site to the South Florida Water Management District, which intended to turn it into a reservoir. But that wasn’t the end of the story.

The ball started rolling for Scripps Phase II — a mixed-use development with labs, retail, and homes — on the Briger parcel.

According to Tsolkas, his group has been contesting the project “similar to how Scripps was defeated on Mecca Farms.” Permitting is done piecemeal — one permitting process to build a road here, another process for building a building there — and his group has been challenging parts of the project in hopes of stopping the whole.

Tsolkas says that developers continually skirt legal challenges from environmentalists by using a legal runaround. He says his group first raised objections in 2010 about everything from endangered species to hazardous waste but was told by authorities that “this just conceptual; we’ll [address those concerns] when they apply for construction permits.”

Although activists were unsuccessful in contesting roads where Kolter Homes is developing housing, they are now challenging Scripps on the grounds that its labs may house hazardous waste that could potentially enter a federal waterway, because water from the Briger area drains into the Intracoastal Waterway.

In a second amended complaint asking the South Florida Water Management District for a hearing, the petitioners wrote: “Scripps Phase II is proposed to be built on top of forest that drains into the Intracoastal Waterway, and Scripps is known to handle hazardous and nuclear materials, and as such can inflict irreversible damage on water that millions of people rely on to drink, and that is required for successful restoration of the Everglades. The area of potential impact to residents, and the likelihood of injury to petitioners, is expanded due to the fact that hazardous material will be shipped in and out of the facility, meaning the potential for accidents all along the transport route.”

This summer, USA Today published an investigation of accidents, safety violations, and near-misses at facilities that work with potentially hazardous pathogens like ebola and anthrax. The paper found that Scripps was very secretive about its research:

“The institute redacted information from its biosafety committee minutes and incident reports... The names of pathogens, the topics of research, and information about safety concerns are among the information blacked out from the records. A Scripps attorney told USA Today that the information was redacted because it contained ‘trade secrets, unpublished scientific hypotheses and research strategies, descriptions of experiments, proprietary methodologies, and materials and other confidential commercial or business information.’”

“Scripps is moving forward with construction,” says Tsolkas. “Ostensibly they’re still moving forward with laboratories. All the people buying houses around there should know how Scripps is transporting hazardous waste through the neighborhood.”

Tsolkas says that Scripps was defeated only late in the game, after developers had broken ground — but that was because a federal judge ruled that the permitting had been done piecemeal and thus incorrectly. The Briger tract has so far been a local and state matter, but Tsolkas hopes that by invoking the potential effects on federally protected waterways, his group may put a halt to the project.

This morning, activists from Everglades Earth First are staging a rally outside the West Palm Beach courthouse. If convicted, the defendants face maximum sentences ranging from months to over a year of jail time.

6 Nov - Tyler Lang Sentencing Date Changed

On December 18th, 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: 10:15am, Friday, December 18

Where: Courtroom 1241, Judge Amy St. Eve
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

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.

8 Nov - Jay Chase Update

An update on Jared (Jay) Chase of the NATO 3.

MORE:

Jared Chase of the NATO 3 is serving an 8-year sentence for helping undercover cops with their own idea to make molotov cocktails, that were never used, to protest the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago. Originally charged with multiple counts of terrorism under IL state law (not federal charges), he and his co-defendants were acquitted of ALL terrorism-related charges, but convicted on lesser charges including misdemeanor mob action and possession of an incendiary device with intent to commit arson.

Chase is currently scheduled to be released on parole in May 2016. However, he still has an unresolved battery charge pending, resulting from an incident with Cook County Jail guards during his pre-trial confinement. His doctor's testimony at sentencing for the charge of possessing an incendiary device revealed that Chase's hereditary Huntington's disease is a likely factor contributing to his behavior in custody and the pending charges. Chase has not been receiving the recommended medical care and nutritional supplements required to treat his condition while in custody, further adding to his erratic behavior.

Chase has dismissed both his NLG attorneys and his public defender, and his trial for allegedly assaulting guards has been postponed yet again until December 7. He continues to face harsh treatment in custody, including losing "good time," losing visitation rights, having personal property destroyed, spending time in solitary confinement and even being housed on suicide watch (despite not being suicidal). He has gone on many hunger strikes as his only recourse to demand that they meet his medical and nutritional needs, without much success.

In October of 2014, Chase wrote to several supporters, "I am a transgender woman," asking to be referred to as Maya Chase. In accordance with these stated wishes, supporters spread the word in blogs and via social media that Chase's preferred name was Maya and pronouns were feminine. In a more recent letter, however, dated September 21, 2015, Chase explicitly requested that his legal name and male pronouns be used once again to identify him: "Also let me apologize for rushing so much in my last letter [that] I didn't get to explain the sudden change of names. After a lot of thinking I've decided even though I am Bi/TS/GQ, I don't think I want to spend the rest of my life as a Woman 24/7. So you can refer to me in mascul[ine] terms." Letters from that date forward have been signed using "Jared" or "Jay."

Jared needs all the love and support of our community as he navigates a hostile and inhumane institution from the inside.

9 Nov - Urgent need to support Robert Seth Hayes

The following is based on a call from Orié Lumumba regarding Robert Seth Hayes.

MORE:

As many of you know, Seth has had a chronic cough since May of this year for which he did not receive any diagnosis or treatment for many months.

When Seth finally saw the pulmonologist at Coxsackie on Monday, November 2, the doctor wanted to know why the medical personnel at Sullivan had waited so long to bring Seth for a pulmonary exam. The pulmonologist intends to schedule for Seth a CT scan, a CT scan of his heart, and bloodwork. The pulmonologist thought there might be some infection, but needs more info.

In addition, the facility doctor (Dr. Sidorowicz) told Seth to come to the clinic to use the nebulizer whenever he feels short of breath. Seth has been using an inhaler twice a day (Seth does not get to carry his inhaler, and so needs to go to medical when he gets short of breath) and also the nebulizer twice a day for a while now, although he does not yet have a diagnosis of the cause of this chronic cough.

On a prior occasion about 10 days ago, C.O. Slater, who was accompanying Seth to the clinic, stated that Seth did not really need the nebulizer. Then the nurses did not attend to Seth, and he had to overcome his difficulty breathing on his own.

Today, the same thing happened again, with C.O. Slater once again claiming that Seth did not really need the nebulizer. Seth passed out shortly thereafter and a Code Blue was called on him.

We need people to call Superintendent Keyser at Sullivan specifically about C.O. Slater interfering with and preventing Seth from receiving needed medical attention. This C.O. should never accompany Seth to the medical clinic again. Also ask why the nurses are not following the facility doctor's medical advice instead of paying attention to C.O. Slater.

We also need people to call and fax Dr. Koenigsmann and Nancy Lyng in Albany to demand that Seth receive all needed pulmonary tests as soon as possible and that C.O. Slater be prohibited from accompanying Seth to the clinic in the future.

This is attempted medical murder of one of our beloved freedom fighters and. we must do everything possible to help Seth at this time.

Superintendent Keyser at Sullivan: 845.434.2080
Dr. Koenigsmann: 518.457.7073 (phone) and 518.445.7553 (fax)
Nancy Lyng: 518.445.6176

Seth needs visitors and letters.

Robert Seth Hayes #74-A-2280
Sullivan Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 116
Fallsburg, New York 12733-0116

Van to Sullivan picks you up at your door: 845.866.1118

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. 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 is most accessible the Atlantic Terminal (2, 3, 4, 5, N, Q, R, B, and D trains).

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.

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

19 Nov - Parole Preparation Project Welcome Home Celebration & Fundraiser

WHAT: Welcome home parolees

WHEN: 7:00pm, Thursday, November 19th

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

COST: Suggested donations of \$10 - \$100 (no one turned away for lack of funds)

MORE:

The Parole Preparation Project is an all-volunteer collaboration with people serving life sentences in New York State prisons to support them as they prepare for upcoming Parole Board interviews. Join us as we celebrate the homecoming of people released on parole and help us raise funds to cover prison visits, postage costs, phone calls, volunteer trainings, speaker stipends, and internships!

Food, drinks, music, guest speakers, and great company!

RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/411303075734671>

The Parole Preparation Project is part of the National Lawyers Guild-NYC Chapter's Mass Incarceration Committee.

23 Nov - Speak Out Against Solitary Confinement

WHAT: Speak Out

WHEN: 6:00pm, Monday, November 23

WHERE: The corner of Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

On November 23, speak out, stand up, and join the Campaign Against Isolated Confinement (CAIC) to HALT solitary confinement. Every day in New York prisons and jails, there are more than 5,000 people in solitary confinement who spend 23 or more hours a day locked in a cell. In these torturous conditions, people experience intense suffering and, often, severe psychological and physical damage. Join us on the 23rd of each month in the struggle to end solitary confinement. Together we can HALT solitary confinement and end torture in New York. The Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act, A. 4401 / S. 2659, would end the torture of solitary for all people and create more humane and effective alternatives.