



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for January 5<sup>th</sup>

### **20 Dec - Ride for Freedom for Leonard Peltier**

*From May 30 through June 26, organizers will be cycling through five states and 29 cities, from Coleman, Florida to Washington, DC to make a push for Executive Clemency for Leonard Peltier.*

#### **MORE:**

Leonard Peltier has spent nearly 40 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Prosecutors and federal agents manufactured evidence against him (including the so-called murder weapon), hid proof of his innocence, presented false testimony obtained through torturous interrogation techniques, ignored court orders and lied to the jury. People are commonly set free due to a single constitutional violation, but Peltier - faced with a staggering number of constitutional violations - has yet to receive equal justice.

We plan to show when we can the documentary "Incident at Oglala," have pot luck events with the community and collect signatures for an online petition along the way asking the president for clemency for Peltier.

If you have any questions about this event, please email Jim at [jim@footprintsforpeace.org](mailto:jim@footprintsforpeace.org).

Can you help with an overnight or an event? Please contact Jon at [jon@footprintsforpeace.org](mailto:jon@footprintsforpeace.org).

You can also find route & overnight information, make a donation and sign the petition to this event at [www.footprintsforpeace.org](http://www.footprintsforpeace.org). All donations are tax deductible.

Everyone is invited to participate in this event. As always all FootPrints for Peace events are drug and alcohol free.

### **20 Dec - The Holiday Season for Kevin and Tyler – Please make donations & write letters**

*The winter holidays can be an especially difficult season for those facing prison. As the air fills with musical cheer and warm greetings, prison walls remain cold as they keep people from being with loved ones and enjoying celebration of a new year's arrival.*

#### **MORE:**

This holiday season, Kevin and Tyler await sentencing in early 2016. They have both signed non-cooperating plea agreements in which they plead guilty to a violation of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act that carries a sentence of a maximum of five years for freeing about 2,000 mink from a fur farm.

As they approach sentencing, it is especially important that people make donations to their support fund. When they are both in prison in the new year, that fund will be needed to ensure that they have each have a commissary account and that they can make phone calls to friends and family. Also, Kevin is currently in federal custody awaiting sentencing, so please write letters to him to make sure some warm wishes reach beyond the prison walls.

So this holiday season, please make a donation if you can, write a letter to Kevin, and make sure to keep Kevin and Tyler and other political prisoners close in your thoughts.

### **21 Dec - Report Back from Recent Court Hearing for Joseph and Nicole**

*Nicole and Joseph feel much appreciation for the show of support they received from the community in court on December 21.*

**MORE:**

Around 20 supporters came from San Diego, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and surrounding areas. There is no better antidote to repression than solidarity.

Today's hearing was for several pre-trial motions. First, the defense argued for the case to be transferred to the Northern District of California, as travel to San Diego creates hardship for Nicole and Joseph. That motion was denied based on the likely timeline of the case — there are only one or two more pretrial hearings left until the case moves to trial.

The defense also argued that the State should present and reorganize the discovery, so that the defense could more easily navigate the information. Judge Burns granted that motion.

Lastly, Joseph's attorney was able to successfully argue for his house arrest to be limited to a nightly curfew. So now Joseph is only on house arrest from 6pm to 7am, every day of the week! That's great news, as he will be able to have a lot more personal latitude during the day.

A new pretrial motions hearing has been set: Tuesday, March 1st. Judge Burns has requested that a trial date be set at that pretrial hearing for a date no later than six weeks past March 1<sup>st</sup>. So it is looking like trial will be set for early spring.

Nicole and Joseph both feel a lot gratitude for the support that their case has received. Family, friends, and strangers traveled from hours away to be with these two as they endured the weight of repression in a federal courthouse. They look forward to the future as the case moves to trial.

### **23 Dec - Mumia In Court: Devastating Cross Examination**

*Day Two of "Abu-Jamal v. Kerestes" had fireworks equal to the opening round. We're also including the latest commentaries by Mumia.*

**MORE:**

#### **Submission of False Documents by Department of Corrections Exposed**

The arguments for a Preliminary Injunction continued before the U.S. District Court in Scranton Pennsylvania.

It was a day of dueling doctors, admissions, explosive documents, and first hand testimony, which debated the constitutional right to health care while in prison. The question: does Mumia Abu-Jamal receive life saving new anti viral drugs that cure Hepatitis C? or will Judge Robert Mariani's federal court allow the Department of Corrections in Pennsylvania to deny any treatment for chronic Hepatitis C – and maintain (a just revealed protocol) that calls for "denying care" and "monitoring inmates" while the virus ravages the body causing irreversible organ damage.

The morning featured vigorous cross examination. Dr. Joseph Harris, deftly handled Department of Corrections cross, emphasizing this key point: the cure for Hep C is clearly the medical standard of care. And denial of treatment is no treatment for a progressive and infectious disease.

In a last minute addition to the witness list the DOC questioned dermatologist Dr. Schleicher who first treated Mumia's devastating skin condition in Feb. of 2015. The Department of Corrections through this expert unconvincingly asserted that Mumia's skin condition was unrelated to Hepatitis C, and that his low platelet counts, anemia of chronic disease, abnormal liver function tests, are not caused by Hep C.

At 12:10 of the hearing a withering cross exam by Robert Boyle (Attorney for Abu-Jamal) exposed Schleicher's limited diagnostic acumen, his failure to monitor Mumia's two hospital ICU admissions and the illuminating fact that he did not follow up on Geisinger Medical Center's recommendation in May for an Hep C viral load test. He got him to admit that "he did not know much about Hep C". Schleicher has continued to treat Mumia, and it was revealed was unaware that the infectious disease specialist hired by the department of Corrections, Dr. Ramon Gadea, had recommended on September 9th treatment for Hepatitis C in response to Mumia's ongoing ravaged skin. Notably, Dr. Gadea and the onsite doctors at SCI Mahanoy who see Mumia in the infirmary on a weekly basis were not called to testify. It can be presumed that their testimony would have been unfavorable to the DOC.

### **Standing Up for Mumia**

The mid afternoon featured Dr. Suzanne Ross and Dr. Johanna Fernandez. The value of these two frequent and long term visitors to Mumia was in the compelling details that they provided describing Mumia's injuries, acute symptoms, and deteriorating health. Some examples from the acute period of symptoms in the spring and summer included Mumia's slurred words, elephant skin, scales and bloody cracks in his skin on 90% of his body, extreme weakness, swelling of his limbs, and loss of mental acuity. When cross-examined both Ross and Fernandez were unapologetic, as they expounded on Mumia's innocence, unjust incarceration, and the state's naked attempts to silence him.

As those who know Mumia personally realize, the man just does not complain, and is frankly unable to describe his own vulnerability. As such, this testimony was key. Present through video streaming throughout the proceedings Mumia was, as Dr. Fernandez testified is part of his character, simply stoic. Before this devastating health crisis, there were only a handful of occasions that he has gone to sick call during 34 years of incarceration. This might be surprising for a man who is known to the world as a writer and eloquent public commentator.

### **Key Evidence Exposed**

In an explosive revelation: Bret Grote of the Abolitionist Law Center, dissected the testimony of DOC defense witness infirmary administrator, Mr. Steinhart – revealing that there is a written Hep C treatment protocol that was developed this year. Grote appealed to the judge, and he required that the DOC immediately produce a copy of the document. Laura Neal, DOC counsel quickly tried to suppress the public release of the document, calling for it to remain under seal. Overheard in the courtroom, DOC associate defense counsel noted that they did not want this document available publicly because it would increase the department's liability in the class action pending for inmate Hep C treatment. Debate continues Wed morning on whether this document will be sealed. A Right To Know request by Prison Radio requesting the document was filed with the state during break requested by the judge so he could read the protocol.

The doctors and lawyers that enforce the PA Department of Corrections policy have got a problem. Health Care is a constitutional right, even for those who are incarcerated. Proving that the DOC has been "deliberately indifferent," the required standard for a preliminary injunction and relief in this case, clearly has been met by Abu-Jamal's attorneys.

### **False Documents Offered in Court by DOC**

At the beginning of his testimony, as the hearing was closing, Dr. Paul Noel (Chief Medical Officer of PA Department of Corrections) stated on the stand that the affidavit filed in this case with his signature was not his testimony. The Department of Corrections attorney Laura Neal knowingly offered false testimony. This information, paragraph 21, cited the erroneous information that hepatitis C viral load levels should determine treatment for Mr. Jamal. Laura Neal actually cited this misinformation in the brief she filed in court opposing the preliminary injunction.

Let me be clear. Dr. Noel testified that he informed Laura Neal of the DOC in September, in December, and again in the parking lot next to the courthouse, this morning that the affidavit was incorrect. The people in the court room and the judge were in shock. It was so quiet, you could hear a pin drop. Laura Neal offered feeble excuses stating that the information was factually correct; to which Dr. Noel replied “but misleading and false in its conclusions”. Robert Boyle’s expert cross examination, which proceeded for the next hour, was searing. In addition to the false paragraph number 21 inserted by the DOC into the affidavit, Robert Boyle got the good doctor to admit that paragraph 10 was also false. This paragraph stated that the only infectious disease specialist to examine Mumia, Dr. Ramon Gadea, ruled out Hepatitis C as a cause for Mumia’s extreme skin eruptions. In fact, the medical records of the September 9th meeting with Mumia and Gadea state that he believed Hepatitis C could be a secondary cause of the skin rash and that Hep C should be treated after ruling out a rheumatoid condition.

### **The Document they Were Trying to Hide**

Dr. Noel’s testimony highlights: “The Interim Hepatitis C protocol for New Anti Viral Treatment” revealed at the hearing yesterday, now public, thanks in part to Prison Radio’s and Austin Nolen’s Right to Know Request filed yesterday within minutes of its production in court, was revealing. Only five patients are being treated for acute Hep C beginning Fall, 2015. No one has been treated while the protocol was being developed for the last 22 months. Ten thousand inmates have active Hep C, and of that number, it can be expected that over a thousand have chronic active Hep c and liver fibrosis or cirrhosis. Dr. Noel testified that Mumia has a 63% chance of having cirrhosis. He has significant fibrosis (scarring of the liver). He has “anemia of chronic disease”, and low blood platelets in addition to the severe extra hepatic skin condition.

**Boyle:** “Isn’t it clear that Mumia Abu-Jamal should get treatment?”

**Dr. Noel:** “It is anything but clear.”

The bottom line, they are only treating a fraction of cases, and those are extreme. People are simply dying as they wait. For instance, the protocol to get “consideration for treatment for Hep C” is an “EDG,” an endoscopy of the throat. And they are only treating inmates who have the immediate risk of blood vessels bursting in their throats. Esophageal-varices with a raised portal pressure, which the DOC considers proof of cirrhosis and patients sick enough to treat for Hep C.

Dr. Cowan, DOC expert in the morning court session, was adeptly cross examined by Robert Boyle, Mumia’s co counsel with Bret Grote of the Abolitionist Law Center.

Dr. Cowan had been insisting that the standard of care in the correctional setting was the same as the community setting, with one caveat, “risk stratification”. The most revealing and determinate fact was the last question posed by Boyle. “If you were in private practice and you had a patient with significant chance of fibrosis, would you treat that patient with the new anti-viral direct acting drugs?” (The cure). Dr. Cowan stated, “if they could pay \$90 thousand for the treatment”

That statement alone could result in a ruling from Judge Robert Mariani ordering the DOC to provide immediate anti-viral direct acting drugs to Mumia. There has to be a valid medical reason for denying care. And it seems that DOC deliberate indifference to inmates’ health and Mumia’s life specifically has been well established.

The court will provide transcripts in three weeks, with final briefs due in six weeks. We will keep you posted.

### **December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Badge of the Rapist - Racist**

As the first phase of the trial of police officer Daniel Holdzclaw comes to a close, one is forced to take stock of what the trial and it’s (lack of) coverage means.

Holdzclaw, a 28- year old white Oklahoma cop, was recently convicted of 18 charges of sexual assault, rape, sodomy and related offenses, the targeting and raping of some 13 Black women, from teens to a woman in her 50s!

An Oklahoma jury recommended the man be sentenced to some 260 years in prison!

If you winked, however, you would've missed it.

A serial rapist -- of 13 females! When isn't that a story?!

When the 13 woman are Black women.

Only one cable network, the Black-owned TV1 news program, hosted by former CNN contributor Roland Martin, covered the case, using internet reports from persons in court.

No one else. Not one.

Why not? Apparently, Black Lives Don't Matter.

Holdzclaw used his uniform, his badge, his service revolver, to stop, intimidate, and rape over a dozen women - sometimes in his own patrol vehicle - and amazingly, he raped a teenager on her porch!

And people wonder why cops can't be trusted!

It took DNA and GPS evidence to bust this dude; but how can anyone even contemplate something so sick?

Easy. Most of the victims were poor Black women; some charged with being sex worker, others charged with drug violations -- in other words, the vulnerable!

This cop carefully chose those who he knew had no social power, and little ability to resist.

And media silence reinforced that negative narrative; by belittling the worth of these women.

If they had covered it, they would've cast a harsh national light on police practices.

They chose not to.

Like a cop standing over a body in the road, they essentially said "Keep moving. There's nothing to see here ...keep it moving"

### **December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Conference of the Herds**

I confess to not watching the entire presidential "debate." By 20 minutes, I could stand no more.

I saw nothing more than a pack of dogs, yelping fear, hatred, ignorance and enmity at the world around them.

They bayed at the moon, a chaotic chorus of blood; barking, "War!", "death!", "bombs!", "kill!"

Grrrrr.....

It was as astonishing as it was ugly.

There were no words; there were merely snarls at a world that dared outgrow them, that no longer regarded them as the moneyed masters of the universe.

With few exceptions, they paid tribute to the ignorance that birthed the disaster in Iraq, or that nursed their CIA, MI-5, ISI, and Saudi-trained and paid assassins now nipping at their heels.

They growled at immigrants, even though all of them, save one, were sons or grandson (or granddaughter) or immigrants. That one?

A grandson of slaves.

Hounds may bay at the moon, but they can't move it an inch.

Dogs may chase a bus, but they can't really catch one.

These dogs of war may open the door to carnage, but it will be your sons and daughters who suffer and die on the bloodied altar of political ambition.

They will bury their charred remains, grant them a medal, and step over their shredded bodies in pursuit of vain political advantage.

This war, started in imperial hubris, will wage until our grandchildren are elderly - no matter what.

And these politicians will bay at the moon, with more murder on their minds.

### **December 29<sup>th</sup> - Boorish and Boring**

Watching political debates is not my thing.

First of all, they're hardly really debates; they are, more often than not, a series of sound-bites; often, of promises that both speakers and listeners know won't be kept.

They remind me of the classic Peanuts comics, where Charlie Brown runs at a football to kick it, and Lucy promises to hold the ball. (We all know she won't)

Politics in America ain't about the voting; it's about the money. It's about corporate power, not people's power.

The recent case of Citizens United has only exacerbated that trend. Ultimately, Americans adore and fear the rich.

Devoid of princes and earls, they bow their peasant heads to the wealthy, as if their very blood compels them.

What else can explain the emergence of GOP frontrunner, Donald Trump, or the preeminence of Democratic frontrunner, Hillary Clinton? It ain't policies.

And, with Hillary, it certainly ain't either policy or personality.

Two rich people: a billionaire and millionaire.

What have they got in common with average people?

Republicans are running on rudeness and nastiness.

Democrats are running on niceness (except for those in the Mid-East, of course) and promises of jobs.

After NAFTA, those days are over.

Both are for corporate power – and corporate interests.

The middle class is shrinking like seaweed on seashore.

It's embarrassing to even mention the Working Class.

And no one mentions the state's wars against Black Americans. It's like a gentlemen's agreement. Not to be discussed.

Not to be touched, lest it frighten white voters.

We are in the midst of the biggest, most diverse, broadest human rights movement since the 1960s – and the political response is cynical silence.

Surely it's so because they have no response; for the system rests on repression.

It can't exist without exploitation, racism, state violence.

So the choice remains: Boorish? Or Boring?

### **22 Dec - Sign This Petition To Support Parole For Herman Bell**

*We don't typically promote online petitions, but this one has the potential to have influence in supporting parole for our comrade Herman Bell. The full text of the petition is below. Please sign and share with others <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/677/086/596/in-support-of-parole-for-herman-bell-79c0262>*

#### **MORE:**

To Chairwoman, Board of Parole, New York State, Tina M. Stanford

Grant parole to New York State prisoner Herman Bell

We are asking that Herman Bell be granted release on parole at his February 2016 hearing

Herman Bell has been in state custody since 1979 and has been denied release on parole 6 times since he first became eligible in 2004.

Every time Herman has been denied, it has been for the same reason-that releasing him would undermine the law and deprecate the seriousness of the crime. Herman has taken responsibility and expressed regret for the shooting of the police officer and has served 4 decades in prison for this offense. He is by all accounts, a much different person than he was in 1971 and further incarceration serves no purpose other than vengeance. We believe Herman has done everything he can to make amends for his crime and we ask that he be granted parole at his 7th parole hearing in 2016.

While incarcerated, Herman has been a model prisoner and a positive influence on those around him. He has been a mentor and father-figure to many young men in prison, helping them take advantage of every academic and vocational program they can to prepare for release and reintegration into society. In addition to earning a dual Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and sociology, and a Masters degree in sociology, Herman has coached football and basketball in order to have a positive influence on the many young men he has met during his 4 decades in prison. With Herman's help, the Victory Gardens project was established in 1995 with two farmers in Maine. The project brought together people from diverse lifestyles and remote locations to plant, grow, tend, harvest, and then distribute the food free to our

communities. This life-giving project enjoyed eight successful seasons distributing food in Maine, Boston, New Jersey, Brooklyn, Harlem, and the Bronx.

Herman's continued denials at the parole board are sadly, not a rarity but the norm. The number of incarcerated people ages 50+ in New York has increased 81% from 2000 to 2013, even as the total number of people locked up has fallen by 23% during the same period. Today, 17% of incarcerated men and 15% of incarcerated women in the New York prison system are over 50 years of age—roughly 9,000 people. Herman is 67 years old.

This is an unnecessary crisis. Many of these elders should be released. New York routinely denies parole to elders behind bars, even though they pose no risk to public safety and are fully prepared to successfully re-enter and contribute to society. The recidivism rate of people who have served long sentences for serious felonies is 1.3%—lower than any other category of those released. Many, like Herman, have records of positive achievement in prison and are praised by prison officials as peacemakers and role models.

### **23 Dec - How Prisoners Are Joining in on the Biggest Party Night of the Year**

*Part of the NYC ABC crew got interviewed about the idea of New Year's Eve noise demonstrations that happen outside of jail and prisons around the world.*

#### **MORE:**

by Jennifer Swann (*TakePart*)

As hundreds of thousands of revelers crowd into Times Square to watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve, a small group less than five miles south will bang drums and pots and pans outside an unlikely venue that couldn't feel farther away: the Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Manhattan.

The gathering is part of an international day of demonstrations staged every year outside of prisons from Puget Sound to North London to show solidarity with inmates who might not otherwise commemorate the start of a new year. Organizers think of it not as a protest but as a party, intended to carry music and celebration up to the tiny windows and cells of even the most bleak, high-security facilities.

"The reason that we've taken to doing them on New Year's Eve is it's kind of the loudest night of the year, and we want to be able to harness that noise to just remind folks on the inside that they're not forgotten and they're not alone," Andrew, an organizer who preferred not to use his last name because of his affiliation with the New York chapter of the national prisoner support group Anarchist Black Cross, told *TakePart*.

Andrew estimates that about 200 supporters show up over the course of the night to a part of lower Manhattan crowded with government buildings including City Hall, the New York City Police Department, and county and federal courthouses. At the New Year's Eve event, it's not unusual to see brass marching bands or hear music pumping from mobile sound systems. People sip hot chocolate from giant thermoses and wave noisemakers with the hope of sending sound waves through the security glass in the windows above.

"Prisoners have related back to us what it's like when they're inside, and you hear this cacophony outside. From our perspective, you can see silhouettes in the windows and lights flickering on and off, and in certain instances, playing cards that have been able to be slid through openings in tiny windows just to show that they're communicating back," Andrew said. "It's a primitive communication, but it's also very powerful."

More than 700 inmates are housed at the New York City Metropolitan Correctional Center—one of two federal prisons in the city, not counting a residential reentry center in Brooklyn—and another roughly 63,634 people are in custody at 54 state-run facilities throughout New York, according to the Department of Corrections' website. Across the country, one in 110 adults is incarcerated, marking the highest rate of

imprisonment in U.S. history and a 408 percent increase in the prison population since 1978, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

The staggering statistics spurred President Barack Obama—who last summer became the first sitting president to visit a federal prison—to use the term "mass incarceration" in a July speech that called for sweeping reforms in a criminal justice system that disproportionately jails people of color. In an effort to diminish overcrowding, particularly among nonviolent drug offenders, in October Obama announced plans for the early release of 6,000 inmates convicted of nonviolent crimes, the nation's largest one-time release of prisoners.

For the millions of people behind bars around the world, New Year's Eve can be a particularly glum time of year to spend alone. Grassroots groups see their events as a small but meaningful way to lighten the mood, if only for a few hours. Facebook listings show events planned this year in front of jails and prisons in Minneapolis, Phoenix, Arizona, Durham, North Carolina, Seattle, Montreal, and London, among other cities.

"It's something that can be replicated virtually anywhere where there's a prison and it can take as few as you and a couple of friends," said Andrew. "It's easy, it's worth doing, and it's a great way to start off your New Year's Eve. You go into it doing something really positive."

### **24 Dec - In prison, the holiday season is grim – but I won't lose hope**

*The US Army private who transferred about 750,000 files of US secrets to WikiLeaks writes about the feeling of detachment that engulfs her at this time of year.*

#### **MORE:**

by Chelsea E Manning (*The Guardian*)

Having a birthday around the holidays was never easy and, with every successive year, it felt more and more as if celebrating my birthday got thrown into the December holiday mix as an afterthought.

But now, Decembers are becoming the hardest month of the year to endure.

The most obvious reasons are physical: the temperature drops; here in Kansas, it rains and snows a lot more; the colors outside my window turn from the greens, yellows and blues of summer to the browns, grays and tans of winter, with the occasional white on the rare days that it snows. I spend more time indoors, trying to stay warm and dry. The hills and trees I can see seem still, silent and lifeless.

I feel myself becoming more distant and disconnected as the color leaches from the world outside these walls. The chasm between me and the outside world feels like it's getting wider and wider, and all I can do is let it happen.

I realize that my friends and family are moving on with their lives even as I'm in an artificially imposed stasis. I don't go to my friends' graduation ceremonies, to their engagement parties, to their weddings, to their baby showers or their children's birthday parties. I miss everything – and what I'm missing gets more routine and middle-aged with each passing year.

The changes that occur as I sit here can raise doubts about my very existence. I have no recent snapshots of myself and no current selfies, just old Facebook photos, grainy trial photos and mugshots to show for the last six years of my life. When everyone is obsessed with Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat and WhatsApp, it begins to feel like I don't exist in some very real, important way. Living in a society that says "Pics or it didn't happen", I wonder if I happened.

I sometimes feel less than empty; I feel non-existent.

Still, I endure. I refuse to give up. I open the mail I receive – which spikes in December, as people send me birthday and then Christmas cards, but I get letters and well-wishing cards all year – and am happily reminded that I am real and that I do exist for people outside this prison.

And I celebrate, too, this time of year, in my own little way: I make phone calls to family, I write letters, I treat myself with the processed foods and desserts I all but gave up during my gender transition.

This holiday season is the first since I won the right to begin hormone therapy for that gender transition, which I began in February. The anti-androgen and estrogen I take is reflected in my external appearance, finally: I have softer skin, less angular facial features and a fuller figure.

Even though I'm still not allowed to grow my hair to the female standard in prison – a battle I'll continue to fight with the ACLU in 2016 – I know that my struggles pale in comparison to those faced by many vulnerable queer and transgender people. Despite more mainstream visibility, identification and even celebration of queer and trans people, the reality for many is that they face at least as many, if not more, obstacles as I do in transitioning and living their lives with dignity.

And, however improbably, I have hope this holiday season. With my appeals attorneys, Nancy Hollander and Vince Ward, I expect to submit my first brief to the US army court of criminal appeals next year, in support of my appeal to the 2013 court-martial convictions and sentence.

Whatever happens, it will certainly be a long path. There may well be other Decembers like this one, where I feel at times so far away from everyone and everything. But when faced with bleakness, I won't give up. And I'll try to remember all the people who haven't given up on me.

### **24 Dec - New Petition For Virgin Island 3**

*Check out the new website and petition for release of the Virgin Island 3: Malik, Haneef and Abdul! It's all at <http://virginislands3.yolasite.com>*

### **30 Dec - Jay Chase (long overdue) update**

*Apologies for the long overdue update from us about Jay Chase and his on-going legal ordeal as well as the silence on our end.*

#### **MORE:**

Jared (Jay) 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, 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.

Jay was currently scheduled to be released on parole in May 2016. However, he still has an unresolved battery charge, resulting from an incident with Cook County Jail guards during his pre-trial confinement. His doctor's testimony at sentencing revealed that Jay's hereditary Huntington's disease is a likely factor contributing to his behavior in custody and the pending charges. He 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 and sense of powerlessness. This medical neglect is not only making things worse but contributing to a situation in which our comrade may die in prison.

Jay has fired his attorneys and only recently got another one appointed. His trial is set for April 2016. He continues to face harsh treatment in custody, including losing "good time," visitation rights, having personal property destroyed, time in solitary confinement and even being housed on suicide watch.. 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. 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: These are his words: *“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. His co-defendants are out and trying to live their lives and adjust to the free world. Sadly, the campaigns that Jay came from, namely Occupy, has disappeared with no sense of responsibility for Jay or any of the Occupy cases such as the Cleveland 4. There are some solid people who support Jay in Chicago but he needs a lot more solidarity.

It is imperative that anarchists stand up for Jay, pack the courts for his trial, send him books and letters. Jay feels very down and probably that he has nothing to lose due to his deteriorating health and pending charges.

### **December 30<sup>th</sup> - Jay Chase Denied Care for Huntington’s Disease: Send Letters of Support**

Political prisoner Jay Chase is currently experiencing rapid progression of symptoms from Huntington’s Disease as he is being denied a diet and supplements that are recommended for his condition. Navigating any type of chronic health issue within prison is difficult, and HD is no exception. The symptoms of HD can be described as having ALS, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s – simultaneously, including:

**Personality changes, mood swings & depression**  
**Forgetfulness & impaired judgment**  
**Unsteady gait & involuntary movements (chorea)**  
**Slurred speech, difficulty in swallowing & significant weight loss**

At this time, mail and letters to Jay are being requested so he knows he has the support of people who care about him. Jay will probably not be able to respond to every letter, but it is anticipated that he will appreciate all mail and writing periodic letters, even if he does not respond initially, is welcome.

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> - Pre-trial Court date for Jay Chase- February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**When:** 9:00am, February 3, 2016

**Where:** Cook County Criminal Courthouse, 2650 South California Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60623

Jared “Jay” Chase has a pre-trial hearing coming up soon. He is being targeted by the same prosecutor (Anita Alvarez) he faced during the NATO 3 trial for alleged assault charges pinned on him by guards while he awaited trial for two years back in 2012-2014. These same guards were allowed to testify against him during the NATO 3 sentencing in a somewhat successful attempt to bring a harsher sentence and now they will likely testify against him in this case.

As some of you may know Jay was diagnosed with Huntington’s disease while in captivity in Cook County Jail and the ongoing brutalization and isolation he has faced has contributed to a noticeable and alarming deterioration in his health. In fact, at his last court date, Jay came to court with noticeable bruises and a black eye. When the Judge asked him what happened, he said he ‘had a bad week’.

This trial is not just about a few extra years being tacked on to his current sentence that is coming to an end in May. The State has made it very clear through this obviously vindictive prosecution that they want to ensure Jay lives out his days in their cage. Please be there and show the State that we stand with Jay and let

Jay know that we have not forgotten him or his struggle. He needs our love and support as he stands in defiance of this ongoing persecution.

Jay will be in attendance at this court date and could use some friendly faces in court.

### **1 Jan - Turn Up Time Support Parole For The Move 9 Sisters**

*This coming May our sisters, Move political prisoners Janet, Janine, and Debbie Africa will be making an appearance for what will be their seventh time before the Pennsylvania Parole Board and we intend to turn the heat up over this.*

#### **MORE:**

The Pennsylvania Parole Board, since 2008, has worked consistently with the Fraternal Order of Police and this government to ensure that not only Move members remain in prison but to ALSO DIE IN PRISON as per the death of Phil Africa in Early January, 2015. We have serious work to do as we cannot afford to let another one of our family and political prisoners die in the prison system. The time is now to bring them home all of them home.

Our family are now going into their 38th year of unjust imprisonment. Our sisters were framed for the murder of officer James Ramp as well as our brothers and each given 30-100 years but the thing that we want to point out is that our sisters none were never given weapons charges when tried and convicted. For the now 38 years that committed Move members have been in prison they have set a strong revolutionary example of Love, Commitment, Unity, and Hard Work all instilled in them by JOHN AFRICA THE FOUNDER AND COORDINATOR OF THE MOVE ORGANIZATION. This example has earned the respect of prison officials throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

Since 2008 till as far back as Debbie Africa's last parole denial in 2014 all of the Move women have been recommended for parole by prison officials at SCI Cambridge Springs in Pennsylvania. Prison officials have viewed strong women who have kept down racial and gang violence. Women who have helped mothers establish relationships with their children on the outside and motivate and give hope to many women who are facing life or many years to come in prison. Despite all of this officials are hell bent on keeping our family in prison, our Brother Eddie Africa was due to see the Parole Board back in October 2015 and as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 has still not seen the Parole Board.

The Parole Board and this Government are out of excuses with The Move 9 and these unjust parole denials and that's because we have EXPOSED them and have taken away their excuses. They have been stalling the parole hearing of Eddie Africa cause at this point the only option they have is to do the right thing which they do not want to do. As the Governor of Pennsylvania is now making liberal cries for parole reform in the state, we are launching a four month campaign that will run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 all aimed towards the efforts of bringing our sisters home. There will be plenty of information to follow on upcoming events in different cities and what people can do to get involved in this campaign to secure parole for our sisters and to bring them home.

At this point we are still urging people to sign the Justice Department petition for the Move 9 people can go to <https://www.causes.com/campaigns/92454-free-the-move-9>. Your signatures are greatly needed right now our goal is 2500 signatures.

### **1 Jan - Over 100 in the streets for NYC ABC NYE Noise Demo**

*2015 started strong as we welcomed home Eric McDavid and Norberto González Claudio. Throughout the year, we saw more comrades released. And yet, as more elders age behind the wall, we lost two true warriors, Phil Africa and Hugo Pinell. To close the year, NYC ABC organized a noise demo outside of Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), in order to protest, celebrate, and let folks on the inside know they are not forgotten.*

**MORE:**

We got there a little after 8:30 and others were there waiting. We greeted old comrades and folks we'd yet to meet and by 9:00pm, a decent crowd had formed. The night was relatively warm by winter standards, but friends showed up with five gallons of hot chocolate to make sure everyone's vocal cords stayed nice and toasty as we yelled and sang upward, into the steel and cement monolith that is MCC.

We supplied all manner of noise makers, but most folks brought their own. Hell, we even had a full-blown marching band roll through to keep this noise demo lit. The Rude Mechanical Orchestra kicked out the jams and the mood was jovial.

And while folks were there to celebrate and reach through the walls, signs and banners also expressed the brimming rage of the crowd. A crew from The Base showed up with black flags and banners to make sure all inside knew there were anarchists organizing in solidarity with them.

We were in full-blown Y2K-era tech mode when unveiling the shimmering magnificence that is the electronic "End Prison" sign.

The demo lasted a couple of hours, but not before folks broke out sparklers and fireworks. And then Ripper came up to one of our crew. We'd never met before, but Ripper told us about where he was the prior New Year's Eve. He was on the 11th floor of MCC, his first time in prison. He was separated from his family, not unlike most of the others imprisoned at MCC. He told us that he thought about how, watching out of his window, the folks outside could have been anywhere in the city and they chose to be there and how that kept his spirits up. He told himself that if he got out, he would be with those folks the next year. And there he was.

We've been told before, by comrades who were once held in MCC, that the noise demos light up the whole place and get through to the prisoners, but we'd never experienced anything like meeting Ripper. If you're thinking about organizing a noise demo in your town, do it.

Shortly before the crowd started to break up and head out, the following statement was read as a call and response, ensuring that our comrades inside could hear it:

"To many it feels like we live in a time like no other with surveillance and repression at every turn, but also resistance, rebellion, and open revolt. This is neither the new golden nor dark age, it is simply another moment in time where we can collectively force conflict with a fucked up system.

Every day there are revolts of varying scale, most of which you never hear about. For those captured in revolt, we come together in protest and celebration. Through the din of revelry and rage, we tie ourselves to those who suffer systematized white supremacy and war against the working class, behind steel bars and safety glass.

Prison is a means of social control to be absolutely destroyed.

Here's to the total destruction of a prison-based society!

Tonight we bring with us the courage of Sundiata Acoli, the ferocity of Joe-Joe Bowen, the wisdom of Russell Maroon Shoatz.

We remember in every act of rebellion against the state, our deceased comrades Phil Africa and Hugo Pinell— your legacy will never be forgotten.

We hold in our hearts comrades soon to be or recently imprisoned.

YOU. ARE NOT. ALONE."

## **2 Jan - Order postcards for Jan 22!**

*January 22, 2016 will be the first International Trans Prisoner Day of Action and Solidarity. If you are planning a letter writing event for trans prisoners, feel free to order a stack of postcards featuring paintings by Marius Mason.*

### **MORE:**

This series was specifically designed by Marius and friends to be used for January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Orders can be made by writing to [doriszine@yahoo.com](mailto:doriszine@yahoo.com)

This postcard features Persephone Smith, a counselor at the Ali Forney Center in Brooklyn, New York. The Ali Forney Center provides emergency housing for LGBTQ youth.

### **January 4<sup>th</sup> - January 22, 2016 will be the first annual Trans Prisoner Day of Action: an international day of action in solidarity with trans prisoners.**

This is a call to action against the system which seeks to erase our very existence. The survival of trans and other sex and gender minority people is not a quaint conversation about awareness, but a struggle for us to live in a world so determined to marginalize, dehumanize, and criminalize us – especially trans women, and especially Black, brown, and indigenous trans people.

We are discriminated against in every area of society including housing, healthcare, employment. Our survival is often precarious and many of us survive by work which is also criminalized – making us even more of a target for police harassment and the crime of “Walking While Trans”.

Once incarcerated, trans people face humiliation, physical and sexual abuse, denial of medical needs, and legal reprisals. Many transgender people are placed in solitary confinement for months or years, simply for being trans. Trans women are usually placed in men’s prisons, where there is a massive increased risk of experiencing sexual violence.

Just as our lives are violently repressed on the outside, trans people experience extreme suffering and death within the walls of jails, prisons, youth facilities, and immigrant detention centers.

Trans Prisoner Day of Action on January 22<sup>nd</sup> is a day to acknowledge the experiences of trans and other sex and gender-minority prisoners. It’s about collaboration. It is about forging new relationships and dismantling the isolation of prison. It’s about resistance to state violence. It’s about solidarity between those who experience the violence of the system first hand and those for whom the state hasn’t come yet.

Many prisoner support and prison abolition groups around the world do so much excellent work writing letters to prisoners, educating the public with letters to editors and articles for the media, holding protests and marches, organizing queer communities to phone in and demand that trans prisoners be treated with respect and dignity, calling for an end to incarceration. Trans Prisoner Day of Action aims to make this work accessible to all who are in support – we encourage you to hold vigils for those in our communities who have been taken by State violence, to hold an event, host speakers, screen films, invite presentations, and hold workshops to spread the word on the experience of trans prisoners, share knowledge, and build strategies of resistance. Have dance parties and raise funds for people and groups already doing amazing work. Take action. Let’s join together and show our conviction in supporting each other and ending prisons once and for all.

This project was first imagined by Marius Mason, a trans prisoner in Texas, USA. Since then, through his friends and supporters, an international collective of people both inside and outside of prison walls have come together

to make Trans Prisoner Day of Action a reality. We are trans and non-trans folks and friends and supporters. We join a long tradition of trans and queer people resisting state violence.

Join with us in the struggle for freedom.

To learn more visit: [transprisoners.net](http://transprisoners.net)

### **8 Jan - Birthday Celebration for Oscar López Rivera**

**WHAT:** Happy 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Oscar López Rivera!

**WHEN:** 7:00-10:00pm, Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center - 310 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York

**COST:** \$5-\$10 (No one will be turned away due to lack of funds)

#### **MORE:**

For the past 34 years, Oscar has spent his birthday (January 6th) in prison without his family or friends! Why is he in jail? For being a revolutionary who fought for the independence of Puerto Rico from U.S. colonialism.

Join us we celebrate life, work, and legacy of this extraordinary man!  
100% of the proceeds will go to Oscar's commissary fund!

Poetry by:

Rafael Landron, Jesus Papoleto Melendez, and Mariposa

Special Invited Guests:

Representatives of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations and the Venezuelan Consulate.

Lynne Stewart, former Political Prisoner

Nelson Denis, author of "War against all Puerto Ricans"

Estela Vasquez, 1199/SEIU

Artisans:

Botanicafe and Jesus Mangual/Taino Cemí

Food, Music, Poetry, Birthday cards for Oscar and Fun

Sponsors:

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Las 34 Mujeres NYC por Oscar; Call to Action on Puerto Rico; Frente Socialista NYC; PIP-NYC; NYC Jericho; Malcolm X Commemorative Committee; SODC; NYC Free Peltier; NYC Anarchist Black Cross; The Campaign to Bring Mumia home; Freedom Socialist Party; Radical Women; International Action Center; Resistance in Brooklyn.

### **11 Jan - No Separate Justice! Vigil**

**WHAT:** Vigil

**WHERE:** Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) - 150 Park Row, New York, New York

**WHEN:** 6:00-7:00pm, Monday, January 11

**COST:** FREE

#### **MORE:**

All are welcome. We have plenty of signs to share.

*DIRECTIONS TO THE VIGIL:* The closest subway to MCC is the 4, 5, or 6 train to Brooklyn Bridge. Walk up Centre Street to Foley Square and look for Pearl Street which is in between the two huge federal courthouses on Foley Square. Walk down Pearl Street one block to where it dead ends on Park Row – our vigils take place there on the corner across from the entrance to MCC.

## **17 Jan - 800 Years: Legacy, Commitment, Sacrifice, Honoring Our Captive Black Freedom Fighters!**

**WHAT:** 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Malcolm X Commemoration Committee Dinner

**WHEN:** 3:00 to 7:00 pm (dinner at 4:00), Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center - 310 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York

**COST:** \$40 advance, \$45 at the door

### **MORE:**

On Sunday, January 17, the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee will host its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their enduring annual tribute to Black Political Prisoners and their Families!

The theme of this milestone event is “800 Years: Legacy, Commitment, Sacrifice, Honoring Our Captive Black Freedom Fighters!”

This incredible event will be highlighted by special guest speakers Sekou Odinga and Lynne Stewart, both recently released freedom fighters! Odinga, a veteran of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, endured 33 years in the NY prison system. Stewart, a brave and much beloved people's lawyer nearly died in prison from breast cancer, but was released on the consequence of a mass medically compassionate release campaign.

“While we are proud to have reached this milestone with a consistency of effort that our freedom fighters' and their families appreciate with our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner tribute, we must underscore that the challenge of our commitment is a consequence of the insidious nature of this issue,” explained a guardedly passionate Dequi Kioni-Sadiki, the organization's chair.

“It is underscored by the fact that the overwhelmingly majority of our freedom fighters, after 20, 30, and 40 years, are still in captivity,” she finished.

Zayid Muhammad, the organization's press officer and last surviving founding member, echoed those sentiments.

“20 years of solid consistent work is one thing,” he said.

“But our freedom fighters enduring over 800 years of captivity, over 800 years of captivity, is something else. We continue to insist that our freedom fighters are Malcolm's tragically still 'hidden legacy' and that it is time that this government's dirty political prisoner secret be put on blast before the world,” he finished pointedly.

Validated parking will be available. Tickets available online at <http://mxcc519.org>

For more information about the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, please call 718.512.5008 or by email [mxcc519@gmail.com](mailto:mxcc519@gmail.com)