



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for March 29th

14 Mar - Federal Court to Decide if Mumia Abu-Jamal Has Right to Hepatitis C Treatment

Attorneys for Abu-Jamal file brief slamming DOC for withholding treatment.

MORE:

On Friday, March 11, attorneys for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal filed their post-hearing brief in support of Abu-Jamal's motion for a preliminary injunction ordering the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to provide him with treatment for his hepatitis C. The 30-page brief summarized the extensive factual record from a 3-day evidentiary hearing held at the end of December 2015.

During the December hearing it was shown that Abu-Jamal has a chronic hepatitis C infection that is progressively attacking his liver, causing scarring, a severe, itchy, painful skin rash that has lasted more than 18 months, and anemia of chronic disease. Abu-Jamal also experienced a nearly fatal attack of diabetes in March 2015 that is also likely related to his hepatitis C.

There were surprises at the hearing as well. The head of the DOC's clinical services, Dr. Paul Noel, revealed that tests conducted by the DOC show that there is a 63% chance that Abu-Jamal has cirrhosis, which means that the disease has progressed to the point that it is causing irreversible and worsening inflammation and scarring throughout his liver. Despite the extraordinary danger posed by Abu-Jamal's condition, Noel testified under oath that the DOC will not provide treatment unless a patient has advanced cirrhosis and the presence of esophageal varices, which means that the patient is at risk of bleeding to death.

As argued in Abu-Jamal's brief: "It is shocking to the conscience that the DOC thinks it is acceptable to withhold medical care until one's liver has suffered irreversible damage accompanied by such severe damage to the blood vessels that the patient is literally at risk of bleeding to death. No matter whether such "active surveillance" is called treatment or not, it is a gross departure from medical ethics and constitutional requirements."

Dr. Noel also revealed on cross examination that DOC counsel had submitted a falsified document in his name in September in 2015 that contained inaccurate and misleading medical information that was then used as the basis for DOC's argument against plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is represented by Bret Grote of the Abolitionist Law Center and Robert Boyle.

March 16th - Mumia Abu-Jamal on Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa's death

Mumia Abu-Jamal, one of America's most famous prisoners, has spoken on the recent death of Wopashit we Mondo Eyen we Langa, better known simply as Mondo. Mumia is serving a life sentence in a Pennsylvania prison for the murder of a Philadelphia policeman. Mondo was serving a life sentence in a Nebraska prison for the murder of an Omaha policeman. Both Mumia and Mondo denied the murders and both were convicted after controversial trials. Both Mumia and Mondo were Black Panthers.

Mumia was able to get a message out of jail on Prison Radio about Mondo, one half of the Omaha Two. Mondo's co-defendant, Edward Poindexter, remains imprisoned at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. The Omaha Two were targets of the infamous COINTELPRO counterintelligence operation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under J. Edgar Hoover.

Mumia summarized: “He was born David Rice and when he joined the Black Panther Party it was a decision that would change his life's trajectory. For when he and another young man, Edward Poindexter, joined the Nationao Committee to Combat Fascism they walked into the cross-hairs of the state. The two men became targets of a COINTELPRO scheme.”

COINTELPRO was formally terminated by Hoover ten days after the April 1971 murder trial in Omaha ended. The burglary of a Media, Pennsylvania satellite FBI office, one month before the trial, resulted in the ultimate public disclosure of Hoover's illegal clandestine operation against the Black Panthers. In Mondo's case, Hoover had ordered a FBI Laboratory report on the identity of anonymous 911 caller withheld to make a case against the Omaha Two.

“In April 1971, both men were convicted and given life terms,” said Mumia. “Flimsy evidence would be a factor when Jericho National named the two Black Panthers as prisoners of conscience.”

“Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter were servants of the people, dedicated to their freedom and dignity. Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter were soldiers for the people, dedicated to their defense and security.”

“Mondo we Langa is no more. Neither is David Rice, and yet Mondo will be remembered for many long years for his service. Mondo, after many, many years in a cage now joins his ancestors....This is Mumia Abu-Jamal.”

March 16th - URGENT: Mumia is incredibly sick

We are concerned about Mumia's deteriorating health, as has been witnessed in recent weeks by his visiting doctor, clergy, counselors, teachers, family and friends.

Evidence of intensifying hepatitis C symptoms and possible development of the diabetes that nearly killed him a year ago calls for immediate and appropriate treatment.

Call, fax and email with the following demands:

Immediate provision to Mumia of anti-viral treatment to cure his Hepatitis C condition that is, as his doctor testified in court, the persistent cause of worsening skin disease, almost certain liver damage, now extreme weight-gain and hunger, and other diabetic-like conditions.

Immediate release of all recent blood test results to Mumia's attorneys.

Vigilant monitoring of Mumia for signs of diabetes, especially of his blood sugar level, since a diabetes attack nearly killed Mumia last Spring of 2015.

Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Governor

Phone 717.787.2500

Fax 717.772.8284

Email governor@pa.gov

John Wetzel, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Secretary

Phone: 717.728.2573, 717.787.2500

Email: ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

Theresa DelBalso, SCI Mahanoy Prison Superintendent

Phone: 570.773.2158

Dr. Paul Noel, Director of Medical Care at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Phone: 717.728.5309 x 5312

Email: ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

Dr. Carl Keldie, Chief Medical Officer of Correct Care Solutions

Phone: 800.592.2974 x 5783

15 Mar - Former Black Panther granted trial to contest 22 years in solitary confinement

Russell 'Maroon' Shoatz to argue against his long-term isolation after Albert Woodfox was freed last month.

MORE:

by Renée Feltz (*The Guardian*)

After more than four decades behind bars, a former Black Panther has won a major breakthrough in challenging his long-term solitary confinement.

The development comes after another former Black Panther, Albert Woodfox, was freed last month after he was held for a record 43 years in isolation at Louisiana's state penitentiary.

Woodfox's treatment is the focus of a pending civil lawsuit that argues his confinement was cruel and unusual. Around the same time Woodfox was released in February, US magistrate judge Cynthia Reed Eddy was debating whether to grant a jury trial for a similar lawsuit filed by Russell "Maroon" Shoatz over his 22 consecutive years in solitary in SCI [state correctional institution] Greene in Pennsylvania. Now she has set a trial date for 11 July.

Shoatz was convicted in 1970 of first-degree murder for an attack on a Philadelphia police station during which one officer was killed and another wounded. He was 27 at the time, and a member of the Black Panther party. He later escaped twice from prison. While he was held in solitary, he had no major rule violations. But he was placed on a restricted release list that required the prison's superintendent to recommend his release, which never happened.

In his deposition, Shoatz describes how from 1991 to 2014, he had "approximately 84 square feet of floor space" in his restrictive housing unit cell, but "the presence of the steel bunk, and toilet diminished the actual area wherein one could walk" to about 58 square feet. He faced a strip-search each time he left and returned to his cell for one hour a day, and notes that from "1991 through 1998 I went to the yard five days per week, meaning I was strip-searched more than 5,800 times in that period. Sometime in 1998 I stopped going to the yard as frequently due to the degradation of the strip-searches".

Suffering from anxiety and suicidal thoughts, Shoatz said sometimes he would "watch death row prisoners when they were in the exercise cages from the window in my cell. They were permitted to exercise two to a cage and could play handball, soccer, chess and checkers. This furthered my own depression because I recognized that I was deteriorating and felt that these activities could help stem the downward spiral I was on".

While solitary confinement was first recognized by the US supreme court in 1890 as "a further terror and peculiar mark of infamy", no specific case has established a precedent on the issue of duration or how long is too long to be held in such conditions. Many inmates who were Black Panthers when they entered prison in the 1970s became some of the first to face extended stays in solitary confinement.

Lawyers for Pennsylvania argue Shoatz's claim should be dismissed in part because he was "subjected to the same conditions" as other inmates. But in her order handed down in February, Judge Eddy noted, "the fact remains that Shoatz endured these conditions for 22 consecutive years", and cited a 1978 supreme court cases known as *Hutto v Finney* that found solitary confinement may be unconstitutional, "depending on the duration of the confinement and the conditions thereof".

She wrote: "It is obvious that being housed in isolation in a tiny cell for 23 hours a day for over two decades results in serious deprivations of basic human needs."

"The winds are changing on this issue of long-term solitary confinement," Bret Grote, one of a pair of lawyers representing Shoatz, told the Guardian. The Pennsylvania department of corrections said it would not comment on the ongoing litigation. Grote says regardless of whether a jury rules in favor of his client, the case could open the door for other inmates to request similar trials.

Two years ago, Shoatz was released into general population at SCI Graterford after successfully finishing a step-down program. The state argues his challenges are thus "moot" since he was transferred to less restrictive conditions. But his attorneys insist the state's "underlying conduct and/or policies remain at issue." Here too, Eddy said she found their argument persuasive.

16 Mar - Virgin Island 3 sent to private prison in Arizona

The 3 remaining Virgin Island political prisoners, Hanef-Beaumont Gereau, Abdul-Warren Ballentine, and Malik-Merel Smith were snatched up from Golden Grove Prison in St. Croix and sent to Seguro Correctional Center, a private prison in Arizona.

MORE:

The prison in Virgin Islands claims that their Facebook page was raising money for their escape. However, they were taken the day that a Writ of Mandamus was to be heard, detailing the illegality of their continued imprisonment. There has been a Writ of Habeas Corpus filed in the 3rd circuit in Philadelphia and we are waiting for the results.

In the mean time please write the 3 comrades to let this prison know they have friends that are concerned for them.

I, along with other comrades and family members, have called the prison at 520.464.0500 and left word at Human Resources & Prisoners hot line to make sure the reference numbers we have for them are unchanged, as this is a private prison. Please call and check on them, as they have never returned any of our calls.

16 Mar - Lawyers for Peltier file for clemency

Leonard Peltier's clemency application has been filed with the Office of the Pardon Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice.

MORE:

Some of you may recall that Leonard's 1993 application for clemency was denied by George W. Bush as one of his last actions as President in 2009. After a required waiting period, Leonard became eligible to re-file. For the past nearly six months, a team has worked on the final version of the application (which is far more involved than just filling out a form).

What does this mean for supporters? Focus on the White House. We have less than a year (roughly 310 days) to convince President Obama to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier.

Please call President Obama for Leonard Peltier: 202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414 every work day. Please also frequently email President Obama: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>; post a comment on Obama's Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/potus/?fref=ts&hc_location=ufi; send a tweet to President Obama: @POTUS; and/or write a letter: President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500.

If ever there was a time to be very active on Leonard's behalf it's now!

17 Mar - Chuck Africa – Statement on Violence Against Women

Organize to Stop the Rapes, Kidnappings and Killings of Women on the Canadian/U.S. Border.

MORE:

A article written by Sarah Scott for the Feb-Mar. 2016 edition of Freedom Socialist Party newspaper has torn my heart to shreds and weighted my mind with perpetual grief. She writes of the vicious attacks on women residing in the Prince George and Prince Rubert sections of British Columbia, Canada.

Many activists have called on us to do all that we can to stop this genocide. We must unify our effort wherever we can because the governments don't care. As reported, women are routinely kidnapped and raped while traveling to and from places of work or to stores; many hitch-hike because of their extreme levels of poverty. Poverty forces them to travel long distances for necessities. Also there are women forced into sex work and untold numbers of serial killings occur on the so-called "Highway of Tears"- a section of highway between Prince George and Prince Rubert.

Ms. Scott reports that after 700 recommendations made into the disappearances of thousands of women, 89% of them were ignored. We can't expect justice from the politicians, or the police, since even female members of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police have complained of sexual harassment by their policemen colleagues. I agree with the reporter that the government must be pressured into action; but more than that we have to do all that we can to not only expose it to the public worldwide but to stop it!

A recent trial also reported in the article underscores the graveness of the genocide taking place. In that case, a man was acquitted in the bleeding death of Cindy Gladue who suffered a brutal four inch tear to her vagina and bled to death in a hotel bath tub. We have to join our voices, energy and muscle with those already fighting for these women.

Please, let's come up with ways to have some effective actions towards this struggle. I think from the start there has to be a) education about the situation, b) finding ways to creatively bring about an immediate halt to the violence, and c) never let the government rest as long as these atrocities are happening.

Brainstorm with each other and let's do something about this. I am in prison and can do but so much from here. My voice is what I have now and I hope we can see this situation addressed as thoroughly and militantly as we do racism, economic issues, etc. Finally, to all women (in the region spoken of and everywhere), please try to travel with at least one other person if possible. And to all those identifying as men, WHERE THE HELL ARE Y'ALL AT?!

End all violence against women!

17 Mar - Insider Threat Program Uses Chelsea Manning As Example To Criminalize Whistleblowers

A file published by The Guardian reveals "motives" or "behavior indicators," which the United States government's "Insider Threat" program cited to document signs that Chelsea Manning posed a threat to the government.

MORE:

by Kevin Gosztola (*Shadowproof*)

The “indicators” highlight her gender identity, sexual orientation, and interest in efforts to get rid of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy as signs she would commit unauthorized disclosures of classified information.

The file raises significant concerns, particularly whether lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons within the government are subject to extra scrutiny as a result of officials within the National Insider Threat Task Force believing sexual orientation and gender identity issues are signs one may pose an “insider threat” to an agency.

Manning is serving a thirty-five year prison sentence at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. 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.

One day after she was sentenced, Manning came out as a woman. She changed her name from Bradley to Chelsea. Throughout Manning’s court martial, evidence was heard in court related to her struggle with gender identity disorder during her deployment in Iraq.

The U.S. Army whistleblower’s disclosures—and the disclosures of NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden—fueled the drastic expansion of an “insider threat” program to monitor the activities of employees. The program has reportedly encouraged government officials to treat potential leakers as people who intend to aid America’s enemies.

In the file published by The Guardian, which is dated April 14, 2014, “insider threat motives” are listed: greed or financial difficulties, disgruntled or wants revenge, ideology, divided loyalties, vulnerable to blackmail, ego/self-image, ingratiation, and family/personal issues.

Manning exhibited all of these “insider threat motives,” according to the file. She was “disgruntled” because of her “social and physical identity, which [she] felt was suppressed by the U.S. Army and its atmosphere toward homosexuality.”

“During Pvt. Manning’s service in the U.S. Army, [she] struggled with [her] self image as a man, when [she] wanted to be an openly accepted female in the U.S. Army. Pvt. Manning was also an advocate for homosexuals openly serving” in the Defense Department against the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

The file highlights Manning’s interest in matters “outside” of the scope of her responsibilities as a “behavior indicator” that she posed an “insider threat.” For example, she “obsessively researched websites regarding [Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell] and politicians who supported or didn’t support the lesbian/gay community.” She “conducted this activity while being assigned to research and analyze the patterns and threats of IED attacks.”

It also once again highlights Manning’s gender identity problems, labeling the problems a “behavior indicator” that Manning was “overwhelmed by life crises and/or career disappointments.”

Additionally, the file states, “Pvt. Manning was associated to a group of self-proclaimed ‘hackers’ who deemed all information (government in particular) should be public knowledge. [She] was accepted in this

group and associated [herself] as a ‘hacker’ and subscribed to the group’s ideology.” The group is quite clearly WikiLeaks, which the government to this day refuses to treat as a media organization.

At the time this file was compiled, Manning no longer identified as a male. The government compiled the file with male pronouns and total indifference to the issues, which U.S. military policy were responsible for compounding.

It is also clear from the file that people who are struggling with issues of gender identity or sexual orientation may be treated as individuals, who need to be monitored through total surveillance of their activities as well.

As Chelsea Manning wrote in a column published at The Guardian, “The broad sweep of the program means officials have been given a blank check for surveillance. Agencies implementing the Insider Threat program could examine anyone who has motives of ‘greed,’ ‘financial difficulties,’ is “disgruntled,’ has ‘an ideology,’ a ‘divided loyalty,’ an ‘ego’ or ‘self-image,’ or ‘any family/personal issues’ – the words used to describe my motives. Such subjective labeling could easily be applied to virtually every single person currently holding a security clearance.”

There are more than 5 million people working for the government, who have security clearances.

At the Defense Department, at least a hundred thousand military, civilian, and contractor personnel are subject to “continuous evaluation” or total surveillance of their electronic activities and communications. The program has developed into a model various government agencies, like the Department of Homeland Security, are incorporating.

Effectively, the “Insider Threat” program represents a massive McCarthyist program. Government employees are encouraged, pressured, and, in fact, rewarded for spying on their fellow employees.

In 2013, McClatchy reported on a “Treason” course that was posted to the Agriculture Department’s website. It informed employees they may be “eligible for a reward of up to \$500,000” if they help “stop a case of espionage.” A payment would be made for any arrest or conviction of a person who committed espionage, conspired or attempted to commit espionage, or for information which prevented or frustrated an act of espionage.

A Defense Security Service online pamphlet suggested, “It is better to have reported overzealously than never to have reported at all.” There are no penalties for informing on someone, if that tip is completely unfounded or found to be submitted for disingenuous purposes.

The Defense Department told McClatchy, “The individual is not penalized for reporting something in good faith that may turn out to be unfounded. Pursuant to DoD directive 5240.06, Counterintelligence Awareness and Reporting, department personnel are required to report suspicious incidents concerning possible foreign intelligence service or international terrorist threats.”

Nothing in the file describes what would happen if a person exhibiting these “behavior indicators” or “insider threat motives” is, in fact, going through “proper channels”—through the chain of command or to a member of Congress—to reveal waste, fraud, abuse, illegality, or other acts of corruption. However, it is entirely possible an employee could exhibit these behaviors because he or she is concerned their superiors will find out he or she is exposing their misconduct to officials and there may be consequences to their careers if superiors find out.

The psychological profile of Manning, and other whistleblowers who the Insider Threat Task Force uses to “educate” personnel, make up the chief basis for teaching personnel to look out for employees, who may damage the government. What this means is people who are good government employees, who have a conscience and choose to challenge government policies or take a stand against internal corruption, automatically run the risk of being seen as suspicious by their colleagues.

18 Mar - More About Mondo we Langa

With the passing of Mondo we Langa in prison, more is being written about him, his history, and legacy,

MORE:

March 18th - Amnesty International investigator on Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa's death

Amnesty International investigated the case of the Omaha Two, Edward Poindexter and Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, former David Rice, in the late 1970's. Mondo and Poindexter were Black Panther leaders in the National Committee to Combat Fascism and had been convicted in April 1971 for the bombing murder of an Omaha policeman. The two men had been targets of both the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division and rival Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Omaha Two were victims of COINTELPRO counterintelligence measures but much of the story was still hidden in classified files.

A German investigator, Claus Walischewski, was assigned the case. Walischewski and his team studied the case for two years before concluding Mondo and Ed Poindexter were political prisoners: “The cooperation with the FBI, the FBI’s own activities, the promise of leniency to Peak, even evidence—all these were kept secret at the trial. The key witnesses disappears after the trial. There is only one conclusion to these peculiarities: Rice and Poindexter were readily implicated with a murder because they were the most prominent political activists in Omaha and had to be silenced.”

“They became victim of a frame-up by the police and the FBI and of the racial and political biases in court. Mr. Kingman Brewster, President of Yale University, stated in 1970 that he was “skeptical of the ability of black revolutionaries to achieve a fair trial anywhere in the United States,” wrote Walischewski.

The Amnesty International work group stated their opinion: “David Rice and Ed Poindexter are political prisoners. They were sentenced for a crime they didn’t commit because of their radical political beliefs....The murder of patrolman Minard appeared to be a welcome pretext to incriminate the two activists and strike a blow against the NCCF from which it couldn’t recover. The legal system was misused and they were unjustly convicted.”

Forty-five years later, Claus Walischewski still believes in Mondo's innocence. Walischewski commented on Mondo's recent death at the Nebraska State Penitentiary: “I just want to express my shock and disbelief when I learned of Mondo's death....I had heard that Mondo's health problems had worsened but I had no idea how serious they were, that's why the news of his death took me by surprise.”

“I deeply deplore the fact that he had to spend most of his life in prison for a crime I believe he didn't commit. He was born the same year as I and that makes it the more horrendous to me: so many years confined in prison, such injustice, no chance of living a normal life - how could he endure all this? Amnesty International took on his case in 1977 and only one year later I joined AI and started working on this case. In the 1990s I went to Nebraska and Minnesota and had a chance to meet Mondo and Ed in prison and thus developed a more personal commitment to their case. Numerous letters I wrote on their behalf - to no avail,” complained Walischewski.

“It makes me sad to know how harshly the US legal and political system deals with supposed enemies and is rarely willing to make up for injustices and manipulations that victims of racism have suffered. Another precious life spent! Can we hope that one day Mondo will be rehabilitated and cleared of the crime? That is still important, not only for Ed Poindexter, but also for Mondo's relatives and friends and for all US citizens and people around the world like me who want justice to prevail.”

March 22nd - Exiled Black Panther Pete O'Neal on Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Lang

Pete O'Neal, a former Kansas City leader of the Black Panther Party now living in Tanzania, comments on the recent death of Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, formerly David Rice. O'Neal is living in a self-imposed exile to avoid a four-year federal prison sentence for transporting a shotgun across a state line. O'Neal fled the country after being targeted by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division which arrested him and rival Federal Bureau of Investigation which targeted O'Neal for clandestine counterintelligence action.

Mondo died on March 11 of respiratory failure at the Nebraska State Penitentiary where he had served forty-five years of a life sentence. Mondo and Edward Poindexter were convicted of the 1970 bombing murder of an Omaha policeman following a controversial April 1971 trial marred by a withheld FBI Laboratory report, tampered dynamite evidence by ATF, and false testimony by Omaha police and Duane Peak, the confessed bomber. The pair, later called the Omaha Two, had been targeted because they were leaders of Omaha's chapter of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a Black Panther affiliate group.

O' Neal states “the passing of brother Mondo we Langa was shocking and disturbing, I think most of us imagined and looked forward to the day when he and Poindexter would walk out of the prison in which they have been unjustly held for more than four decades.”

“When I recall the many visits both brothers made to Kansas City an image comes to mind of two strong young men, totally committed to our struggle, I recall their participating in our community programs and never flinching from the heavy workload that all the members of the Kansas City chapter were required to perform, they were involved in our political education classes and never hesitated to criticize where criticism was needed. Mondo and Poindexter were an inspiration to us all and most importantly they continue to inspire by the manner in which they held fast to their principles and convictions.”

“I recently saw current photos of these political prisoners and it was obvious the toll these many years of inhuman imprisonment had taken on their physical bodies, but at the same time I noticed with admiration that the fire of righteous conviction was still in their eyes,” noted O'Neal.

“I stated that receiving the news of Mondo’s passing was a shock, and it was, my first feeling was of sadness and grief and then I checked myself. For me, personally, I believe this is not a time for sadness but instead a time for happiness and joy, indeed a time for celebration! Mondo is free. He has slipped his bonds and embraced a well deserved freedom, and in doing so I like to believe he left us with a challenge, a challenge to redouble our efforts to free Poindexter and all political prisoners,” explains O'Neal. “What a great testament to his life and struggle it would be if brother Poindexter were to walk free from the gates of confinement into the welcoming arms of his family and comrades.”

“Mondo we Langa lives! Free all political prisoners. Free them all!”

March 24th - Mondo's alibi witness wants exoneration for former Black Panther leader

Rae Ann Schmitz, the alibi witness for Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, formerly David Rice, at his April 1971 murder trial, still stands by Mondo's innocence and credits him with changing her life. Schmitz told the Scottsbluff Star Herald that she is certain that many people have been influenced by Mondo who

died March 11 at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Mondo was serving a life sentence for the 1970 murder of an Omaha policeman.

“He was in a place where he could affect people in a very profound way....I think there were hundreds of people positively affected by his life behind those walls,” Schmitz said.

Schmitz was Mondo we Langa’s alibi witness for a bombing murder that claimed the life of Larry Minard, Sr. . However, Schmitz was also an alibi witness for Mondo when he was supposed to have met with fifteen year-old Duane Peak to give him the bomb. David Herzog, Mondo's defense lawyer, failed to adequately prepare Schmitz for trial and did not realize that Mondo was with Schmitz when Mondo allegedly gave Peak the bomb. Herzog did not ask Peak any questions during cross-examination over the timing of the supposed rendezvous. The conflicting accounts were never made an issue at trial or on appeal and only show up in depositions which were never explored for the jury.

At the trial, Peak did not testify what time he met with Mondo to pick up a suitcase bomb only saying it was in the afternoon. David Herzog failed to ask Peak any questions about the time of the alleged meeting during cross-examination. However, in a pre-trial deposition, Peak said the two talked together at 4:00 p.m. Schmitz testified that Mondo was with her from 1:30 until sometime between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. when she dropped him off at Kountze Park.

Mondo was convicted with Edward Poindexter and the two men became known as the Omaha Two. Poindexter is serving a life sentence at the maximum-security prison in Lincoln. The two Omaha men were leaders of a Black Panther affiliate chapter and targets of an illegal, clandestine counterintelligence operation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Under orders from J. Edgar Hoover, COINTELPRO was directed at the destruction of the Black Panther Party and the elimination of its leadership.

Mondo raised the issue of ineffective assistance by counsel in a recent appeal. An Omaha judge tossed out Mondo’s appeal, in part, because Mondo purportedly did not allege his innocence properly in the appeal. The Nebraska Supreme Court then dismissed Mondo’s appeal without bothering to issue a written opinion explaining the decision.

Schmitz told the Scottsbluff newspaper, “People don’t want to believe that our justice system is so [messed] up.”

18 Mar - New Poetry From Eric King

We have two new poems for you.

MORE:

March 18th - Them bronze keys

Them bronze keys
o’ they rattle
am i free
or starting battle
Them slammed doors
how they wake
my battered spirit
they tried to break
Them bronze keys
open my food tray

guards watching hard
inspecting how much I ate
Them slammed doors
can hear from afar
do the doors know
how deeply they scar?
Them bronze keys
why do you exist
separation creates pain
and its balled up in my fist

March 25th - Oh, the life of a snitch

you get caught with a ki
won't even do 3
that's one hell of a plea
you're a snitch!

Number one on your conspiracy
but you'd rather be free
smooth rolling in P.C.
"he was gonna tell on me"
sure he was, you're a snitch!

You sure like to talk and plan
then turn witness for the man
your life's more important
trust the community understands
hypocrite anarcho-snitch!

Swear "fuck the cops till I die"
prison looks at you and smiles
whoops next day you're a C.I.
where'd they hide the wire guy?
Slimy recording snitch!

Free a thousand bunnies or two
but finger the entire crew
raise your hand and swear to speak the truth
what'd they expect you to do
Greasy Eco-snitch!

23 Mar - Activist Who Freed 2,000 Minks From Illinois Farm Sentenced Under Obscure Terrorism Law

A second animal rights activist was sentenced in a case dating back to 2014, in which two men were accused of releasing some 2,000 minks from a fur farm in Morris, Illinois.

MORE:

by Aaron Cynic (*Chicagoist*)

Tyler Lang, who was arrested alongside Kevin Johnson in August, 2013 during a routine traffic stop in Woodford County where police found bolt cutters, camouflage clothing and masks, was sentenced Wednesday. The two men were indicted in 2014 under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, a law created by the American Legislative Exchange Council and pushed through Congress in 2006 which gave more authority to the U.S. Department of Justice to prosecute animal rights activists.

The Tribune reports prosecutors said the pair released more than 2,000 minks from the farm, along with spraypainting the words "LIBERATION IS LOVE" on the side of a barn, and damaging vehicles. The farm closed as a result of the action, and its owners say they suffered psychologically after the incident.

Johnson was sentenced last month to three years in prison with time served and ordered to pay \$200,000 restitution to the farm owners. Lang was also sentenced to a \$200,000 restitution payment, along with three months time served, six months house arrest and an additional six months of "community confinement."

Both men had already served time under state law and entered into non-cooperating plea agreements to lessen their sentences under the AETA. According to a report from the Guardian published last year, the pair are one of a small but seemingly growing number of people who have been prosecuted under the act for widely-ranging so-called crimes—including simple acts of protest such as handing out flyers or chalking sidewalks. According to Mother Jones, four protesters in California were indicted for doing just that, but the charges which were later thrown out by a federal judge in 2010.

The Center for Constitutional Rights, along with advocates for Johnson and Lang, said in a statement that the act is an attempt "to conjure public fear of the animal liberation movement and chill dissent."

The law, supported by big pharmaceutical and agricultural companies at the time it was authored, attempts to equate non-violent civil disobedience and other activities—including undercover filming of alleged animal cruelty or abuse—with terrorism. In 2014, Johnson and Lang called their indictments "an attempt to indict an entire movement in the eyes of the public," and a "slap in the face to a public that sadly knows what terrorism actually looks like."

Wednesday, the support team for the duo said in a statement that their case should be a "reminder that we have to show each other love and support in the face of State repression."

23 Mar - Action Alert for Oso Blanco

Help annoy the piss out of Oso Blanco's captors who are holding him in SHU 24/7 over nonsense, denying him recreation time, and pretending he's refusing to go out to recreation.

MORE:

Please take sixty seconds of your day and email Hazelton USP at HAX/ExecAssistant@bop.gov We have not had success calling this facility but we have had responses by email. In your email, state you are checking in on Byron Chubbuck #07909051. He has not had any recreation time in over TWO months. You know that he very much wants his recreation time and that he would not turn it down (that is the early excuse - that he's turning it down). Also express concerns over his mail, legal and personal, being mishandled.

Your tone can be professional or rude or sweet or whatever but please write to them. It really makes a difference. Also, you may want to cc: your email to the regional office in charge of Hazelton. That email address is mxro/execassistant@bop.gov

This is an ongoing campaign so if you are reading this then it is still going on and your emails are important and appreciated!

Stay tuned to freeosoblanco.blogspot.com for updates!

23 Mar - Contribute to antifa prisoner Jason Hammond's release fund!

Jason's release date [from Illinois's Vandalia Correctional Center] is currently set for April 13th, 2016!

MORE:

That means he is less than a month away from being back with his friends and family and pick up life where he left off. As of right now we know that he will be on house arrest for some time, he is not sure for how long or what the movement restrictions are going to look like. As many of you know the transition from prison to real life can be tough for many, so in order to ease the stress this page is now Jason's release fund. The money that you all graciously donate from now on will help Jason with getting a phone to be in contact with his PO officer, food, rent, any fees for classes he might be mandated to take, clothes...etc. Thank you so much for your continued support and love! More updates coming soon!!

Jason Hammond, Jeremy's twin brother, accepted a non-cooperating guilty plea and was sentenced to 41 months in prison on January 2015 for his part in an organized direct action taken against a group of white supremacists.

In 2012, a group of racists and white supremacists organized a 'White Nationalist Economic Summit' in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park. Groups of anti-fascists and anti-racists from the Midwest decided to confront the meeting and successfully shut down their event through a righteous melee. In the aftermath, 5 people were arrested and were dubbed the Tinley Park 5. All five were sentenced to upwards of 3 years and have since been released. Jason is the last person to have been arrested for this action.

Donate at <http://tiny.cc/jasonrelease>

8 Apr - NYC Free Peltier Film Series Continues

WHAT: Flicks For Freedom - Cointelpro 101

WHEN: 7:00pm, Friday, April 8

WHERE: Freedom Hall - 113 West 128th Street, Harlem

COST: FREE

MORE:

Cointelpro 101 exposes illegal surveillance, disruption, and outright murder committed by the U.S. government in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. "COINTELPRO" refers to the official FBI COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM carried out to surveil, imprison, and eliminate leaders of social justice movements and to disrupt, divide, and destroy the movements as well. Many of the governments' crimes are still unknown. Through interviews with activists who experienced these abuses firsthand and with rare historical footage, the film provides an educational introduction to a period of intense repression and draws relevant lessons for present and future moments. (Leonard Peltier makes a brief appearance in the film.)

Please join us for this showing of Cointelpro 101 and sign a letter to President Obama asking that he grant executive clemency to Leonard Peltier.

8 Apr - Roses & Bread

WHAT: 21st Annual Women's Open Poetry & Performance Event

WHEN: 7:00-9:00pm, Friday, April 8

WHERE: The Commons - 388 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: \$10, \$15, \$20 - more if you can, less if you can't

MORE:

We will donate proceeds to support the Centro Mujer y Nueva Familia.

The Centro Mujer y Nueva Familia of Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, has, over the past 15 years, built and provided a safe environment for women experiencing domestic, family, sexual, and/or institutionalized violence. It educates women, families, and communities on the impact of violence on both individuals and the communities they come from. Long supported with government assistance, the center has been hard hit by the financial crisis in Puerto Rico, leaving them with the many tasks they've historically undertaken seriously underfunded.

To perform and/or RESERVE childcare, please contact Elspeth Meyer, 718-783-8141.

Featured Performer: Judy Gorman. Judy Gorman performs in clubs, festivals, universities, peace and social justice events in over ten countries and forty-nine of these United States. Judy's performed on programs with Ani DiFranco, Indigo Girls, Moby, Richie Havens, Carlos Mejia Godoy, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Pete Seeger, Odetta and Suzanne Vega.

Born and educated in NYC, Judy earned a BA in literature and a master's degree in art history. Before touring full time as a musician, she taught English in Chinatown, assisted in oral surgery, worked at the Guggenheim Museum and Metropolitan Museum of Art, did construction work, did community organizing and produced radio programs for Pacifica Radio's WBAI, 99.5 FM in NYC.