



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for April 12th

25 Mar - Alvaro Luna Hernandez begins Hep-C Treatment

Alvaro, as some of you may know, has struggled with the ever encroaching debilitating effects of Hep-C for quite a while.

MORE:

He learned a month or so ago that he was eligible for going out to West Texas and the Montford Unit/West Texas Hospital, to begin an 8 to 12-week Hep-C Treatment.

The Montford is the best TDCJ has to offer if that's saying anything, (staff-per-prisoner/patient-ratio). This will be grueling as you must know, and the bad thing is he'd be returning as the heat is coming on, so traveling the 'chain bus' back won't be fun - but by then his constitution will be stronger having the virus 'fried' well enough to survive that.

Incidentally, as with Mumia's civil endeavors in Pennsylvania, we are all watching his Kereste case as it progresses, we'd like for the NLG Political Prisoner's Legal Team to come in on this too if they can; we had been talking of doing that to hold TDCJ to a reasonable time-frame to start his treatment - but that suddenly happened as I learned just yesterday.

April 9th - Call to Action for Alvaro Hernandez!

Alvaro is in dire need of immediate, practical solidarity from all who support his emancipation from unjust incarceration and cruel punishment.

Alvaro's Recent Hardship

In these past few weeks it has come to our attention that Alvaro is enduring multiple forms of inadequate and cruel treatment by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

He is in need of dire medical attention; the TDCJ has placed him in more inhospitable holding conditions; the TDCJ has confiscated and stolen from him; the TDCJ has limited his mail correspondence; and when in transport to Lubbock, TX, the TDCJ transported him with—what you will agree is—little to no regard for his health or comfort.

Call to Action!

Therefore, we are urging you to email or call relevant TDCJ authorities (below) by Thursday, April 14th, 2016 (midnight) to protest these conditions and demand immediate improvements.

We have prepared sample grievances for your convenience when contacting the officials below (<http://ow.ly/10vhpu> to download, <http://ow.ly/10vhr5> to preview them).

Send as many as you can in one or more emails!

The relevant TDCJ authorities to contact are:

TDJC Ombudsman Office

ombudsman@tdcj.texas.gov

936.437.4927

Post Office Box 99

Huntsville, Texas 77342-0099

TDJC Office of the Inspector General
oig@tdcj.texas.gov
936.437.5030
Post Office Box 13084, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

TDCJ Executive Director
exec.director@tdcj.state.tx.us
512.463.9988
209 West 14th Street
5th Floor, Price Daniel Building
Austin, Texas 78701

Thank you! Your Solidarity Matters!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and from Alvaro's. Your solidarity does matter and will make a difference.

Without solidarity, nothing is possible! Free Alvaro! Free them all!

28 Mar - Mumia's Health

As you know, we are on high alert around Mumia's health and we are asking folks to call the prison and the DOC to demand that he immediately received the Hep C cure he needs.

MORE:

Mumia has been dozing off during visits and he has very dark leathery skin again. Our doctor, Joe Harris, predicted that Mumia would fall into crisis again, unless he was treated. And here we are again! Please see numbers to call at <http://www.bringmumiahome.com> or <http://freemumia.com>.

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. We, therefore, urge you to,

DEMAND

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.

PHONE, FAX, AND E-MAIL THESE DEMANDS TO:

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR, TOM WOLF

Phone: 717.787.2500

Fax: 717.772.8284

E-mail: governor@pa.gov

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, SECRETARY, JOHN WETZEL

Phone: 717.728.2573, 717.787.2500

E-mail: ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

MAHANOY PRISON, SUPERINTENDENT, Theresa DelBalso
Phone: 570.773.2158

(You have to be transferred to her secretary, and she refuses to give out the fax number or e-mail for the Superintendent. Not surprising, given that this new superintendent has a very heavy military background)

28 Mar - Memorial service for Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa held in Omaha

It was a place of joy and a place of sorrow. An event both somber and heartwarming. A time of tributes and a time for reflection. It was a memorial service for Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, formerly David Lewis Andrew Rice.

MORE:

by Michael Richardson (*The Examiner*)

Buddy Hogan gave opening remarks at the Malcolm X Memorial Center in Omaha on March 26 to honor Mondo, who died two weeks earlier at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

Mondo served forty-five years of a life sentence for the murder of an Omaha policeman, but you could not convince any of the one hundred persons attending the memorial service of his guilt. Mondo went to his death proclaiming his innocence and once wrote, "I'm paying on a debt I do not owe."

Condolences from Black Panther in-exile Pete O'Neal were read. O'Neal, formerly from Kansas City, now lives in Tanzania. Mondo was attending a rally in August 1970 in Kansas City for O'Neal who had been arrested by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division when Mondo's house in Omaha was searched by police and ATF agents who claim they found dynamite in the basement. Mondo's house was unlocked and wide open when police arrived for the search.

Tekla Agbala Johnson conducted an African Spirituality and Initiation into the Ancestor Realm ceremony, which she conducted in Kiswahili. Mondo would likely have approved, as he chose words from four African languages to compose his name. Sondra McSwain, a local Omaha dancer, performed an African Welcoming Dance which included a call and response with the audience.

Black Panther Party archivist and activist, Billy X, also known as Bill Jennings, brought messages from Panther members scattered in Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand, and other parts of the world and around the United States. Billy X never forgot about Mondo, owns several pieces of Mondo's art, and corresponded with him over the long years in prison.

National Jericho Movement Chair, Jihad Abdulmunit, spoke about the need to continue the work, to free all political prisoners. Mondo had been on Jericho's list of political prisoners for years and the organization has repeatedly called for Mondo's release.

Writer Linda Kennedy gave the history of the Harambee African Cultural Organization at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. The organization flourished under Mondo's leadership. She also spoke about Mondo's affect on others—that he could have been a bitter body builder— instead he was a mentor and friend. "No one knows," Kennedy said, "how many lives he touched, how many young men he may have saved."

Part of the ceremony included African drumming. The drummer said, "They can take your body, they can take your mind, they can even break your heart—but don't let them take your soul."

A message of farewell from Ed Poindexter to his old friend was read. Poindexter was Mondo's co-defendant and has also done forty-five years of his life sentence. The pair became known as the Omaha Two and both men were targets of the clandestine COINTELPRO operation by the Federal Bureau of

Investigation. Poindexter remains imprisoned at the Nebraska maximum-security prison and could not attend the memorial service.

Activist and author, Angela Davis, read Mondo's poem, "When It Comes To This Point" about recent police shootings of unarmed young black men. Davis was kind and gracious and a captivating speaker. Davis said despite the conditions under which Mondo lived, he was funny and maintained a sense of humor and in spite of the inhumane conditions, Mondo retained his humanity. Davis, at one time on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, has made a number of trips to Nebraska over the years to show her support for the Omaha Two.

In prison, Mondo conducted himself as an innocent man would and consequently held his head high, not in arrogance but with pride. Mondo did not let a wrongful conviction influence his approach to people. Mondo remained both a gentle man and a gentleman, gaining the respect of many.

Nebraskans For Justice President Tariq Al-Amin spoke of police violence/brutality. Al-Amin, a former Omaha policeman himself, was praised by Buddy Hogan as being, "what a police officer should be." Hogan said, "He was there to protect and serve. And he continues to serve his community."

Mondo's nieces Shanita Rice and Melissa Rice Stratford and nephew Michael Rice spoke of Mondo, not as a political figure, but as their beloved uncle who kept track of their schools, birthdays, grades, and hobbies. Mondo encouraged their education and told them how important it is to read. He sent them books and encouraging letters.

One woman attending the memorial event said it was a lovely service with beautiful music and eloquent speakers, yet she sat teary-eyed throughout. The celebration of Mondo's life was made more poignant by the tragedy of forty-five years behind bars.

Supporters of Mondo reaffirmed their dedication to work to free Ed Poindexter so the next event can be a homecoming celebration and a real testament to Mondo's life. The event ended with everyone raising their hands in a Black Power salute and chanting five times, "Power to the People."

30 Mar - Eric Moved Back to General Population, Food Situation Marginally Improves

We've received confirmation that Eric has been moved out of solitary confinement to general population.

MORE:

He was even able to return to the pod (group of cells) that he had been in prior to being thrown in the hole, where he has friends and connections. We are hoping that his overall well-being will improve with this move, but are not trusting in CCA Leavenworth to have any consideration for him or any other prisoner.

With your support in the form of letters to Eric and calls, emails, and faxes to CCA, Eric has continued to resist the prison's efforts to break him by providing him with a starvation diet. He has received more food lately, although this is generally just a tray full of beans. The beans are not even seasoned sometimes, which contributes to him getting a stomach ache if he tries to eat the whole tray. When he doesn't eat all the beans, the guards write down that he refused the meal provided to him. Even in the face of this petty harassment and disregard for his health, he has stood firm on his demand for vegan food.

We are pausing the call-in campaign for the moment to see how his situation changes with his move back to general population. If CCA continues to deny him adequate nutrition and calories, we'll resume the call-in and ask you all to step up for Eric once again. Your solidarity so far has helped Eric improve his situation while creating demonstrable signs of pressure on CCA Leavenworth and corporate staff. Eric has dealt with some retaliation as a result, but our solidarity is winning out over their fuckery.

March 30th - One of these days I'm gonna break these chains

I wake up alone
in a box that ain't my home
without the love I call my own
people who live in glass houses
I envy them all
people who live in cages
must throw stones
tear the skin sticking to my bones
got a spoon to dig down straight
only digging the plot to my own grave
if my body can't, then my mind will escape
my enemy wears authority instead of a face
I wake up alone
but we cannot break
freedom is on the phone
she holds me in one piece
I wake up with a hole
that she fills complete
battered & bruised but on my feet
one day I'll awake
within a home that's all our own
we will bury the past
start our own damn show
I wake up with a heard that is filled with gold
love so powerful it could explode.

1 Apr - Ongoing Oso Blanco Action Alert

Action Alert : Calling on friends of imprisoned Indigenous activist Oso Blanco to send those emails once more!

MORE:

On March 29 Hazelton Executive Assistant Rachel Thompson told supporters that all concerns regarding our friend Mr. Byron Chubbuck (#07909051), including hygiene, recreation, medical care, and BP-10 appeal had been met. It has recently been brought to our attention that on March 28 or before, Mr. Chubbuck was cuffed, stripped, and taken to the 72-hour watch room.

We are told he is in a very cold room, wearing only paper shorts and a paper sheet. We are told he has no mattress but literally a plastic mattress case with nothing inside. We are told that the reason is that Mr. Chubbuck allegedly had a rubber band in his hair but that it is widely known that staff had been looking for a reason to retaliate against Mr. Chubbuck for our initiative to bring concerns to the Mid-Atlantic Regional office. We are told it is also widely known that Mr. Chubbuck was not responsible for the contraband found in his mattress.

Hazelton has been in the media over violence, understaffing, disgruntled staff, even a staff member suing over disregard of her safety. It is not a leap to think that a grudge could be carried out against Mr. Chubbuck in this environment.

Please urge officials to do everything within their power to remove Mr. Chubbuck #07909051 from this extreme deprivation in 72-hour watch room at USP Hazelton.

Hazelton Executive Assistant and Spokesperson Rachel Thompson:

HAX/ExecAssistant@bop.gov

Regional:

3 Apr - Passing of Abdullah Majid

Abdul Majid, beloved son, father, grandfather, and long held political prisoner, died Sunday, April 3, 2016.

MORE:

Abdul was imprisoned for more than three decades due to targeting by the FBI COINTELPRO program which sought to eliminate leaders of the Black Panther Party and other radical Black organizations.

Abdul is well-known and respected for his work with the Lifer's Organization both inside and out the New York State Department of Corrections for facilitating classes, his teachings, leadership and counseling skills. In addition, he was active in prison helping young males to cope with long sentences, conduct legal research and providing civics training. Abdul is survived by loving family including his mother, children, grandchildren and even a few great-grandchildren. Abdul's mother, Mrs. LaBorde, is legendary in her love for her son, regularly making the long trek to visit him despite her advanced age of 91.

There is an emergency fund to assist the family with help cover the costs of his Janazah, the Arabic term for a Muslim funeral, expenses.

April 4th - Malcolm X Commemoration Committee (MXCC) Statement On Passing of Political Prisoner Abdullah Majid

Fifty years ago, the Black Panther Party boldly proclaimed themselves to be "heirs of Malcolm." That would manifest itself with great organic uniqueness with the legendary New York chapter of the Party. Many of those brave young men and women were actually touched by his work before his fateful assassination. Many others were pulled in by the work of his comrades like the late Herman Ferguson, our incredible founding chairman, who dared to launch the Jamaica Rifle and Pistol Association, in the aftermath of his leader's death and made that a training ground for many who would ultimately make up and drive the work of what is now that legendary chapter of the Party's history.

Let the historical record clearly reflect that Abdullah Majid was one of those young people who was molded in that environment.

Tall, fearless, humble and selfless, we are proud to unequivocally say that he would come to embody the best of the Black Panther Party.

Unfortunately, it would also make him and his comrades obsessive targets for COINTELPRO repression.

Majid passed away suddenly, yesterday, April 3rd, in an upstate NY prison, on what incredibly was the anniversary of Malcolm delivering his revolutionary classic 'The Ballot Or The Bullet.'

He was 66 years old.

He wasn't surrounded by his family, including his 91 year mother, the irrepressible Rose LaBorde, or his wife Nandi Majid who passed several ago from cancer working to secure justice for husband to her very end. Again, he was in an upstate NY prison.

Majid was in his 33rd year of wrongful incarceration. He was the surviving Queens Two defendant, framed for killing a NY police officer in 1983. His co-defendant and comrade, the late Bashir Hameed, the NJ field secretary for the Party, passed away in prison several years ago.

"It was very clear from reading those trial transcripts that Majid was being railroaded," said his young lawyer Moira Meltzer-Cohen at an October benefit held in his honor.

Majid was due to come before the Parole Board in June. To all around him, he appeared to be as strong as ever. MXCC was primed to do its share to help mobilize for that process.

"I am stunned and overwhelmed," said a greatly pained Dequi Kioni-Sadiki, MXCC's passionate chair, who had taken the reigns of reorganizing his Defense Committee.

Her husband, Sekou Odinga, who was released on Parole in November 2014, was silenced by his comrade's passing. They were not only comrades in the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, they were friends from their youthful days in SouthEast Queens.

Organized by his wife Dequi, Sekou keynoted that moving performance benefit held in October to mark the 49th anniversary of the Party's founding.

"People don't understand why we take the plight of our freedom fighters so personally," said a shaken Zayid Muhammad, the organization's founding press officer.

"Because if we come up short on this front, it costs them their lives."

Compounding the tragedy the family's resources are challenged by having had to bury another loved one suddenly shortly before Majid's death. A Pay Pal account has been established to help cover the costs of his Janazah, the Arabic term for a Muslim funeral.

Please donate at <http://ow.ly/10mwja>

If you have PayPal you can also email donations to Majid's Burial Expenses PayPal account at: expenses@abdullahmajid.com

4 Apr - Support the Convergence in Support of Eco-prisoners and Against Toxic Prisons - June 11-13

Folks are launching a crowdfunding campaign to raise \$3000 to help bring former political prisoners, family members and supporters of current prisoners to the Convergence in Support of Eco-Prisoners and Against Toxic Prisons.

MORE:

It is essential to have these voices present in DC and we want to ensure they don't have to exhaust their own limited funds to get there.

Donate at <https://www.generosity.com/community-fundraising/help-us-converge-in-d-c-against-toxic-prisons>

From June 11-13th people from around the country will converge on Washington, DC to network, strategize, and take direct action against toxic prisons. We are putting together a great weekend of panels and discussions on a range of issues including: prisons and environmental racism; resisting immigrant detention facilities; a roundtable discussion with former political prisoners; justice for transgender prisoners, the Greenscare and FBI entrapment; and much more. On the 13th we will take the momentum built over the weekend into the streets of DC where we will take direct action against the Bureau of Prisons' plans to build a new maximum security prison on a mountaintop removal coal mining site.

Thank you!

Your donation will help make this convergence successful, and specifically assist people on the front lines against the prison industrial complex.

For more information on the convergence and the fight to stop the new federal prison in Kentucky go to: www.fighttoxicprisons.org

5 Apr - New Court Date, Tribute to Mondo, Interview with Ashanti Alston

We're including sections of the monthly newsletter put out by supporters of Russell Maroon Shoatz.

MORE:

This month, we bring you another international media write-up on Federal Judge Cynthia Reed Eddy's ruling in support of Maroon, a save-the-date for Maroon's trial in Pittsburgh, and part one of an audio interview with former political prisoner Ashanti Alston, regarding his own activism with the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, and its connections to today's Black Lives Matter movement.

International Press for Maroon!

In the aftermath of last month's ruling by Federal Judge Cynthia Reed Eddy that Maroon's suit against the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections for violations of his 8th and 14th Amendment rights must go forward and be decided by a jury trial, international press outlets have begun to cover Maroon's case history and the potential his trial holds to challenge the long-term and politically retributive uses of solitary confinement against U.S. prisoners. Check out Renée Feltz's article, "Former Black Panther Granted Trial to Contest 22 Years in Solitary Confinement," published two weeks ago by The Guardian <<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/15/russell-maroon-shoatz-prison-black-panther-solitary-confinement-trial>>. And if you missed it in last month's blast, here's Victoria Law's article, "How a Former Black Panther Could Change the Rules of Solitary Confinement," published in The Nation <<http://www.thenation.com/article/how-a-former-black-panther-could-change-the-rules-of-solitary-confinement>>.

Please help spread these articles to your individual networks, particularly to those who may not yet know about Maroon's history and imprisonment. As we move forward to Maroon's trial, we'll need as much support as possible to make his case known farther and wider than ever before.

Save the Date! Maroon's going to Court!

A tentative trial date of July 11, 2016, has been set for Maroon. We'll of course be packing the courtroom in a show of support, and will be building up to the date with a number of events and fundraising initiatives, about which we'll let you know more in the coming weeks. In the interim, we ask that those of you who may be able to join us in the courtroom, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, save the date of July 11. If anyone in the network has capacity to organize a fundraiser for this mobilization please do! If you are in Pittsburgh and want to help on the ground please contact – maroonconnect@gmail.com

Details to follow as soon as we have them...

Maroon Has Wings – Interview with Ashanti Alston

Please check out the first installment of an interview with Ashanti Alston, former Black Panther, soldier of the Black Liberation Army, and political prisoner of a decade and a half <<https://soundcloud.com/etta-cetera/ashanti-allston-struggle-with-the-hope-of-winning>>. Allston speaks about the impact Maroon had on him while he was incarcerated, embracing his own resistance to authority within the Panthers, and organizing for Black Lives as a teenager in the 70's.

Did you know Ashanti and his life long comrade, Jihad Abdulmumit were the first teenagers to be tried as adults in New Jersey AND they defeated the Feds who were trying to frame them in that case?

Ashanti also discusses the Black Lives Matter convening in Cleveland, the importance and preciousness of relationships, studying in prison, escape attempts, all that you risk when you engage in the struggle, and all that you love when you're committed to justice.

This interview was recorded in Providence, Rhode Island by etta cetera in early February with the company of Biko and Yasmine.

Thank you Ashanti for sharing your experiences, wisdom and encouragement with us. Thank you for reminding us to continue to keep up the STRUGGLE WITH THE HOPE OF WINNING.

5 Minute Solidarity Action! Support Seth Hayes

Robert Seth Hayes has been incarcerated since 1973. Like Mondo and Maroon, Seth was a victim of the FBI's illegal COINTELPRO activities. Prior to his imprisonment, Seth worked in the Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast for Children program. His knowledge of the effects of racism on the Black community convinced him that the Black Panthers' program of community service and community self-defense was what was needed.

A husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Seth has been behind bars for 43 years. He is nearing his tenth parole hearing, scheduled for June of this year, and a petition in support of his release, directed at Tina M. Stanford, Chair of the New York State Board of Parole, has begun circulating. We invite all of Maroon's supporters to lend your names and signatures to the petition at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/999/950/821/release-robert-seth-hayes-74a2280-on-parole-in-june-2016>

Free Robert Seth Hayes!

6 Apr - Jared Chase Reportback from court

Jared Chase had his last pretrial hearing April 6 and his trial started April 11.

MORE:

There was a brief status update with no new information. Jay went to trial 9:00am Monday, April 11th at 26th and California, Room 303 in Chicago.

There were not many supporters at Jay's last pre-trial appearance. It is ESSENTIAL that we pack the courtroom for Jay's trial. Chicago, we need you! Show up! Jay's health is deteriorating and making a presence in court is not just about supporting Jay, which is important, but taking a stand against state repression in this city. If you can't come Monday, come on Tuesday, as it will continue the following day.

Jay is supposed to be coming home on May 6th but this trial is creating a situation where he may not. We need you to PACK THE COURT. The attendance at previous hearings has been small at best. Jay is in prison on entrapment charges from the NATO 3 case and these charges stem from his time in solitary confinement at Cook County Jail.

Anita Alvarez is prosecuting Jay. Yes, the same Anita whose events you disrupted and who you voted out of office. The same fascist who prosecuted the NATO 5 cases, the Tinley Park 5 and Jason Hammond, the same monster who is finally leaving office. This is her legacy though. It does not matter that she lost-her office is prosecuting Jay for alleged assault charges. It is great that people disrupted her campaign events but will they show up for his trial?

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.

This trial is not just about a few extra years being tacked on to his current sentence which 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.

Jay needs your support and solidarity. Everyone needs to see that Chicago stands with him and we have his back.

7 Apr - Support Tyler while he's on house arrest

This week Tyler Lang began his 6-month period of house arrest as part of his sentence for freeing 2,000 mink from a fur farm, which closed down as a result of the action.

MORE:

To keep track of him while he's on house arrest, the government has fitted Tyler with an ankle monitor, for which Tyler has to pay \$3 a day. Additionally, Tyler has a broken heel and is on crutches, and is thus unable to work. So, he could use support during this period as he is confined at home and his injury is healing.

If you're able to, please make a donation at <http://supportkevinandtyler.com/donate> to the support fund to help both Tyler and Kevin as they transition into these next phases of sentencing.

Tyler also has an online wish list that you can visit to buy him items (which will be mailed directly to him) that will help him in these next months.

Tyler appreciates all the love and support that have been shown to him and Kevin since their indictment. Let's continue to show them that they have a community that cares about them.

8 Apr - Prisoners Call for a National Strike on the Anniversary of Attica

In Alabama and Texas, prisoners have enacted multiple strikes and uprisings over the last few weeks. Now they are calling for a national prison strike on the anniversary of the Attica Prison Riot.

MORE:

by Neal Shirley (*Mask Magazine*)

In Alabama and Texas, prisoners have enacted multiple strikes and uprisings over the last few weeks. Now they are calling for a national prison strike on the anniversary of the Attica Prison Riot.

Since the last Prisons are for Burning column, things have seriously heated up. On the night of Friday, March 11th, hundreds of prisoners took over the general population portion of Holman prison in Atmore, Alabama. Viewpoints from the prisoners varied: One described conditions of overcrowding, sending out pictures to accompany the description. Another prisoner said, "It has nothing to do with overcrowding, but with the practice of locking folks up for profit, control and subjugation."

As that prisoner relayed via social media, "Things here are tense but festive. The CO and warden was stabbed... Fires were set, people got control of two cubicles, bust windows. The riot team came, shot gas, locked down, searched the dorms. Five have been shipped and two put in lockup." Another prisoner stated simply, "We're tired of this shit, there's only one way to deal with it: tear the prison down."

Though authorities regained control the following day, a second riot took place at Holman Prison early the following Monday morning involving up to 70 inmates. That morning prisoners built barricades and reportedly broke into other areas of the facility. Holman Prison has been a hotbed of organized prisoner activity, with the Free Alabama Movement operating out of the facility as well as anarchist prisoner-author Michael Kimble.

On the morning of April 4th "rolling strikes" began in multiple Texas prisons, with one unit already being put on lockdown by their administration at 9:30 am. Inspired by a growing wave of prison strikes in Alabama, Georgia, Ohio, Illinois, and California, these prisoners are part of the IWW's Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), the first widespread effort for union recognition among prisoners in decades, with over 750 members in prisons across the country. According to a statement on the IWOC

website, the strikes were not officially reported as such, but were concealed as administrative lockdowns – a de-escalation tactic commonly used by prisons and their wardens. Prison administrations had been aware of and worried about the strike. Tellingly, one administration had asked prisoners weeks in advance “to write instructions on how to run the washing machines and industry equipment so that an alternative workforce [could] take over the functioning of the prison.”

But it appears this is only the beginning. Prisoners in these states and many others have coordinated and released a call for a national prison strike on September 9th, 2016, the 45-year anniversary of the Attica Rebellion.

In their call, the prisoners declare, “On September 9th of 1971 prisoners took over and shut down Attica, New York State’s most notorious prison. On September 9th of 2016, we will begin an action to shut down prisons all across this country. We will not only demand the end to prison slavery, we will end it ourselves by ceasing to be slaves.”

They continue, “To achieve this goal, we need support from people on the outside. A prison is an easy-lockdown environment, a place of control and confinement where repression is built into every stone wall and chain link, every gesture and routine. When we stand up to these authorities, they come down on us, and the only protection we have is solidarity from the outside ... When we stand up and refuse on September 9th, 2016, we need to know our friends, families and allies on the outside will have our backs. This spring and summer will be seasons of organizing, of spreading the word, building the networks of solidarity and showing that we’re serious and what we’re capable of.”

That is the absolute truth; for this to be anything like a success, us on the outside will need to pull out all the stops. A strike of this kind would be absolutely historic, and it’ll probably take all kind of folks to help prisoners pull it off. We can help spread the word in our own social networks and in any publications that cross prison walls, write with prisoners about how they want to plug in, stage noise demos and smaller actions as lead-ups to September. Every tactic we’ve tried out and every relationship we’ve built in the last two years of anti-police actions could play a role in this effort.

The connection between fighting back against the police and the struggle against prison is fairly obvious. As the prisoners who put out this call note, “Mass incarceration, whether in private or state-run facilities, is a scheme where slave catchers patrol our neighborhoods and monitor our lives. It requires mass criminalization. Our tribulations on the inside are a tool used to control our families and communities on the outside. Certain Americans live every day under not only the threat of extra-judicial execution – as protests surrounding the deaths of Mike Brown, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland and so many others have drawn long overdue attention to – but also under the threat of capture, of being thrown into these plantations, shackled and forced to work.”

Up until now, the fierce resistance going on behind bars has received nothing like the attention or solidarity it is owed in comparison with the riots and protests in cities like Ferguson, Baltimore, and beyond. In September 2016, that will change.

16 Apr - Anarchist Book Fair

The 10th Annual NYC Anarchist Book Fair will be held on Sat., April 16, 2016, at Judson Memorial Church.

MORE:

The book fair will once again bring publishers, designers, writers, artists, musicians, and activists from all over North America and many other parts of the world to this historic location in Greenwich Village—the neighborhood that is one of the birthplaces of the anarchist movement in the US.

What: 2016 Annual NYC Anarchist Book fair

Where: Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South, in Manhattan

When: Book Fair—Sat., April 16, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Art Festival—Fri., April 15, 7 p.m. - 5 a.m.

Film Festival—Sat., April 16, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Just added:

NYC Anarchist Book Fair Music Night

date: Sunday, April 17th

time: 5:30- 10 pm

location : Don Pedro

address: 90 Manhattan Avenue Brooklyn, New York

The bands are: A-Truth, Ni Dios Ni Amo, Tin Vulva, Under Some Bridges.