



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for July 19th

2 Jul - Latest Action on the Virgin Islands 3 case

The Virgin Islands 3 case is one of great importance in a number of ways of not only presenting a timely challenge to U.S. imperialism, but the whole piracy of their "Doctrine of Discovery," laying the blueprint for ISIS.

MORE:

In this case we have tested and proven the U.S. judicial system incapable of respecting its own law, more less international law, establishing the fact that the imprisonment of these men and their native brothers has been political all along, it is about the depopulation of "America's Paradise" of the native [n-word redacted]. They have no rights as "U.S. Citizens" unless they leave and take up permanent residence in the "States," meaning that they are no longer residents of their homeland. The Virgin Islanders are torn apart not only by European piracy, but also by the deliberate denial of infrastructure essential to the free flowing of information and ideas between the islands. All major forms of communications be it television, radio, or print it is under the control and works in collaboration with maintaining the colonial status quo. Only, that has not worked in this case, for their every negative move was calculated for the purpose of showing that this is an international case that goes beyond the illegal imprisonment of these three men, but their people and their lands by White "Owners."

If you have visited virginislands3.yolasite.com, then you would be aware of the simple facts showing that these three men, and at least 140 of their fellow native inhabitants have been illegally held since 2000-01. The U.S. judiciary has completely capitulated in this matter; no U.S. court will process the challenges to the detentions, a blatant violation of the first twelve articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, we all know that the U.S. does not give a damn about Human Rights and international law, it is a pirate state, and so it must be dealt with as such. We need resources in order to carry out work, in the short term we budgeted no less than \$6000 by the beginning of August, for some serious on the groundwork. We want to take advantage of the U.S. Centennial celebration of purchasing these people and all of their lands. With the opening to Cuba and the Puerto Rican colonial debacle, this is all very timely.

The VI3 case represents the undercurrent, the grassroots, which needs to be tapped into while we are stoking the fires and showing the contradictions. This work needs support, not detractors; pitch in where you think you fit in. We have asked for specific things and a lot of folk want to pretend that they are in a nebula, not knowing what to do. On the website we request specific things that people can do; yet very few have stepped forward. So, seriously, how are we to win?

In our latest salvo over the wall of hypocrisy and criminality, we show that these two judges have committed criminal violations of domestic and international law, and you best believe that they did not do this all on their own. This is a proven case of political imprisonment by the U.S. government. The paper work is only about making the case for the masses. We need resources to do outreach and organizing, we are not counting on the system to give justice. This was sent certified mail today.

5 Jul - Nicole Kissane Has Requested Trial

On July 5th, Nicole Kissane made her first court appearance since her plea agreement was denied by Judge Larry Burns on June 20th. After much consideration, Nicole decided to withdraw her plea and request a trial.

MORE:

She is scheduled for her next court appearance on September 27th for pre-trial motions.

This has been a long process for Nicole, and unfortunately she still has some time to go before her case is resolved. Please send words of encouragement and solidarity to supportnicole@riseup.net — she would love to hear from you.

Please also donate to the support fund if you can. As Nicole's case gets drawn out and Joseph continues to serve his sentence in federal prison, continued donations are important to making sure that they both have the support they need throughout these times. You can donate now here. Thank you.

5 Jul - 200 Days Left!

An innocent man has been imprisoned for over 40 years. Big problem, right? The solution is simple. President Obama can grant clemency to Leonard Peltier.

MORE:

Obama leaves office in 200 days! Make the commitment to contact Mr. Obama every single day and by any means possible to urge him to free Leonard Peltier.

Call President Obama for Leonard Peltier: **202.456.1111** or **202.456.1414**; email President Obama: **whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments**; post a comment on Obama's Facebook page: **facebook.com/potus**; 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. You also can send a post card to the President: **whoisleonardpeltier.info/home/store/send-a-postcard-to-the-white-house**

July 7th - Supporters Mobilize For 'The Last Chance' To Win Leonard Peltier's Freedom

by Joe Catron (*MintPress News*)

As President Barack Obama's final term in office draws to a close, supporters of imprisoned American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier are escalating their demands for his release through executive clemency.

"Since Obama will be in office less than a year, in the coming months, Leonard's supporters plan to work as hard as possible to get the president's attention and ask for clemency," Maggie Tobin, a member of NYC Free Peltier, told MintPress News.

Peltier, a member of the Anishinabe, Dakota, and Lakota nations, has been imprisoned by the United States since his extradition from Canada in 1976.

In 1977, a federal court convicted him of two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of two FBI agents in a shootout on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975.

The clash followed AIM's occupation of the Pine Ridge town of Wounded Knee, the site of an 1890 massacre by the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry Regiment, in 1973.

Lakota elders had invited AIM onto the reservation in response to repression from a tribal government supportive of uranium mining in the area. After the 1973 occupation, more than 60 residents had been killed, many allegedly by the Guardians of the Oglala Nation, or "GOONS," a tribal paramilitary that received both weapons and intelligence on AIM activists from the FBI.

Peltier's prosecution was marked by numerous irregularities. Myrtle Poor Bear, whose affidavits the FBI used to secure Peltier's extradition, later recanted her testimony, including claims that she had been Peltier's girlfriend, saying she had never met him and her signature had been coerced.

Similarly, multiple witnesses at the trial later said the FBI had used threats to force them to testify. Nevertheless, none of them identified Peltier as the shooter.

After a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit revealed that U.S. Attorneys had withheld over 140,000 pages of evidence, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled: “There is a possibility that the jury would have acquitted Leonard Peltier had the records and data improperly withheld from the defense been available to him in order to better exploit and reinforce the inconsistencies casting strong doubts upon the government’s case.”

But it refused to grant his request for a new trial.

‘This might be the last chance we have’

Since 1976, supporters ranging from Amnesty International, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights to Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama have called for Peltier’s release.

Now, at 71 years old and in his 40th year of imprisonment, many consider Peltier one of the world’s longest- held political prisoners.

In December 2000, thousands rallied outside the United Nations in New York, calling for then--outgoing President Bill Clinton to grant Peltier executive clemency.

Instead, Clinton used his final hours in office to sign pardons for figures like fugitive Marc Rich, an operative for Israel’s Mossad spy agency wanted by the U.S. on charges including racketeering, tax evasion and wire fraud. Rich’s wife Denise had donated more than \$1 million to Democrats during the Clinton administration, including Hillary Clinton’s first Senate campaign months earlier, as well as \$450,000 to the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

With Peltier facing multiple health issues — most recently an abdominal aortic aneurysm diagnosed in January, many fear any further delays in his release could effectively sentence him to death behind bars.

“Leonard’s health, as with so many in prison, has been poor for years: diabetes, high blood pressure, a stroke a few years ago,” Tobin, of NYC Free Peltier, said. “Now there is a crisis.”

Peltier’s “health is rapidly deteriorating,” Percy Lujan told MintPress.

Lujan, a student organizer based in New York, worked with a national coalition of student groups to hold a national day of action to free Peltier on Feb. 27.

“The federal government insists on keeping him locked up in a maximum security prison,” he said. “This year might be the last chance we have to get clemency for Peltier.”

‘My last hope for freedom’

On Feb. 6, 40 years after Peltier’s capture in Canada, NYC Free Peltier and other local groups launched a year of actions for Peltier’s freedom with a gathering inside the 1199SEIU Healthcare Workers East hall.

The event, part of a international day of solidarity coordinated by the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, drew hundreds of supporters from black, Puerto Rican, Palestinian, and other local organizations.

As the year presses onward, and the end of Obama's second term draws perilously close, supporters are sending thousands of postcards to the White House.

On the sixth of each month, social media users flood their Twitter timelines, as well as White House telephones and e-mail accounts, with appeals for Peltier's freedom.

Starting July 13, Peltier's son Chauncey, a retired construction worker and motorcycle enthusiast, will lead a 10-day, cross-country "Freedom Ride" from Banks, Oregon, culminating in a rally in Washington, D.C.

And as university classes resume in the fall, many campuses will host activities to raise awareness about Peltier and build pressure for his release.

"As the last remaining months of President Obama's term pass by, my anxiety increases," Peltier wrote in a message to his supporters on June 26.

"I believe that this President is my last hope for freedom, and I will surely die here if I am not released by January 20, 2017. So I ask you all again, as this is the most crucial time in the campaign to gain my freedom, please continue to organize public support for my release, and always follow the lead of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee."

While organized activities are helpful, Tobin said, individual supporters can also take action themselves.

"What everyone everywhere can and should do is continue to contact the White House," she said. "Phone, email, and tweet the White House, comment on the president's Facebook page --- do that often. But above all, write letters. Signing petitions and form letters is helpful, but writing your own personal, heartfelt letter is one of the best ways to help."

July 27th - Warrior: The Life of Leonard Peltier screening

WHAT: Movie night

WHEN: 7:00pm Wednesday, July 27

WHERE: The Commons - 388 Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn

COST: FREE

Hosted by John Kane from "Let's Talk Native" on WBAI, Warrior is an intimate exploration of the circumstances surrounding the incarceration of Native American activist Leonard Peltier, convicted of murder, with commentary from those involved, including Peltier himself.

With less than 200 days remaining in the Obama administration, time is fading for clemency for Leonard Peltier. This is in all likelihood the last chance for him.

Come see this unique look at the injustice that has landed this man in jail longer than Mandela.

We hope to have the director join us for the screening.

6 Jul - Chelsea Manning Medical Update

Recently, an unnamed official at the Army revealed unverified information relating to Chelsea Manning's confidential medical status to the media and Nancy Hollander, lead attorney on her defense team, released the following statement.

MORE:

“We’re shocked and outraged that an official at Leavenworth contacted the press with private confidential medical information about Chelsea Manning yet no one at the Army has given a shred of information to her legal team.

“I had a privileged call scheduled with Chelsea at 2pm Leavenworth time yesterday, after the Army has now said she was hospitalized, but the Army gave the excuse—which I now believe to be an outright lie—that the call could not be connected although my team was waiting by the phone.

“Despite the fact that they have reached out to the media, and that any other prison will connect an emergency call, the Army has told her lawyers that the earliest time that they will accommodate a call between her lawyers and Chelsea is Friday morning. We call on the Army to immediately connect Chelsea Manning to her lawyers and friends who care deeply about her well-being and are profoundly distressed by the complete lack of official communication about Chelsea’s current situation.”

July 8th - Update from Chelsea’s legal team

Chelsea Manning was reported to have been hospitalized earlier this week. This morning, Chelsea’s appellate lawyer Nancy Hollander released the following statement:

The prison has notified us that Chelsea was hospitalized and remains under a doctor’s care. At this time her doctors are recommending against a call and we are respecting those recommendations but are in close touch with the facility and will continue to monitor her condition and hope to connect with her soon. To protect her privacy, that is all we can say at the moment. Please continue to send Chelsea your good thoughts and messages of support.

July 11th - Chelsea confirms health status with attorneys

Today, Chelsea Manning spoke with her attorneys for the first time since her hospitalization last week. They have released the following statement on her behalf:

“After not connecting with Chelsea for over a week, we were relieved to speak with her this morning. Though she would have preferred to keep her private medical information private, and instead focus on her recovery, the government’s gross breach of confidentiality in disclosing her personal health information to the media has created the very real concern that they may continue their unauthorized release of information about her publicly without warning. Due to these circumstances, Chelsea Manning requested that we communicate with the media and her friends and supporters on her behalf.

“Last week, Chelsea made a decision to end her life. Her attempt to take her own life was unsuccessful. She knows that people have questions about how she is doing and she wants everyone to know that she remains under close observation by the prison and expects to remain on this status for the next several weeks. For us, hearing Chelsea’s voice after learning that she had attempted to take her life last week was incredibly emotional. She is someone who has fought so hard for so many issues we care about and we are honored to fight for her freedom and medical care.”

9 Jul - The Fact of Sisyphus

The latest installment of “The Barrett Brown Review of Arts and Letters and Prison” is great as always.

MORE:

by Barrett Brown (*The Intercept*)

Partly as a consequence of my natural rambunctiousness, I've spent a total of five months over the past few years of incarceration being held in 23- to 24-hour-a-day Special Housing Unit confinement cells, collectively and informally known as "the hole," at three different prisons and in stints ranging from six to 60 days; indeed, my first three *Intercept* columns were composed from the SHU over at Federal Correctional Institution Fort Worth. But as these were given over largely to rambling self-promotion and some rather intemperate attacks on several contemporary novelists, I've never gotten around to providing a real sense of what it's actually like to live in one of these federal dungeons.

The chief thing to keep in mind is that dungeons vary. The most fundamental division lies between those in which inmates are kept singly in cells along a corridor set off from the rest of the prison and purposefully denied human contact to one extent or another, and those in which two prisoners are kept together in such cells, usually with a window or metalwork grill on the door through which inmates can communicate with others in their corridor via the age-old medium of shouting. The first — known as solitary confinement to everyone but prison officials, who've gradually replaced the term with an assortment of euphemisms — is often conflated in the public mind with the second, lesser-known setup, but at any rate the nature of one's detention is such that human contact is either intentionally and elaborately absent or haphazardly and excruciatingly omnipresent.

Even within these two categories, one finds a great deal of variation from institution to institution, but day-to-day SHU life at FCI Fort Worth should make for a useful baseline. There, a weekday begins at 6 a.m. when the lights in one's cell come on. A few minutes later the rectangular slot in one's door is unlocked and a guard pushes in a plastic tray containing breakfast along with a couple of little plastic bags of milk. It's rather dehumanizing, this matter of having to drink milk out of bags like a common Canadian, but getting breakfast in bed every day makes up for it. Fifteen minutes later the guard comes back and takes up the trays, and then one of his colleagues will walk down the hall jotting down the names of those who want to go outside for one's permitted daily hour of weekday recreation. Having compiled the list, the guard goes back to his station and tries to arrange things such that incompatible inmates aren't placed together in the same recreation cage. This sort of reminds me of the old riddle about the farmer who has a fox and a rooster and a bag of corn but can only take one at a time across the river in his boat and the fox will eat the rooster and the rooster will eat the corn if either pair is left together unattended (the solution, incidentally, is to shoot the fox, because it's a fox).

If you are indeed going to rec that morning, the guard opens the hatch and you back up to it and put your hands through to be handcuffed, and then your cellmate does likewise regardless of whether or not he's going out as well, as the door isn't ever supposed to be opened until both occupants are cuffed. When the door does open, you walk out backward before being patted down and scanned with a hand-held metal detector, led out to the courtyard, placed in one of several large cages with your scientifically designated playmate, and then uncuffed through the slot in the gate. After an hour of kicking around a deflated basketball while yelling old Symbionese Liberation Army slogans at the other prisoners, you're cuffed back up through the gate slot and returned to your cell. A bit later we get lunch, and then dinner a few hours afterward, followed by mail. Three days a week we're cuffed up and taken to the other end of the hall for showers. On weekends we generally don't leave our cells at all.

It's a schedule that leaves prisoners with a great deal of free time, much of which tends to be spent in sleep or exercise. The chief workout routine in the SHU, as well as in jail units and other locales where even improvised equipment can be hard to drum up, is something called burpies, which entails an alternating series of push-ups, squats, and leg thrusts and which I refer to as Berbers because "burpies" is vulgar. Not

that I do them anyway, or any other exercise, and I've never approved of excessive sleeping, either, for life is not meant to be spent in rest, but rather in conflict or preparation for future conflict.

There is one common SHU activity in which I do happily participate, though, simply because it's something that can't be done elsewhere and naturally I'm trying to experience all the touristy prison things before my release just in case I don't come back for a while. The SHU is the only place of which I'm aware where it's socially acceptable to yell random nonsense where other people can hear it. Now, much of the yelling that people do through gaps under the door or the crack between the door and its mounting or the metal grills that serve as windows in some units, as the case may be, is entirely purposeful communication consisting of gossip, plots, threats, lyrics, Symbionese Liberation Army slogans, vows, requests, and commercial offers, and this sort of thing will go on throughout the day, with peak times occurring after meals and other periods when everyone tends to be awake (as to how those commercial offers are accepted, there is a process known as "fishing" or "shooting the line" by which small items may be transferred among inmates, but a full column's description will be required to do it justice; suffice it to say that string and persistence are involved).

But in addition to all of this more or less mundane intercourse, there's also a wholly distinct and inimitable element of shouting-for-the-sake-of-shouting. Some of this takes the form of memes; at Seagoville Federal Detention Center, for instance, the guards once brought in a drunk off the compound who, after being placed in his cell, spent the next hour banging on the door and yelling out some sloshy, inconsequential narrative that he would punctuate every few sentences with the refrain, "They hear me but they don't FEEL me, though!" Thereafter this phrase became a very popular meme that would be shouted out several times a day; it had been incorporated into the vibrant oral culture of our particular SHU corridor.

But SHU shouts can be, and often are, more or less apropos of nothing. I myself was fond of drinking six or seven lukewarm cups of the freeze-dried instant coffee we can buy from the weekly commissary cart, going up to the door grill, and calling out in a raspy, feminine voice, "My brother is coming ... with MANY FREMEN WARRIORS" about 20 or 30 times in a row, often capped off with a triumphant, "Meet the Atreides Gom Jabbar, grandfather!" And it wouldn't occur to anyone to inquire as to why I'd done this; people in the SHU wake up every morning with a sort of preternatural awareness that someone could start yelling out lines from David Lynch's highly underrated 1984 film version of Dune at any moment and will either assume that the yeller needed to do this to feel self-actualized or, alternatively, that he's one of the untold thousands of mentally ill prisoners whom U.S. prison authorities have allowed to languish in punishment cells for years on end (though in my case, people tended to recognize me by voice as the guy who was always kicking around the deflated basketball and calling for death to the fascist insect that preys on the life of the people).

Aside from sleeping, screaming, and exercising, there's also reading. Federal SHUs generally have book carts that are rolled up the hallway once a week; inmates crouch next to their door slots to view the selections and point to what they want. Prison book carts are always exciting, tending to be largely composed of donations from ancient rural branch libraries that have just given up and closed down or whatever, such that one can always expect to find a stray gem or hilarious oddity. On one occasion I grabbed an award-winning 1962 volume on Jefferson by Dumas Malone in which the claim that the third president engaged in a sexual relationship with the slave Sally Hemings is dismissed as "wholly unwarranted." But my best find to date remains the early '80s sci-fi novel I came across a couple of years back in which the U.S. has fallen under a dystopian theocracy after having rather unwisely elected a Mormon president.

Fortunately, SHU inmates are allowed to receive books through the mail from commercial retailers just as we can in the prison itself, with the only difference being that we can't get hardcover books lest we use

them to make shanks. When the editors at *The Intercept* sent me a hardback copy of the new Jonathan Franzen tome *Purity* last year, I was only given it after a guard tore off the cover. This was a rather upsetting thing to have witnessed, though halfway through the narrative I was kind of wishing he'd finished the job.

I try to keep a copy of something by Hegel with me at all times as well, not so much with the intent of reading it straight through, but rather as a means by which to play a little game I've invented called Shut the Fuck Up, Hegel, You Fucking Fraud. What you do is, you flip to a random page in any volume of Hegel's works and look for the inevitable instance of hyper-oracular nonsense, such as this line I just randomly came across from page 129 of *Lectures on the Philosophy of History*:

The spread of Indian culture is prehistorical, for history is limited to that which makes for an essential epoch in the development of spirit. On the whole, the diffusion of Indian culture is only a dumb, deedless expansion, that is, without a political act. The people of India have achieved no foreign conquests, but have been on every occasion vanquished themselves.

Then you write in the margin, "Shut the fuck up, Hegel, you fucking fraud." And from page 51:

What spirit really strives for is the realization of its own concept; but in so doing it hides that goal from its own vision; it is proud and quite enjoys itself in this alienation from itself.

"Whatever, douche."

Indeed, to live in the hole is to be thrust into a world in which everything must be repurposed and all possibilities pursued. One day I decided to compose a list of unnecessary people throughout history and had jotted down Ezra Pound, the Emperor Aurangzeb, Carlos Mencia, Charles IV, and Gary Bauer when it became clear that I'd cast my net too wide, at which point I abandoned the project. Instead I tried to decide which city I'd destroy if I had the chance, other than Houston. I eventually decided on Singapore, which I feel has been setting a bad example for the other cities.

SHU time is a time for remembrance. I thought of all the strange and interesting people I'd met throughout my incarceration, such as the fellow who would conclude all of his assertions with the phrase, "Even a small child knows that." Among the things a small child knows, it seems, is that sentences handed down for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamines tend to be much harsher in Texas than in California and that a particular guard who works the morning shift is kind of a dick sometimes but not always. There was also the guy who feted me with coffee and candy bars during a weeklong transit stop at a local jail, at one point showing me the program from his father's funeral a few years prior; the cover bore a photo of a man dressed all in yellow, right down to his cape and top hat, and who apparently went only by the name Yellow Shoes. As noted in the program text, Yellow Shoes was survived by well over 30 children. His father had been a famous East Dallas pimp, my friend explained, somewhat unnecessarily. Now he himself had been indicted as a drug dealer when in fact he was a pimp like his father before him, something he planned to explain to the judge at the first opportunity. Frankly, I'd say he had a strong case.

Finally, SHU inmates also spend some variable portion of each day reflecting on the astonishing degree of injustice they've had the chance to observe, as well as cultivating a healthy contempt for the system that perpetrates that injustice and the society that continues to permit it. Some months ago I asked *The Intercept* to file a Freedom of Information Act request with the Bureau of Prisons in pursuit of all records pertaining to yours truly in hopes of documenting further instances of government misconduct to add to my collection. Recently the BOP provided us with 175 pages, all of which we've posted online — including the fully one-third that the BOP has completely redacted. Tellingly, some clear and potentially criminal wrongdoing actually crops up even among those pages that the agency has not gone so far as to completely blank out, as

we'll see in a moment. First, let's get the vital statistics from Ben Brieschke of the BOP's notoriously shady South Central Regional Office, who prepared the cover letter:

After a careful review, we determined 89 pages are appropriate for release in full; 28 pages are appropriate for release in part; and, [sic] 58 pages must be withheld in their entirety.

Most of these redactions are being justified under two FOIA exemptions, one of which is intended for those files or portions thereof “which would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions,” with the other pertaining to those bits of information “which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or personal safety of an individual.” This latter consideration certainly sounds serious, and one can get a sense of the peril to which BOP staff are forever subject by the fact that first names are blocked out with the “(b)(7)(F)” box throughout these documents, lest they be tracked down by violent ex-prisoners or what have you. One can likewise get a sense that even the BOP doesn't buy its own bullshit in this regard by the fact that it has failed to block out the first name of a member of the BOP's Special Investigative Services (SIS) security division, and in another document has left in the typed-out first, last, and middle names of some dozen other officers and staff, an act of negligence that — what was that phrase again? — “could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or personal safety” of the individuals it itself has just fully identified, if we take the BOP's own word for it (though in my infinite benevolence, I've asked *The Intercept* to block out the names in question, for all men know of my great regard for the comfort and well-being of American law enforcement officials).

Of course, the reality is that despite these names having sat on the internet for weeks before I came across the regional office's slip in my paper copies and had them redacted, no one has been endangered by the BOP's incompetence here, as the (b)(7)(F) exemption is less a necessary security measure than it is a convenient smokescreen by which to cover up its own misconduct. And at many institutions, employees tend to be less wary of inmates than they are of the administration itself; when medical staff at several BOP prisons spoke to *USA Today* earlier this year about the bureau's despicable tendency to regularly use them as prison guards rather than, say, having them work full-time providing the medical care that's already in short supply, all of those coming forward chose to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation.

Speaking of retaliation, have a look at this inmate progress report prepared by two Fort Worth staff at the end of August 2015 in which I am commended for my “good sanitation” and continued FRP payments (the monthly restitution I've been ordered to pay to my corporate “victims”). Elsewhere it's noted that I'm “currently participating in the GED program” (until recently the BOP refused to acknowledge that, in addition to my good sanitation, I'm also a high school graduate; as a result I had to sign up for high school equivalency classes). And here are the signatures of the staff members in question, S. Vanderlinden and M. Gutierrez, along with my own, perhaps not terribly impressive signature. Now take a look at this other document composed 12 days later, after I'd been thrown in the hole again, and signed by the very same two staff members, which I was never supposed to see. Now it seems that I've shown “poor institutional adjustment,” “poor program participation,” and even “poor living skills” — true enough if we're talking about signature design — and thus must be moved to a medium security prison immediately.

This would be my new favorite illustration of the casual criminality that has long marked the BOP's operational culture had I not also acquired this other, even more extraordinary specimen — the latest response from the BOP regarding the Administrative Remedy complaint I filed over a year ago regarding the retaliatory seizure of my email access, the first of a string of bizarre incidents at Fort Worth that would culminate in the confiscation of my notebook outside the law library. As I've noted before, the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1986 — passed during a period in which U.S. domestic policy was being determined largely on the basis of questionable anecdotes — requires that inmates who wish to sue the BOP and its employees first complete an arcane and multilayered regimen of paperwork to the satisfaction of the BOP and its employees. Inmates who find that the process itself is being violated by the BOP and its

employees are free to file another complaint for review by the BOP and its employees. Astonishingly, this process is not always free from abuse by the BOP and its employees.

When we last checked in on my own complaint about my email access having been seized by BOP Washington liaison Terrance Moore an hour after I'd used it to alert a journalist to BOP misconduct, the regional office had rather despicably claimed that my appeal had been late, even though it clearly hadn't, as the failure by the warden's executive assistant Jerry McKinney to respond to my BP-9 form within 20 days of the day he logged it in, as well as his failure to request the 20-day extension to his own deadline until well after his first deadline had passed, as well as his failure to meet even that extended deadline, allowed me to consider this a rejection at the institutional level and freed me to proceed to the regional level, as is noted in the BOP's own policy guidelines — except that I couldn't, because, as I've also documented via forms signed and dated by McKinney himself, McKinney failed to return the original documents to me for another month despite messages I sent over the internal staff notification system requesting that he do so.

Finally he brought me back a triply late and thus invalid rejection — even handing it to me nine days after the date it was signed, as is again documented by his own dating and signature. The regional counsels know this fully well, and also know that just a few days later I was placed in the SHU and thereafter shipped to Oklahoma for processing and then to my current prison, where I filed my regional appeal as soon as I received the box containing my legal papers. They know this because, as I learned recently when I complained that the BOP was now apparently violating the law by holding some of my mail for nearly two weeks, I'm on some ultra-rare and secretive classification known as "Inmates of Greatest Concern," which requires that everything I do be monitored and scrutinized for the benefit of some unspecified outside agency.

Nonetheless, the region rejected my appeal due to it being "untimely," made an inappropriate request that I obtain "staff verification" that this wasn't my fault from staff at a prison I am accusing of systematic retaliation and whom I have no means of contacting since I'm no longer housed there, and demanded that my appeal be reduced to a single typewritten page and resubmitted, all within 15 days of the date of this rejection, which just happened to be 15 days prior to my receipt of it. Thus I'd been given zero days to comply, including mail time.

I documented the entirety of this in a column months ago and wrote back to the region's legal counsel, explaining in detail why his requests were impossible. Several weeks later I received another rejection notice in which the counsel ignores my explanations and maintains that I missed the deadline, although he himself seems confused as to when that deadline actually was since he lists it as having fallen on two different dates.

And just so I understand that the zero days thing wasn't a mistake, the rejection notice is dated December 4 — and they'd delayed mailing it to me such that it didn't even arrive at the warden's office until December 29. This time, then, I'd been given negative 10 days to comply.

My email access was finally reinstated several months ago by the security staff at my current prison, who immediately determined that there was no legitimate reason why I shouldn't have it; my continued pursuit of this process is intended to force an admission of wrongdoing from the BOP as well as to illustrate how it actually operates. This, after all, is the only procedure by which my 200,000 fellow federal inmates are able to protect the last human rights remaining to them, whether they've been subject to ongoing retaliation, or they've been kept in the hole for years on end contrary to law and all decency, or they've been beaten while in handcuffs, or they've been denied basic medical care — all issues that have been encountered by people I've known and interviewed over the past few years. Here's a list of grievances logged in at Fort Worth in 2014 and 2015, which we've obtained via another FOIA request; keep in mind that for every complaint

filed, there are dozens of incidents that go undocumented because veteran inmates are aware of the near impossibility of getting heard by the court under a system that can be violated without consequences.

Imagine spending a year in the hole due to a mistake, trying all the while to get a court to order your release, and getting back a demand that you include two extra copies of a document and that you do this six days ago. This sort of thing happens regularly, throughout the system, although the problem appears to be particularly systematic in this regional district.

The truly disturbing part is not that this happens in the first place, but rather that it will likely continue happening despite now having been fully documented. For it is not just the prisons that are broken, but the media as well.

To help illustrate the manner in which the press has become largely incapable of performing its necessary watchdog role even when large parts of its job are done for it, and how certain parties have managed to benefit from this state of affairs, next time we'll discuss why it is that I happen to be in prison. We'll also talk about a man named Peter Thiel. As it happens, these subjects are very much intertwined.

Quote of the Day:

“At the very outset we have the antithesis between the goal of the state as the abstract generality on the one hand, and the abstract person on the other; but when subsequently, in the course of history, personality gains the ascendant, its breakup into atoms can only be held together externally; then the subjective power of rule comes forward as if summoned to fulfill this task. For abstract legality is this; not to be concrete from within, not to have organization from within; and this, having come to power, has only an arbitrary power as contingent subjectivity as what moves it, as what rules it; and the individual seeks in the developed private law solace for his lost freedom. This the purely secular reconciliation of the antithesis.”

— Fucking Hegel

9 Jul - Robert Seth Hayes 10th parole denial very telling

As you likely know, Robert Seth Hayes was recently denied parole for an obnoxious tenth time. The following was written by Nate Buckley, one of Seth's supporters.

MORE:

I think it is very telling that they only cite the original crime as a basis for denying release to this 67 year old man behind bars in his 4th decade of incarceration.

Again although it has been repeated - if 25 to life is the sentence, the first 25 years address the serious nature of the crime, and the basis of parole has to do with behavior during the time someone is incarcerated.

Let me remind everyone of Seth's parole packet which showed he has supportive children and wife, a support network, housing, employment, volunteer opportunities, college opportunities, and medical support. Seth is a Vietnam veteran with Veterans Administration support, family and friend's support, and financial support.

Seth is a model prisoner, over 65, very low risk rate based on the prisons own COMPAS test. He has multiple chronic and incurable health issues and has been locked up for almost 45 years.

The most telling statement in the parole denial is the final conclusion which notes that "community" opposition has been extremely forceful, strong, recent and consistent and the fact that the crime was against a police officer.

The "community" opposition is the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, and the majority if not all the parole board commissioners have served for, been a member of or are in some way connected with the PBA. This makes the parole board incapable of giving Seth any remote chance of a fair, equitable or impartial hearing.

It is also noteworthy that this decision is unsigned by the 3 parole commissioners who conducted the hearing. We are awaiting the full transcript of the hearing so we can find out who they are.

9 Jul - New Writing From Connor Stevens

Below are new poems and prose from Cleveland 4 prisoner Connor Stevens.

MORE:

July 9th - Despicable, calculated, vicious

Yesterday

they stood grinning
over the corpses of black men
with illusions of immunity
Speaking of patience, healing

Today

with voices subdued
they stumble as though half asleep
with illusions of unity
Speaking of patience, healing

They say how tragic it is

that some police were killed
in the line of duty

And mumble about patriotism

But this does nothing

but amuse us,
the oppressed,
for we know

They are the killers

enforcers of white supremacy
enforcers of poverty
enforcers of misery

They speak of a race war

when white supremacy comes under fire

And speak of progress

when black men are gunned down on camera

But we know

All the SWAT teams and propaganda
in the whole world
cannot stop the onsetting storm.

We will grind this empire into dust
with the names of the slain still on our tongues.

July 11th - How can lips possess so much?

Twenty-four years
of lonely nights
Ten thousand
gallons of alcohol
Countless moments
of inexpressible joy
A hundred
suicidal thoughts
A dozen
street clashes
and unrequited loves
Twenty-four years
of waking to the unknown
and drifting through
the endless mysteries
To be bound and gagged,
dragged in chains
across the final empire,
buried beneath sun and steel
Wandering across a desolate
terrain
of shattered minds
Lost
in so many brown eyes
And caresses
drifting across the faces
of a dozen strangers

And all of this
so that I may arrive
to receive the light
glistening from your lips.

July 12th - The Torture Machine

I. Insanity

"It's enough just to say what is before our eyes and not shrink from the conclusions."
-- The Invisible Committee

He walks around the dirt track that encircles the prison yard. The sun is low in the west, giving a soft, warm glow to the forests and faces on either side of the fence. Birds are offering a lovely melody off in the east. The air is fresh, comforting.

He is not aware of any of this. In his mind, there is only a cacophony of commodities vying for his attention, and some delusional sense of self he feels compelled to assert. He speaks at length in a loud voice to his companions, about nothing in particular.

A large, brilliant white butterfly sets down gently on the dirt path, raising and lowering its wings.

He raises his boot and crushes the butterfly.

....

I open my hand, full of food, to my companion.

"Would you like to try some?"

"Hell no, what are you, crazy? Not out of your hand."

....

She hears the screams of her mother every night as she lies awake in her bed, pretending she's crazy.

....

He scans the magazines and newspapers for the answers. How many times a day should he brush his teeth? What's the best city to live in? How many close friends should he have? What's the best kind of soap to use?

The answers change from week to week.

He finds one he likes: a magazine tells him he should walk 10,000 steps a day.

The hardest struggle is always the one of self.

....

I was watching the news on the cell block.

Everyone knows, like the federal government, that Wolf Blitzer tells no lies.

They cheer on the slaughter of innocents in Orlando. They watch the slaughter in Dallas in silence.

....

"When I was younger, I wanted to join the military."

"Why is that," I ask.

"So that I could kill people and get away with it."

....

The little girl cannot make sense of it, no matter how hard she tries or how much she cries.

"But why would they put daddy in a cage? Don't they know he loves me!"

She chokes from her own sobbing, the only thing she understands.

II. Absence

I sit on a hill beside an electric fence topped with razorwire. The sun, kissing my face, brings a gentle smile to my lips. A subtle sense of comfort washes over me. I feel your voice rise up in my chest, acknowledging your absence.

My face becomes drawn and weary as swift as a cloud drifting beneath the sun. I am encircled by the ghosts of those I'll never meet, and those I'll never see again.

A young man laughs in the distance.

An old man curses God through cracked lips.

....

The young woman curls her lip, lowering herself into the seat. The bus reeks of urine and tobacco smoke. She pretends she doesn't notice the other passengers, pretending that by doing so they don't notice her. She stares at the sticky floor and her whole mind falls into a state of nothingness. For a moment the bus no longer envelopes her and the wretched city ceases to exist. There is only her blank mind.

The bus shakes violently and her attention is drawn upward, to the faces of the passengers. She looks one to the other, never seeing his face.

Only then, all of a sudden, does she realize his absence has reduced her to a drifting shadow.

She feels like weeping but nothing happens and no one notices her.

....

He waits, freezing at the bus stop, smoking his last cigarette. Three layers of thick clothing and a heavy coat cannot keep out the cold. Somehow this dampens his sense of misery. He throws the butt.

In all the vast night nothing moves.

....

She laughs and dances, playing with sticks and imaginings in the yard behind the house. The vivid world in her mind takes wing here, in this little square ringed with tall wooden fences.

A large shadow passes over her, too swift to be a cloud. She looks up at the open blue sky. She stops, staring, mouth hanging open, drifting through all that blue.

. . . .

His mother found him beside a ravine in the woods bordering their new house. He was curled up, weeping, his little face the color of a ripe tomato. The air left out of her.

"What's wrong, Tommy?"

He began crying harder, struggling to speak.

Finally: "Where have the salamanders gone?"

. . . .

The old man sits in a wooden chair, staring out the window. There is a pine tree and sun and grass, but he sees none of this.

Tears flow down his dry cheeks. He waits, but they never arrive.

. . . .

The doe lies on the forest floor, shallow and slowing breaths contrasted with her pounding heart.

The sun tickles her nose as if it still wants to play, oblivious to the imminent death of its companion.

Ants crawl along her legs. A feather drifts down from above. She wants nothing more than to see her mother come over the distant ridge.

She draws her final breath, her eyes wide open.

. . . .

The boy stares at the artificial waterfall, the black marble reminding him of a Star Destroyer, or perhaps the court of a villainous king. He doesn't bother reading the names engraved on the marble encircling the dark pool, but he notices there are a lot of them. They seem to go on forever, like the names at the end of a movie.

He feels like an ant in this place, and despite the summer sun he somehow feels a chill.

Suddenly he wishes his parents hadn't brought him to this place. Reflecting a moment, he wishes he had been born a long time ago, or not for many years to come.

Sirens erupt nearby, wiping away his thoughts.

10 Jul - Support Political Prisoner Sundiata Acoli's Ongoing Legal Appeals

A New Jersey Appellate Court in September 2014 ordered the release of Sundiata, resting its decision on the eligibility requirements under the New Jersey Parole Act of 1979.

MORE:

The decision left us overjoyed and at the same time, cautious as the State announced it would appeal the decision and request a "Stay" of the release until the appeal was heard. The "Stay" was granted which resulted in Sundiata remaining incarcerated while awaiting a decision from a New Jersey Supreme Court.

Arguments were heard on October 13, 2015 and on February 23, 2016, the Supreme court of NJ reversed the Appellate Court's order. The court did not rule on the merits of the Appellate case ordering release, but focused rather, on procedure. The Supreme Court held that the Appellate Court exceeded its authority in ordering release because a procedural process had not been followed- in New Jersey the full parole board has to make a decision in cases involving murder convictions. Sundiata appeared before the full board in June, 2016 and again, denied parole. An appeal will again be taken to the same Appellate Division that ordered his release.

Additionally, a certiorari petition has been filed in the United States Supreme Court and that filing involved legal fees, printing and filing costs. Please know and understand that all of your support is so much

appreciated and needed as we continue to work towards Sundiata's release. He will be 80 years old on January 14, 2017!

It is most respectfully requested that everyone continues to exercise discretion and discipline in not making what could be interpreted as inflammatory remarks on social media or elsewhere. I know all of us who love and support Sundiata will want no reason for a denial of parole when this case again comes before the New Jersey Appellate Court- the court that issued a strong order that Sundiata must be released in accordance with the NJ parole Act of 1979. Sundiata has continued his positive actions since that decision.

Further, do understand that as much as we would like to keep supporters and friends abreast of what is going on with the case, it is not in Sundiata's best interest to expose each and every detail and legal strategies. We will all celebrate his freedom when he is released, but until then we will exercise restraint.

Please make checks/money orders payable to: Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign (or SAFC)

Mail to:

Florence Morgan
120-46 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

or

To make a contribution, please send funds to this email address via PayPal:
SAFC766@gmail.com

11 Jul - Political Prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz Sues DOC and Wins! Settlement Reached

A settlement has been reached in the case of Shoatz v. Wetzel, which challenged the 22-year solitary confinement of Abolitionist Law Center client and political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz.

MORE:

This brings an end to litigation begun in 2013. In February 2014, following an international campaign on behalf of Shoatz, he was released from solitary confinement.

In exchange for Shoatz ending the lawsuit the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) has agreed that it will not place Shoatz back in solitary confinement based on his prior disciplinary record or activities; Shoatz will have a single-cell status for life, meaning he will not have to experience the extreme hardship of being forced to share a cell following decades of enforced isolation; a full mental health evaluation will be provided; and the DOC has paid a monetary settlement.

Russell Maroon Shoatz had the following to say about the settlement:

"I have nothing but praise for all of those who supported me and my family for all of the years I was in Solitary Confinement, as well as helped to effect my release. Since joining the struggle for Human Rights in the mid 1960s, I have always chosen to fight! Frederick Douglass was right when he said 'Power concedes nothing without a demand.' So have no doubt that I see this Settlement as anything but the latest blow struck, and you rest assured that I will continue in the struggle for Human Rights. Straight Ahead!"

The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan E. Mendez, said:

"This settlement is a major contribution to the quest to outlaw prolonged solitary confinement in the US and around the world. I congratulate Mr. Shoatz and his family for not giving up and his team of lawyers for a committed and highly professional approach to justice."

Shoatz had been held in solitary confinement in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PADOC) since 1983. For 19 months between 1989 and 1991 he was held in the general population of the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. Upon return to the PADOC in 1991 he was immediately placed back in solitary confinement and held there until February 20, 2014, when he was released to the general population at State Correctional Institution Graterford, 10 months after he filed suit in Shoatz v. Wetzel.

The case challenged the more than 22 consecutive years that Shoatz spent in conditions of solitary confinement as cruel and unusual punishment due to the severe deprivations of basic human needs imposed on Shoatz, including mental health, environmental stimulation, social interaction, sleep, physical health, and exercise. Shoatz also challenged violations of his procedural and substantive due process rights.

As noted by Judge Eddy in her February 2016 decision ordering a trial in the case, plaintiff's expert, psychiatrist Dr. James Gilligan, stated in his report in the case that Shoatz has spent "virtually his entire adult life in complete and coerced social isolation (and sensory deprivation) - which is among the most abnormal and pathogenic environments in which it is possible to place a human being."

The decision also quoted United Nations Special Rapporteur Juan Mendez, who was another expert for the plaintiff:

The conditions of detention of Mr. Russell Shoatz, in particular his indefinite solitary confinement eventually lasting 29 years, constituted cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment under customary international law standards. . . . [E]ven if isolation of inmates is not per se contrary to those practices, indefinite or excessively prolonged regimes of solitary confinement like the one suffered by Mr. Shoatz certainly do. In addition to the excessive duration and indefinite nature, his isolation contradicts the trend of all civilized Nations in that it was imposed on the basis of status determinations unrelated to any conduct in his part, and through a meaningless procedure that did not afford him a serious chance to challenge the outcome.

Shoatz was released from solitary confinement after an international campaign led by his family and supporters. The campaign to release Shoatz included the support of five Nobel Peace Prize Laureates: Jose Ramos-Horta of East Timor, Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Northern Ireland, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Jody Williams from the United States, and Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina. Several U.S. civil and human rights organizations also endorsed his release from isolation.

In March 2013, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment and Punishment, Juan Mendez, called on the government "to cease the prolonged isolation of Mr. Shoatz."

13 Jul - New Poetry From Eric King

We have a couple of new poems from Eric to share.

MORE:

untitled

It's so much easier to think
when I focus on the point
my sidewalks are shifting
standing on shaky legs
Tomorrow I may awaken
to a ceiling never seen
Battling the state
Battling the PTSD

Much easier to stay awake
lines in the novels don't read straight
Tired and alert, pick a team
It's so much easier to dream
Knowing we will survive this thing

If Tamir was named Andy from the Hamptons

Every breath is an air of defiance
sparks flying I breathe fire
What happened in the Lorraine
happened in Ferguson & Baton Rouge
Police keeping cities safe
passing out freedom bullets
Black bodies not regarded as anything
more than click-bait and hot topics
If Tamir was named Andy
from the Hamptons
maybe it'd make a fucking difference?!
This isn't gang violence, its state violence
its race violence, it shouldn't exist but
so often does happen without outrage
from the privileged to well off
to be outspoken
This isn't new it's just finally on the news
cause people took to the streets
& when told to disperse they refused
So painful but its true
Blue Lives Murder

16 Jul - Luke O'Donovan To Be Released July 25

On July 25th at 9 am Luke O'Donovan will walk out of Washington State Prison after serving two years there.

MORE:

We are thrilled to see our friend free from behind prison walls. He is in high spirits and very excited to be released. As many of you who have been in touch with him know, he has occupied his time with a rigorous workout routine, lots of reading, and correspondence with all those who took the time to communicate with him.

Unfortunately he will not be allowed to return to his home and life in Atlanta. Due to the judge adding a banishment condition to his probation, Luke will have to move all the way to the West Coast for the next eight years, or until the conditions of his probation are changed. Moving forward, here are some ways to continue to support Luke as he starts life on strict probation.

Money– Luke will need money in order to cover his living expenses while he gets on his feet and moves his belongings and life to the West Coast. He will also need money to cover the probation and drug testing fees that he will be subject too.

You can donate or set up recurring donations at letlukego.com

Care Packages– Luke will need lots of little things, like clothes to rebuild his wardrobe, delicious vegan food, and other items that you are not allowed to have in prison. If you would like to send a care package please email letlukego@gmail.com to work out details on where and what to send.

Solidarity and Support- Throughout Luke’s case and subsequent imprisonment the support and solidarity he has gotten has been overwhelming. From the solidarity marches and actions to the mountain of mail and the hundreds of postcards sent to the judge we have been thrilled by all those who have taken action for him. Once things are more clear we will begin trying to get his banishment condition appealed, check back for updates. For now any and all actions are appreciated. As Luke’s new living situation isn’t worked out yet we can’t provide contact info at this time, but email us at letlukego@gmail.com if you want to get in touch.

Luke is set to be free from prison, but there is still a lot to do. Thanks everyone for your past and future support.

17 Jul - Ancestors Roll Call! What Did They Think? poem by Jalil Muntaqim

Please check out the latest poetry from our comrade Jalil Muntaqim.

MORE:

What did they think?

Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Akai
Gurley, Trayvon Martin, Michael
Brown, life precious blood spelled
in the mud FREEDOM ...

When will it come?

What did they think?

Eric Garner, Oscar Grant, Sean
Bell, Amadou Diallo whose life
breath echoed the dreams deferred
from Afrikan ancestors through
the middle passage, to Denmark
Vesey and Nat Turner, do you
hear it, are you listening?

Micah heard the torturous
mourning echoing over
the ages forcing us to
remember Shaka Zulu, Queen
Nzinga, the Mau Mau to Steve
Biko and Nelson Mandela.

What did they think?

Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Medgar

Evers, Huey P. Newton, Fred Hampton, George Jackson, from the African Blood Brotherhood, to the Deacons for Defense, the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, a history of noble resistance.

What did they think?

Mark Essex, Zayd Shakur, Frank Fields, Twyman Meyers, Anthony "Kimu" White did not forget Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth or Rosa Parks, reminiscent of the fugitive slave laws, Black Codes and Jim Crow, while Martin L. King, Jr., revered by all except J. Edgar Hoover and James Earl Ray.

What did they think?

Freddy Gray, Antwon Shumpert, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile Let's not forget Chicago teenager, McDonald, 17 hot bullets spun him like a drunken ballerina, with Blue arrogance and hubris, all around the world the same song. Yet, they call the oppressed terrorists when they fight back.

What did they think?

Yes, suffering is universal, it knows no color, race, ethnicity, class or status. No, they are not immune to pain and loss, it does not discriminate, despite their belief in white supremacy. The racial divide can not hide the common blood inside us all, flowing scarlet red life, they dismiss by the white heat of hate.

What did they think?

After 430 years of racial strife and mass incarceration, the 13th Amendment a violation of international

law, in America — slavery still exists!

What did they think?

Time will absolve the evil within.
But we know time absolves nothing
without sacrifice. So, they trot
out apologetic House Negroes,
talking heads lacking historical
facts, to track the racial divide
that leads to the loss of Black
lives.

Micah destroyed the myth of Tarzan,
Captain America, and Superman.

What did he think?

That Black Lives Mattered???

They have demeaned you and call
you demented, saying you're
delusional and insane; but, didn't
they say the same about Nat Turner
and Nelson Mandela? Aren't we all
a product of our environment? So,
isn't suffering a racist environment
demented and insane? They called
the Panthers terrorists when they
fed our children with one hand
and fought COINTELPRO with the
other. When Black people fight
back they automatically become
crazy; when Black people stand up,
demand justice, they are called
extremist.

What did they think?

White supremacy in all of its subtle
and overt manifestations must prevail
to dispel Black Lives Matter. They
have to blow up this idea, Micah,
like the bomb on MOVE, and the
bomb on the L.A. office of the
BPP. But Chairman Fred said, you
can kill a revolutionary, but you
can't kill the revolution. You can
imprison a freedom fighter but you
can't imprison freedom.

What did they think?

We do not celebrate the loss of life, we mourn as you mourn, we lament as you lament. We salute and honor the brave and courageous whose ultimate sacrifice demands recognition. It is our collective shame, we meet at this crossroad, on the divide of class and race. Yet, the slow pace for healing is revealing, our continuing to live a lie, that Blue blood is more precious than Black blood.

What did they think?

I urge you to read, to understand my sensitivity to the matters at hand, "Hands Up Don't Shoot", "When Police Die", "A Mother's Loss" expressing our collective anguish of a seemingly unrelenting war. We need not keep score, death is death, and we should not rest until hate and racism are cast into the abyss, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!

20 Jul - Anarcho Tech Collective

WHAT: Build Anarchist Technology

WHEN: 7:00pm, Wednesday, July 20

WHERE: The Base - 1302 Myrtle Avenue, Bushwick, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Mission Statement

In the 21st century, we've seen a massive upsurge in technologies being used for both nefarious and liberatory purposes. Many of these technologies have been utilized for organizing, but we believe their full potential has yet to be reached. Many of the platforms used are maintained and surveilled by our enemies, and their practical applications as organizing tools are coincidentally rather than primary intentions.

It is the goal of this group to build technology for the revolution with anarchist principles. Science and technology serve whoever utilizes them, thus we shouldn't allow our enemies to have a monopoly on them.

If you're a programmer, designer, IT specialist, NetSec pro, or anyone with a knack for technology, and you believe in the building a world without state, class, money, or borders, come join us to hack the revolution!

```
while(state || capitalism || white_supremacy || patriarchy) {  
  agitate();  
  educate();  
  organize();  
  revolt();  
}
```

Collective Guidelines

This group organizes around anarchist principles. It exists to complement other organizing tactics/strategies, or to open new avenues through technology. To this end, this group does not exist to further one's career. We will not take personal credit for the projects, and we will not attempt to profit from any technology created in this group. Everything we create will be open source so that others can benefit from it.

22 Jul - Anarchism in The United States: Intro to Anarchism

WHAT: Political Education

WHEN: 5:00pm Friday, July 22

WHERE: The Base - 1302 Myrtle Avenue, Bushwick, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

When most people hear the words 'anarchy' or 'anarchism' they think of just chaos, violence, or nihilism. But many would be surprised to learn that Anarchism is actually a social/political philosophy with a long and rich history that demands the abolition of all oppressive relations of domination and hierarchy in order to maximize the potential for liberatory human relationships.

Join the Student Solidarity Network for our "Intro to Anarchism" reading series at The Base, where we'll be navigating through the deep river of anarchy, beginning from the anarchistic elements of the past, to the very beginnings of the anarchist movement during the late 19th century covering its development up until the present day. Through our discussions, we hope to demonstrate the relevancy of anarchist theory and praxis to our contemporary society while developing our own ideas in order to combat the present day crisis of capitalist civilization.

The readings will be slightly chronological but people can come whenever they can as all of the readings stand on their own. It's also not necessary to read the texts to attend but still encouraged of course. This week we'll be covering the history of the anarchist movement in the United States, learning about the anarchist movement's influence on the labor movement and American history in general. We'll be reading the following texts:

Demanding the Impossible: A History of Anarchism – Peter Marshall (Chapter 32)

<https://libcom.org/library/demanding-impossible-history-anarchism>

Sacco and Vanzetti - Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman

<http://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/alexander-berkman-and-emma-goldman-sacco-and-vanzetti>

Anarchism and American Traditions – Voltairine de Cleyre <http://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/voltairine-de-cleyre-anarchism-and-american-traditions>

Bakunin and The United States – Paul Avrich <http://libcom.org/library/bakunin-united-states-paul-avrich>

Anarchism and American Labor – Paul Buhle

https://libcom.org/files/Anarchism_and_American_Labor.pdf

31 Jul - Beyond Prisons Propaganda Party

WHAT: Propaganda Party

WHEN: 3:00-6:00pm, Sunday, July 31

WHERE: Interference Archive - 131 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215

COST: FREE

MORE:

One of our comrades is working on a new experiment; the first attempt is going to be around the issues of Mass Incarceration/Criminal Injustice/Police Brutality.

The hope is to get activists/organizers/artists/designers all working on similar issues to come together to share their cultural work, and in particular all the physical ephemera we all create (Posters, Flyers, Stickers, Buttons, Shirts, Comics, Patches, et cetera).

The goal is to get as much of this stuff out to as many people as possible, and have it make a dent in the visual landscape of the city. Hopefully, we can get a room full of artists, but what will make this really work is getting all kinds of groups in NYC to bring materials to mix in with the "art," meet each other and plan out how to get some of this stuff up on the streets.

I'm writing you in hopes that you'll (a) come!!! (b) bring materials to share!!!