



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for December 6<sup>th</sup>

### **18 Nov - Summary of Habeas Hearing for Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin**

*The attorney that represented Imam Jamil was C. Allen Garrett Jr. He presented before Judge Amy Totenberg in the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.*

#### **MORE:**

By Imam Nadim Sulaiman Ali

The issues that were presented during the hearing were as follows:

- Fulton County prosecution usage of "Mock Cross Examination"
- FBI agent Campbell's past of engaging in planting evidence on a suspect.
- The disallowing of the confession of Otis Jackson.

Attorney Garrett presented first, and he was able to emphasize how the previous judge did not find the prosecution's prejudicial statements to the jury in its closing argument prejudicial.

The Assistant DA stated that if Imam Jamil "won't stand for you then don't stand for him."

He also made an issue of the fact that Imam Jamil did not testify on his own behalf disrespecting his right to remain silent.

Attorney Garrett emphasized that Imam Jamil's 5<sup>th</sup> amendment rights were violated, and that the original judge did not declare a mistrial.

Attorney Garrett also presented how the original ID from one of the shooting victims stated that the assailant had grey eyes. It was also reported that the assailant was of a shorter stature than Imam Jamil, and that the original description that was given by neighbors stated that the shooter did not fit the Imam's description.

Attorney Garrett also stated that both deputies stated that they had shot their assailant, and stated that when apprehended that Imam Jamil was not injured.

Attorney Garrett also stated that the trial took place six months after 911, and that it took place during a time of extreme prejudice towards Muslims.

Attorney Garrett also presented an affidavit from a juror who stated that had Imam Jamil testified on his own behalf that he would have voted to acquit, and the judge did not emphasize that Imam Jamil had a right to remain silent, and that the prosecution capitalized on this by presenting a Mock Cross Examination. This planted prejudicial images in the minds of the jurors.

When the Attorney General's office presented they emphasized that the preponderance of evidence presented pointed to Imam Jamil's guilt, and that both deputies identified the Imam. (Disregarding the fact that the surviving deputy made the identification while under the influence of morphine.)

They also wanted the judge to uphold the previous rulings of the Georgia Supreme Court which upheld the conviction of Imam Jamil.

Issues to consider were the fact that the reason for the initial stop which Imam Jamil experienced was ruled to be unconstitutional at the state level.

The warrant was invalidated.

It was emphasized that motive is not an issue for crimes in Georgia.

They also stated that it was determined that the identification while under the influence of morphine was valid.

They emphasized that the fact that FBI agent Campbell's actions in 1995 did not result in a conviction, and was therefore inadmissible.

They attempted to minimize the actions of agent Campbell, and summarized his actions as "unprofessional".

The judge then asked for the original 911 call that is not present in evidentiary.

The Attorney General's office also attempted to say that the original DA's statement did not do damage to the case, and therefore his conviction should stand.

Observations: The Judge appears to be impartial, and it is my prayer that The Creator guide her heart to make a decision in favor of Imam Jamil.

Notables in attendance were:

Attorney Karima Al-Amin— Wife of Imam Jamil Al-Amin and member of the legal team.

Ward Churchill- Noted Scholar and Activist

Natsu Saito— Georgia State University Law Professor/Activist

Connie Curry— Former SNCC member

Attorney Musa Dan Fodio— International Lawyer

Bilal Mahmud— Oppressed People of the World News

Attorney Michael Warren— Member of the original legal team

Eric Toure Muhammad— *Final Call* Newspaper

Overall I am hopeful due to the manner and passion of Attorney Garrett, and how he is able to see many inconsistencies in the original trial, and the cherry picking of evidence during the original trial.

### **21 Nov - Strike Mail Rejected**

*FMC Carswell is rejecting all mail mentioning the National Prison Strike.*

#### **MORE:**

Any mail sent to Marius Mason about the strike, letters or news articles, will likely be destroyed or returned as "correspondence that threatens the security and orderly running of the institution."

During a recent personal visit, Marius was able to learn about the strike for the first time. He wanted to express that his thoughts are with the prisoners on strike and their outside supporters.

### **21 Nov - New Poem by Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim**

*Check out Jalil's website for more of his poetry and other writings at [freejalil.com](http://freejalil.com)*

#### **MORE:**

#### **EQUATION**

**Atlas + Sisyphus = 0**

I watch the world twirl while we

hurl invectives at conflicts that  
strip our humanity, inflicting  
wounds on the consciousness of  
the youth, who will inherit a  
damaged earth ... PTSD anyone?

Like Bernie, I proclaim we need a  
political revolution, the evolution  
of our existence denouncing racist  
and capitalist inflictions. The  
youth confront obstacles as the  
old linger, saving face in the  
face of the inevitable ... Change!

Time being the best teacher of  
it's students, ul-time-ly time  
being the grim reaper. What  
will you do in your time? Do not  
let it lapse, it is not plastic,  
it cannot be recycled, we can  
not time travel ... No Regrets!

You must take a stand, like taking  
back the land from the greedy, and  
give it to the needy. Reaching  
for freedom like an apple off the  
forbidden tree of capitalism, low  
hanging fruit; to bite into it is to  
feel like Atlas and Sisyphus occupying  
the same place at the same time.  
Masticating into an ambrosia, a  
nectar, an elixir to soothe the  
soul, like paying your bills, and  
avoiding police killings, and  
being despised as MLK identifies as  
... "The Other America."

The plutocracy denies democracy,  
the hypocrisy of their existence.  
We continue to believe revolution  
is the solution to be achieved at  
the ballot box, Malcolm X said it  
would be either the "Ballot or  
the Bullet." I remember the non-  
violent direct action confrontations  
of the civil rights movement, marches,  
sit-ins, freedom rides, boycotts, and  
protests lead the way of building a mass  
and popular movement for substantial  
institutional change.

The COALITION of participatory  
democracy harkens a lesson from  
SNCC, CORE, Urban League, NAACP

and SCLC leading the way. A national agenda challenging Jim Crow, demanding desegregation and equality; putting an end to the confederate continued war against the Yankee north. Yet, today the same prevails, no difference in the tale, right-wing philosophy masking the KKK's unrelenting charge.

From Fugitive Slave Law to Black Codes, to Jim Crow and now Mass Incarceration ... the continuum? What to do now that we've been Trumped?

Political prisoners languish, sitting in cells eating P & J sandwiches, while political activists dispute in sectarian languages, freedom eludes us like a paranormal phenomenon. You're lobbying like a non-profit hustler, when what we need is some revolutionary ghost busters.

After 8 years of Obama, and Mothers' shivers and tears continue to fight back from police killings and racist internet trolls. I told you what to expect in "Obama-Nation" and "Obama-Mania." But failing to organize, taking your eyes off the prize, has now made you realize there is no wooing racist capitalists to their antithesis. It would not be surprising if overt fascism is on the horizon!

Social media becomes the medium of activism and mobilization, on each and every occasion, absent a national agenda, neglecting People Are The Motive Force In Creating History. Lessons not learned from the civil rights movement, reprise like a re-Tweet, the delusional Atlas and Sisyphus, the myth of anti-authoritarianism like individualism, the Janus side of competition, no derision, but it makes us all weak. Spontaneity is no strategy, emotional

release serves to decrease the anguish of a perceived collective loss. Yet, the task before us is not to appease the faint of heart, but to recognize a leaderless movement is a movement unable to lead!!!

## **22 Nov - Trump Supporter Promises Legislation to Label Protest as “Economic Terrorism”**

*The deputy director of the Trump campaign in Washington state has promised to introduce new legislation that would punish protest as a felony if it causes “economic disruption” and hurts corporate profits.*

### **MORE:**

by Will Potter (*Green Is the New Red*)

The proposed “Preventing Economic Terrorism Act” marks a radical expansion of legislation that was once used to criminalize environmentalists as “eco-terrorists,” and could be used against a wide range of social movements and anti-Trump protesters.

State Sen. Doug Ericksen, the author of the bill, says protests that block highways or roads—such as recent Black Lives Matter protests, or the indigenous movement at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline—are “economic terrorism.”

In a statement on his website, Ericksen also says that the bill won’t be limited to protesters. It will include those who “fund, organize, sponsor or otherwise encourage others to commit acts of economic terrorism.”

“We are not just going after the people who commit these acts of terrorism,” Ericksen said. “We are going after the people who fund them. Wealthy donors should not feel safe in disrupting middle class jobs.” [emphasis added]

This type of language and legislation has been used for decades to target animal rights and environmental activists. As I’ve documented extensively in my book and on this website, these proposals grew out of an attempt by corporations to stop activists who were growing increasingly effective at hurting their bottom lines.

In Washington state, for instance, a similar proposal to label civil disobedience as “terrorism” was introduced the same month as Americans were celebrating that very style of civil disobedience, as part of the 50th anniversary of the lunch counter protests during the civil rights movements.

This new proposal, though, marks a radical expansion from those efforts.

Most importantly, it is not limited to protests in the name of the environment or animal rights. Older proposals, like SB6566, specifically targeted “terrorist acts against animal and natural resource facilities.”

This proposal—and undoubtedly others to come—doesn’t contain those limitations. It wraps up all protests, by all causes, if they disrupt business.

This is a development I have warned of again, and again, and again for the last 15 years. The relentless campaigning to label animal rights and environmental activists as the “number one domestic terrorism threat,” and to pass new laws like the “Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act” has only set the stage for a much broader crackdown on dissent.

Just take a look at this proposal in Washington. Senator Ericksen acknowledges that the bill was originally meant for anti-logging protests, but now, after the presidential election and in the wake of mass national protests against the incoming president, Ericksen has dropped those limitations entirely.

His language about going after those who “fund, organize, sponsor, or otherwise encourage others to commit acts of economic terrorism” is directly pulled from the Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act. That proposal, created by ALEC, says “ecological terrorism” includes “raising, soliciting, collecting or providing any person with material, financial support or other resources.”

An article about Ericksen’s proposal in the Seattle Times said it “is likely to remain a mostly symbolic shot at protesters.” But that completely misses the point; it’s the kind of mindset that allowed the predecessor of the “Preventing Economic Terrorism Act” to become law.

There is nothing symbolic about this. This has been the real-world, tangible strategy to criminalize protest since the 1980s. It expanded in scope after 9/11, and now it is expanding in scope again after the election of Donald Trump.

I have repeatedly witnessed national organizations, the press, and others dismiss these types of proposals as “symbolic” or “scare-mongering,” only to have them become state and federal law. That’s what happened with the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. That’s what happened with ag-gag laws. And that’s what is happening again.

Animal rights and environmental activists have been prosecuted and imprisoned under these laws. And as I discussed in a recent TED talk, some have even ended up in secret prison units for “domestic terrorists.”

This type of proposal isn’t an empty promise by a Trump campaign manager. It’s a plan.

## **23 Nov - White House Petition to Free Oscar López Rivera Surpasses 50K Signatures, Needs 49K More for Official Response**

*UPDATE: As of December 4, the petition has garnered more than 86,000 signatures.*

### **MORE:**

An online We the People White House petition calling for the release of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera has already surpassed 50,000 signatures, but will still need about 49,000 signatures before December 11 for the Obama Administration to formally address the request, if indeed the current President will ever do so.

The petition, titled “For President Obama to free Oscar Lopez Rivera before he ends his term as President” and created by J.R. on November 11, is currently on the front page of We The People as the sixth most active petition. As of this posting, 51,229 people have signed it. According to the White House, if a petition gets 100,000 signatures in 30 days, the White House provides an official update within 60 days. It is unclear what would happen if the petition were to get the required signatures by December 11, since President Obama would be leaving the White House on January 20.

A member of the FALN (Armed Forces of National Liberation) and a proponent of Puerto Rican independence, López Rivera was convicted in 1981 for seditious conspiracy. He has been in a federal jail ever since. As Jaquira Díaz wrote earlier this year in *The Guardian*:

*No evidence was ever found tying López Rivera to any of the bombings, and although he was not convicted of any violent crimes, he was sentenced to 55 years in federal prison. Later, an additional 15 years were added to his sentence for an alleged escape attempt. He is now the longest-incarcerated Puerto Rican political prisoner, currently serving 70 years, including 12 in solitary confinement, even though the UN has condemned solitary confinement in excess of 15 days as a violation of human rights.*

Earlier this year, Puerto Ricans demonstrated in front of the White House to demand for López Rivera's release.

The is the petition's full text:

*President Obama, throughout your presidential term, the people of Puerto Rico, our politicians, political parties, media, celebrities, teachers, writers, journalists, workers, have united behind one common cause: the freedom of Oscar López Rivera. Rivera has been imprisoned for more than 34 years, many of those years in solitary confinement. Whatever your stance into his wrongdoing, we can safely conclude he has done his time. He does not pose a threat, and he deserves to be home with his family to live in peace the rest of his years.*

*Please, President Obama, do what is right and release Oscar López Rivera before your term ends. With the election results, now more than ever, we need you to hear the voice and plead of the Puerto Rican people.*

Sign and share <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/president-obama-free-oscar-lopez-rivera-he-ends-his-term-president>

### **November 28<sup>th</sup> - Who Is Oscar Lopez Rivera? Why Artists Like Residente, Ricky Martin & More Are Campaigning for His Release**

by Griselda Flores (*Billboard*)

Latin artists like Calle 13's René Pérez, aka Residente, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Rubén Blades have been vocal and active about demanding the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, who has become the longest-held political prisoner in the history of Puerto Rico, after being sentenced to 70 years in prison for "seditious conspiracy" back in 1981.

López Rivera became a well-known activist in Chicago fighting against discrimination, exploitation and police brutality in Puerto Rican communities in the late 1960s. He also advocated for bilingual education in schools. Years later, the Vietnam War veteran was tied to the clandestine nationalist group FALN (The Armed Forces of National Liberation), which was found responsible for numerous attacks against U.S. government areas. Along with several other men and women, López Rivera was arrested and charged with conspiracy to "overthrow the U.S."

"Oscar López didn't kill anyone, he was a pacifist," Residente says during a Facebook Live he recently posted, along with Blades, urging their fans to sign the petition for President Obama to release López Rivera before he ends his term.

"His story has been taken out of context and they've even called him a terrorist but he was only fighting for Puerto Rico's independence ... His family is waiting for him." The "Pa'l Norte" singer adds: "We don't have much time. Our deadline to [get] 100,000 signatures for the petition is Dec. 11. Ruben -- who has always talked about Latin America issues and so have I -- [and I], we ask that you help us with this.

"It's really just about justice. López Rivera had the opportunity to leave prison years ago with the amnesty, and he rejected the idea because he didn't want to leave behind his close friends who were also wrongfully imprisoned," explains the Panamanian singer/songwriter.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rican superstar Ricky Martin took to social media to urge his millions of followers to sign the petition requesting Rivera's freedom before Obama leaves office. "Come on gang, sign and RT for President Obama to free Oscar Lopez Rivera before he ends his term as president."

Earlier this month, the "Vente Pa'Ca" singer's letter to U.S. Pardon Attorney Robert A. Zauzmer was made public where he asked for clemency on the political prisoner:

"As a proud Puerto Rican with a passion for protecting and respecting human rights, the plight of Oscar López Rivera is very personal to me. This is a matter of social justice, humanity, and compassion. It is inconceivable that a world which rejects political imprisonment, and decades came together to achieve the

long and hard-fought defeat of apartheid and freedom for Nelson Mandela, is the world that still holds López Rivera as prisoner after more than thirty-five years. It is inconceivable that the great nation, which leads worldwide efforts promoting democracy and the protection of human rights, denies the freedom of Oscar López Rivera."

Back in October, *Hamilton* creator Miranda tweeted: "Please bring Oscar López Rivera home."

Will President Obama will pardon López Rivera before the end of his term? That is the question still up in the air.

## **24 Nov - Day of Mourning Statement by Leonard Peltier**

*Please take time to read the latest by Leonard Peltier.*

### **MORE:**

Greetings my relatives,

Here we are again. This time the year is 2016. It has been more than 41 years since I last walked free and was able to see the sun rise and sit and feel the earth beneath my feet. I know there have been more changes then I can even imagine out there.

But I do know that there is a struggle taking place as to whether this country will move on to a more sustainable way of life. This is something we wanted to have happen back in the seventies.

I watch the events at Standing Rock with both pride and sorrow. Pride that our people and their allies are standing up and putting their lives on the line for the coming generations, not because they want to but because they have to. They are right to stand up in a peaceful way. It is the greatest gathering of our people in history and has made us more connected than ever before. We need to support each other as we make our way in these times.

Water IS life and we cannot leave this issue for our children and grandchildren to deal with when things are far worse for the natural world then they are now.

And Mother Earth is already in struggle.

And I feel sorrow for the water protectors at Standing Rock because these last few days have brought a much harsher response from the law enforcement agencies there and our people are suffering.

At least they are finally getting attention of the national media.

My home is in North Dakota. The Standing Rock people are my people. Sitting Bull lies in his grave there at Fort Yates. My home at Turtle Mountain is just a few hours north of Standing Rock, just south of Manitoba, Canada.

I have not seen my home since I was a boy, but I still hold out hope of returning there for whatever time I may have left. It is the land of my father and I would like to be able to live there again. And to die there.

I have a different feeling this year. The last time I felt this way was 16 years ago, when I last had a real chance for freedom. It is an uneasy feeling. An unsettling one. It is a hard thing to allow hope to creep into my heart and my spirit here in these cold buildings of stone and steel.

On one hand, to have hope is a joyful and wonderful feeling, but the downside of it for me can be cruel and bitter.

But today I will choose hope.



I pray that you will all enjoy good health and good feelings and I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done and continue to do for me and for our Mother Earth.

Please keep me in your prayers and thoughts as these last days of 2016 slip away.

I send you my love and my respect for all of you who have gathered in the name of mother earth and our unborn generations. I stand with you there in spirit.

Doksha.

### **24 Nov - Tsutomu Shirosaki gets 12-year sentence over '86 Jakarta attack**

*Formerly held in the United States, having completed a federal prison sentence, Tsutomu Shirosaki has been sentenced to an additional 12 years in Japanese prison. Please read the following corporate media article with a critical eye. NOTE: Shirosaki has consistently maintained that he was never a member of the Japanese Red Army.*

#### **MORE:**

*The Japan Times*

The Tokyo District Court on Thursday sentenced a Japanese Red Army member accused of attempted murder and other charges to 12 years in prison over a 1986 mortar attack on the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta.

Tsutomu Shirosaki, 68, was one of six inmates who were released from a Japanese prison in 1977 in exchange for hostages from a Japan Airlines plane hijacked by the radical group.

During the trial, prosecutors insisted that fingerprints collected from the hotel room from which the rounds were fired matched those of Shirosaki, but defense lawyers argued that Shirosaki was in Lebanon at the time of the attack and the investigative authorities may have tampered with evidence to incriminate him.

Prosecutors requested a 15-year prison term for Shirosaki.

According to the indictment, Shirosaki conspired with an unnamed person in firing two mortars toward the Japanese Embassy from the hotel room in the Indonesian capital on May 14, 1986, and he used another person's passport at a hotel and car rental company.

No one was hurt in the attack as the bombs did not go off.

He was imprisoned in the United States over a 1986 rocket attack on the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta after he was captured in Nepal in 1996.

In 2015, Shirosaki was deported from the United States and was arrested on his return to Japan by Tokyo police for attempted murder and other charges over the 1986 attack on the Japanese Embassy.

It was the first lay judge trial involving the radical group.

The Japanese Red Army was formed in 1971 and known for carrying out a series of terrorist attacks around the world, including a shooting rampage at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1972 which resulted in about 100 deaths and injuries.

The extreme left-wing group was led by Fusako Shigenobu who was arrested in Japan in November 2000 and remains in jail. Seven fugitives are still on the international wanted list.

## **27 Nov - New York City Anarchist Black Cross on The Final Straw Radio**

*Recently on the Final Straw, they aired a conversation with a member of New York City Anarchist Black Cross.*

### **MORE:**

The episode was saved as a podcast that can be heard at <https://archive.org/download/afm-final-straw-11272016exp/afm-final-straw-11272016exp.mp3>

For a good portion of the hour we speak about this activists views on anarchist support for prisoners and long term liberation prisoners. We also talk about the work that NYC ABC does including: prisoner-writing nights; the Running Down The Walls event coordinated with numerous folks on the outside and incarcerated comrades; their recently unveiled project FANG (with help from Sac Prisoner Support) which sets aside regular visitation funds for animal and earth liberation prisoners and their loved ones; their U.S. Political Prisoner graphic guide updated monthly; and more. You can find out more about NYC ABC on their website at <http://nycabc.wordpress.com>, or find them on the various and insidious social media platforms out there as @NYCABC

## **28 Nov - Free Red Fawn!**

*Red Fawn is a human rights advocate, organizer and a community leader within the Oglala Lakota Sioux.*

### **MORE:**

Red Fawn grew up in Colorado and was raised in traditional Lakota ways, grounded with love and a deep connection to the earth and all living things. Her mother Troylynn Yellow Wood, taught her the importance of fighting for social and environmental justice.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the police raided the 1851 Treaty Camp. Grandmothers and grandfathers and youth were pulled out of sacred sweat lodges, old and precious teepees were destroyed, along with holy ceremonial items such as the chanupa, our sacred ceremonial pipe. Among the items destroyed was Red Fawn's Eagle Staff.

More than 140 people were arrested that day. Bail was raised from \$200 to \$1,500 for each. All have been released except Red Fawn. Her bail is set for \$110,000. That day, Red Fawn was serving as a trained medic. She was helping injured water protectors who had been sprayed with mace and hit by rubber bullets. As Red Fawn retreated from the front lines, three officers targeted, tackled and threw her to the ground. One officer pulled his weapon and placed it against her back . While she was pinned to the ground, shots were fired.

Officers allege that she broke free and used her left hand to shoot the officers weapon. Eyewitness accounts and video show otherwise.

“Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said he couldn't confirm any shots were fired by the water protectors on October 27” (Democracy Now!) Red Fawn has been behind bars since that day. She is facing up to 20 years in prison.

That's why we need your support. On Fridays, in a show of unity and support, we ask all water protectors to wear red in solidarity for Red Fawn until she is free.

Stay up to date by joining the facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/FreeRedFawn>

## **29 Nov - Former Black Panther serving life sentence for murder denied release**

*New Jersey police have opposed the release of Sundiata Acoli, who killed a state trooper more than 40 years ago, since he became eligible for parole in 1992.*

**MORE:**

by Renée Feltz (*The Guardian*)

A former Black Panther who turns 80 next month has been denied release from prison and ordered to wait 15 years before seeking freedom again.

Sundiata Acoli is serving a life sentence for the 1973 murder of a New Jersey state trooper during a shootout in which Assata Shakur was also arrested. Shakur escaped in 1979 and fled to Cuba, where she was granted political asylum.

New Jersey state police have actively opposed Acoli's release since he first became eligible for parole in 1992. But the decision still shocked his supporters.

"This is a punch to the gut," said Soffiyah Elijah, an attorney who represented Acoli for decades and visited him days before he learned of his latest denial on 21 November.

The move comes after a panel of New Jersey judges ordered the board in 2014 to "expeditiously set conditions" for Acoli's release. The court cited his good behavior since 1996, and argued the board had ignored a psychologist's 2010 testimony that Acoli "expressed regret and remorse about his involvement" in the state trooper's death. The expert determined Acoli posed a "low to moderate risk" of reoffending.

In February, a higher court overturned the order in a decision welcomed by state police as "a victory for law enforcement". This prompted a new parole board hearing in June that led to the denial.

In a letter to supporters, Acoli said the June hearing focused "primarily about the events on the turnpike and almost nothing about my many positive accomplishments". Acoli wrote that parole board members asked him, "Aren't you angry that they broke Assata out of prison instead of you?" He responded that "I don't or wouldn't wish prison on anyone."

Most of Acoli's four decades in prison have been spent at "supermax" federal penitentiaries in Marion, Illinois, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was held 23 hours a day in his cell under high security. He is now incarcerated at a federal prison in Cumberland, Maryland.

"They are determined to bury him alive," Elijah told the *Guardian*. "And we are equally determined to get him out."

**30 Nov - Chelsea Manning Support Network coming to an end**

*Over the next few weeks, supporters will be bringing the Chelsea Manning Support Network to an end. They will be transferring the [chelseamanning.org](http://chelseamanning.org) domain to representatives of Chelsea Manning on February 1, 2017, for a new website that will launch early in 2017.*

**MORE:**

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many tens of thousands of supporters worldwide who joined together to support this campaign, going all the way back to the days following Chelsea's arrest in Iraq, June 2010. With your help, we were able to successfully cover 100% of Chelsea Manning's legal fees throughout her court martial (nearly \$400,000) and mount a huge publicity campaign to raise awareness about her situation. We are also deeply proud to have contributed toward the ongoing legal fees associated with Chelsea's appeal (over \$400,000).

It has been our honor to dedicate the last six years to advocating for the freedom of Chelsea Manning. Over 25,000 individuals donated \$1.5 million leading up to and during Chelsea's initial trial. During this time, we paid her legal bills in full, organized over 600,000 people to sign petitions in support of Chelsea, staged hundreds of events, rented billboards, purchased a New York Times ad, and rallied thousands to take to the

street—at Fort Meade, Fort Leavenworth, Quantico Marine Base, and around the world. We are extremely proud of these efforts.

None of us believe that the work is done; however, it's clear to those that know Chelsea best, that it's time for a new, and different type of group, to best meet her needs going forward.

We are deeply grateful to donors, volunteers, individuals who attended Chelsea Manning Support Network events, all those who publicly spoke out in defense of Chelsea, former staff members, the advisory board, and so many other people who helped make this campaign possible. We also thank our fiscal manager, Courage to Resist, and the umbrella fiscal sponsor, Alliance for Global Justice (AfGJ).

Many will still wonder why we are closing the doors of this organization now, when Chelsea is still in prison and thus still needs support. There are a few reasons for this.

Things have changed a lot in the last six years. When we first founded the Chelsea Manning Support Network, and for many years after, we operated with no direct communication from Chelsea. The website we created thus reflects the (often diverse) views of her supporters and fans, not of Chelsea herself. Now that Chelsea is able to speak out publicly, it's appropriate that her message take center stage. We are stepping aside in order to amplify her voice and message, letting that take center stage in the advocacy efforts going forward.

Additionally, since the end of the court martial, we have seen a drop off in donations, and we no longer have any paid staff at the Chelsea Manning Support Network. We transfer nearly all of the few funds we do receive to Chelsea's attorneys to help cover the costs of her appeal. Even responding to inquiries from supporters, maintaining the website, and depositing checks are burdensome tasks without even a part time helper in the office. At the same time, we've seen amazing organizations stepping up to spread the word about Chelsea's situation, and we recognize that these organizations are better poised to provide long-term support for Chelsea's needs.

We expect that supporters will soon be able to donate to Chelsea Manning's defense fund via a new fiscal manager. For now, you can continue to donate to Chelsea's defense at [chelseamanning.org/donate](http://chelseamanning.org/donate). After February 1, 2017, we expect that there will be instructions on the new website with details of how to donate to Chelsea's defense and advocacy. You may also contribute directly to Chelsea Manning's legal fees by making a check payable to "FBH IOLTA", noting "Manning" on memo line (and on an enclosed note), and mailing it directly to Chelsea's legal team at: FBH, 20 First Plaza, Suite 700, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

The Chelsea Manning Support Network's online materials will be available on [chelseamanning.org](http://chelseamanning.org) until February 1, 2017, after which time the materials currently hosted will only be available through the Internet Archive. Please note that if there are any materials you want from [chelseamanning.org](http://chelseamanning.org)—photos, trial coverage, press releases, etc.—you should download a copy now. Individuals who want a copy of the entire site are welcome to mirror it elsewhere.

Our Facebook community, "Free whistleblower Chelsea Manning (@savemanning)", with 97,000 likes, will be transferred to the new organizers. The Chelsea Manning Support Network will also distribute email announcements of this development, so that current supporters can follow these new efforts. Finally, any remaining funds held by the Chelsea Manning Defense Fund hosted by Courage to Resist, on behalf of the Chelsea Manning Support Network, will be transferred to Chelsea's attorney and/or to a group Chelsea indicates.

Thanks to everyone who courageously spoke out for Chelsea Manning over the last six years. We are proud of the work we accomplished together and look forward to seeing what Chelsea Manning will accomplish in the future.

**December 1<sup>st</sup> - Looking forward: We must stay strong and stay together**

by Chelsea Manning (*Medium*)

Every day, I can feel the slow terror of us going backwards. Repression. People losing their health care. People being stopped from voting.

People being blocked from speaking, and exercising their rights. I fear the horrible consequences that are facing a lot of us in the coming days, months, and years.

All of the people I care about. Everybody is hurting. Everybody is looking for something.

And I am no different. I am scared and I don't know what to do, but I feel a lot of responsibility.

When I reflect on my own journey and political consciousness, I realize that I didn't really think about politics until the passage of Proposition 8—the ballot measure in California that repealed marriage equality. I suppose I “cared” about politics, but it was more of an abstract chess game. You know, like college basketball: A fun game that you watch for sport. Politics was intellectual and disconnected for me. It was something that happened in the world but not necessarily to me.

I really didn't start giving a damn about politics until Proposition 8 passed. That pretty much changed everything for me. Even though political decisions affected my life in infinite ways before that point, I didn't have a consciousness or analysis about it. When Proposition 8 happened, it was a wake up call to me, and I never looked back.

Although I had never imagined getting married before, as I watched our rights being suddenly snatched away, I felt like I got kicked in the stomach. My perspective of the world changed.

For the next few months, my insatiable curiosity dragged me to conduct intense research. I learned many things: our history, our stories, our theories, our movements, and our ideas. It was inspiring.

The process taught me that I cannot just learn from digesting the narratives that our fed to us. I learned that I had to push back and dig a little deeper. I felt the deep and unrelenting sense that I couldn't just look the other way all the time.

Now, people are asking me what to do. I don't know what to say. I feel just as scared and helpless as everyone else. I wish I could keep my cool and give an answer about what to do next. The answer is that I just don't know.

For the queer and trans community, this year could mark a major turning point. I worry that our future is uncertain. Now, we face something that could be more vicious and terrifying than almost anything we've had to fight together as a community. There will be attempts to divide us—to turn us against each other. There may be efforts to roll back legal protections that have helped us survive. There may be forces in government aimed at subjecting us to discrimination or worse. It is scary to think about.

How will we protect ourselves and unite together?

### **1 Dec - POSTERS!**

*Just in time for the holidays, NYC ABC has added several posters, including the handsome one below, to our online store.*

#### **MORE:**

Visit [gumroad.com/nycabc](http://gumroad.com/nycabc) to check out the posters, as well as t-shirts, tote bags, or to donate to project FANG. All posters will be sent via first class mail, in durable poster tubes. Make sure to enter the code “localpickup” if you want to get the poster(s) from us in person (maybe grab it at our every-other-week

political prisoner letter-writing dinner?) and save on shipping. All funds raised go directly to supporting U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war.

### **10 Dec - International Human Rights Day Rally**

**WHAT:** Rally

**WHEN:** 1:00-2:00pm, Saturday, December 10

**WHERE:** Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building Plaza - 163 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street (at Seventh Avenue)

**COST:** FREE

**MORE:**

Join us as we rally and call for the release of all U.S. held Political Prisoners. We will be chanting, giving out literature, collecting signatures for our campaigns, and BUILDING A MOVEMENT TO FREE ALL OUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

### **10 Dec - Send Love Through the Walls 2016**

**WHAT:** Send Love Through The Walls Holiday Card-Writing For Political Prisoners

**WHEN:** 2:00-6:00pm, Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**WHERE:** 263 Eastern Parkway, Apartment 5D (Direction Below) phone: 718.783.8141

**COST:** FREE (Donations to cover the cost of stamps greatly appreciated)

**MORE:**

In what many prisoners have told us is their favorite event of the year, Resistance in Brooklyn and NYC Anarchist Black Cross again join forces to bring you the annual holiday card-writing party for U.S. held political prisoners, prisoners of war, and prisoners of conscience. This event is always a lot of fun, the food outstanding, the camaraderie lively, and the handmade cards flat out amazing. This year will be no different. So plan to bring your friends, your creativity, and a healthy appetite. We'll have updates on the pp/pow campaigns as well as paints, markers, crayons, and envelopes.

**Directions:**

Getting to 263 Eastern Parkway is simple:

*From the 2/3/4/5 or Franklin Avenue Shuttle:*

*Franklin Avenue Stop:* Walk west on Eastern Parkway (away from Franklin Avenue, toward Classon Avenue). We're about half a block down on the north side of the street. When you go into the building, take the elevator to your left.

For more information, contact:

**Resistance in Brooklyn**– [resistanceinbrooklyn07@gmail.com](mailto:resistanceinbrooklyn07@gmail.com)

**NYC Anarchist Black Cross**– [nycabc@riseup.net](mailto:nycabc@riseup.net)

### **13 Dec - Crimethinc: Preparing for the Trump Era: An Anarchist Viewpoint**

**WHAT:** Discussion

**WHEN:** 7:00-9:00pm, Tuesday, December 13

**WHERE:** The Base - 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221 (directions below)

**NOTE:** The Base is on the ground floor, is wheelchair accessible, and has a gender neutral toilet.

**COST:** FREE

**MORE:**

How did Trump come to power, and what does that tell us about the era we are entering? What strategies will be effective in countering repressive government policies and the rise of grassroots nationalism?

Framing Trump's victory in a global context, the presenters will explore various approaches to self-organization and self-defense, drawing on the principles of mutual aid and direct action.

This talk will be presented by Crimethinc:

The Crimethinc. Ex-Workers' Collective (CWC) is a decentralized anarchist collective composed of many cells which act independently in pursuit of a freer and more joyous world.

### **31 Dec - NYE Noise Demo Against the Prison Industrial Complex, In Solidarity with PPs and POWs**

**WHAT:** Noise Demo

**WHEN:** 9:00pm, Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

**WHERE:** Metropolitan Correction Center (MCC, the federal prison in downtown Manhattan); Pearl Street, between Cardinal Hayes Place and Park Row (J to Chambers Street or 4/5/6/ to City Hall)

**BRING:** Noisemakers, air horns, drums, anything that is loud!

#### **MORE:**

On the noisiest night of the year in New York City, come help us remind folks locked up that they are not alone. NYC Anarchist Black Cross, in response to an international call for noise demonstrations outside of prisons, is asking folks to join us outside of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in lower Manhattan. Come, not to appeal to authority, speak truth to power, or any other contrivance, but rather to stand arm in arm with comrades and show direct solidarity to those on the other side of the wall.

The state, writ large, is targeting anarchists all across the United States and abroad. This will be both protest and celebration. To keep the cold at bay, comrades will again be on hand with hot cocoa to keep the vocal cords nice and warm.