



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for January 3rd

14 Dec - Sundiata Acoli - 'They are determined to bury him alive'

While the passing of Fidel Castro shed light on revolutionary Assata Shakur who lives in exile in Cuba, it also sheds light on the case of Sundiata Acoli who was arrested with Ms. Shakur.

MORE:

by Michael Z. Muhammad (*The Final Call*)

He's spent more than four decades behind bars even though he was eligible for parole in 1992. Each time he's come before the parole board he's been denied. His recent denial, just days before the passing of Fidel Castro, was extremely difficult according to his legal team because his next eligibility will be in 15 years.

"When the parole board denies parole, they can determine how long the sentence can be extended. They set the term limit for when a person can be eligible for parole again. In Sundiata's case, its 15 years," Fayemi Shakur, a member of Mr. Acoli's legal team told *The Final Call*. "It's particularly brutal. He will be 80 in January. The recidivism rate for seniors is near zero. They continue to deny him because they say he hasn't expressed regret. They ask him questions about what happened but at his age he says he doesn't remember any accounts of the day," she explained.

"He has a loving community and family waiting for him. He's served the sentence the judge gave him. He's a respected elder and the prison officials have recognized his accomplishments. The parole board is overstepping its reach."

Sundiata Acoli's battle with the New Jersey police started in 1973. He was traveling with Assata Shakur and Malik Zayad Shakur (no relation) on the New Jersey Turnpike. State troopers stopped them, reportedly because of a broken headlight. They exit the car with their hands up. Shots were fired and when the smoke cleared, two were dead, State Trooper Werner Foerster and Malik Shakur. Ms. Assata Shakur and Mr. Acoli were charged with the death of State Trooper Foerster.

That's the Sundiata Acoli most know. What most don't know is that he graduated from Prairie View A & M College of Texas in 1956 with a B.S. in mathematics. "He was a Math Whiz and was recruited by NASA in 1963. The next year in 1964 SNCC (The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) organized Freedom Summer. They brought people to Mississippi to help register Blacks to vote. "That started Sundiata on revolution," former New Jersey Black Panther leader Zayid Muhammad told *The Final Call*.

"He got dissatisfied with nonviolence and joined the Black Panther Party. He walked away from NASA. Imagine what kind of cushy bourgeoisie life he would have today. He didn't have to heed the call. But he answered the drummers call to struggle. This is part of the untold story of Fidel's passing."

Growing numbers of supporters reject the parole board's view that Mr. Acoli deserves to remain behind bars. In 2014, a panel of New Jersey judges ordered the board to "expeditiously set conditions" for his release. *The Guardian* reported that the court cited his good behavior since 1996, and argued the board had ignored a psychologist's 2010 testimony that Mr. Acoli, "expressed regret and remorse about his involvement" in the state trooper's death. The expert determined Mr. Acoli posed a, "low to moderate risk" of reoffending.

Those recommendations had little sway with the parole board. In a July article titled, "Ride and Denied and Denied," Mr. Acoli explained what happened at his parole board hearing in July. "The hearing lasted

from about 9 a.m. until about 4 or 5 p.m. It reached a new level of examination, cross-examination and recrimination," noted the article.

"Again they questioned me primarily about the events on the turnpike and almost nothing about my many positive accomplishments. They also asked, 'Aren't you angry that they broke Assata out of prison instead of you?' My response was, 'No, I don't or wouldn't wish prison on anyone'".

Most of Acoli's four decades of incarceration were spent at "super max" federal penitentiaries in Marion, Illinois and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was held 23 hours a day in his cell under high security. Currently, he is incarcerated at a medium security federal prison in Cumberland, Maryland.

"They are determined to bury him alive," his attorney Soffiyah Elijah told *The Guardian*. "And we are equally determined to get him out." She plans to appeal the decision to deny him parole.

14 Dec - Update from Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim on SHU & Disciplinary Hearing

The following is a letter to a comrade in the Jericho Movement from Jalil Muntaqim.

MORE:

As you probably heard, I've been placed in SHU with a penalty of 8 months, suspending 4 months for 6 months, having to do 4 months. The charges were: 105.13 Gangs, 105.11 Unauthorized Addresses, 105.14 Unauthorized Organization, 104.11 Violent Conduct, 104.12 Demonstration.

This all stems from a class on Black history that I was approved to give and had been teaching for a couple of months, starting in 1861-62 with the Confiscation Act, and now in the 1960's dealing with the Black Panther Party. During the course of the lecture I presented the 8 Points of Attention:

1. Speak Politely;
2. Pay Fairly for What You Buy;
3. Return Everything You Borrow;
4. Pay for Everything You Damage;
5. Do Not Hit or Swear at People;
6. Do Not Damage the Property or Crops of the Poor Oppressed People/Masses;
7. Do Not Take Liberties with Women;
8. If We Take Captives, Do Not Ill Treat Them.

This was presented discussing the ethics of the Panthers and how these Points of Attention engendered good relationships with the people in the community. I should have known they would ignore everything but Point 8.

Also, I offered an analogy, comparing and contrasting the BPP with the Bloods, stating they need to get organized, get away from criminal behavior and tribal warfare. If they did they could be a large army for the people. I was asked how to make that possible, and I answered they need to get a universal newspaper together that they could collectively contribute to. They interpret this that I was trying to organize them.

The Tier III hearing officer, Mr. Marche, dismissed the charge of 105.11 Unauthorized Addresses and 105.14 Unauthorized Organization, finding me guilty of 105.13 Gangs, 104.11 Violent Conduct, and 104.12 Demonstration.

I've written to Prisoners Legal Services in Buffalo asking them to consider representing me on appeal. If they agree, I'll still be sitting here for 60 days waiting for a decision.

As you know, I have been suffering intense harassment, first messing with my mail, trying to put me in SHU for writing to I Am We Prison Advocacy Network, then denying me receipt of *The Militant*

newspaper, now succeeding by taking comments from a one and a half hour lecture and cobbling them into a narrative to fit rule violations, removing them from the original context and intent. Given the recent *New York Times* articles exposing the racist practices of both disciplinary hearings and parole board decisions, it is apparent the harsh penalty in this case coincides with the findings of those articles.

In this regard, it is important that folk know this seemingly unrelenting harassment is consistent with the NYS Correctional Officers Association's alliance with the PBA's opposition to my release on parole. With the growing and mounting campaign to persuade Governor Cuomo to grant my application to commute the sentence, these entities are mounting a campaign to thwart any possibility for success at the parole board. We must vigorously condemn this disciplinary sanction and demand that it be reversed. Just as importantly, we need to further expose the racist nature of the disciplinary process and correctional guards/administrators persistent efforts to prohibit my release on parole.

In this regard, I also ask you to try to contact the writers of the *New York Times* articles and urge them to investigate this disciplinary sanction. They can get a copy of the video tape of the class and audio tapes from the hearing...

Until next time.

19 Dec - A Special Thank You/End Of The Year Wrap Up

As 2016 Comes to a close, MOVE 9 supporters wanted to take the time to acknowledge and thank all of their friends, family, and supporters who contributed to The Justice And Accountability Campaign in 2016.

MORE:

First I have to start by thanking four very important people who have been with this campaign since the very beginning—Ramona, Illy, Odette, and Ann. This campaign would not have reached the heights it has without the insight and help of the four of you your time, help, and insight is and always be greatly appreciated. We started 2016 with a bang as we pushed the parole hearings for Eddie Africa and The Move 9 Sisters we opened with Move 9 media month in January and would like to thank all of our friends that hosted us on their shows such friends as our people on George Jackson Radio, Pops Movement Radio, G Town Radio, Sister Verbana, Sister Maletia Ward, Sister Phile Chinsolue, Sister Sally O'Brian, Brother Bursts, Scotty Reid And Black Talk Radio, Wanda Sabir, and so many others for giving us time on your radio shows and aiding in the fight to help free The Move 9.

On February 12th 2016 we hosted an historic event in New York entitled an Evening Of Solidarity Of Parole For MOVE Political Prisoners and ohhh boy was this a big event as the entire tri state area as folks came out to support parole for our family. Such great activists like Lynne Stewart, Zayid Muhammed, Jasiri x, Laura WhiteHorn, James McIntosh, Iman Talib Abdur Rashid, Elsie Law, and so many others made the demand of parole for The Move 9. We would like to thank everyone who participated and signed the endorser letter endorsing parole for our sisters. I would like to thank Brother Zayid Muhammed who wrote a letter of parole support for our sisters on behalf of the Malcolm x Commemoration Committee. I would like to thank The People's Organization For Progress in Newark, New Jersey For their letter of support. I would like to take the time to thank all of our friends from the Anarchist Black Cross Federation Chapters both nationally and internationally you brothers and sisters are the best in comrades and I really mean that.

I could never forget our good friends from the Jericho Movement both national and local for always keeping our families case out there and helping out in which ever way you can not just for our family but for all political prisoners. We can't forget our good friends from both the campaign to bring Mumia home and the NYC coalition to free Mumia Abu Jamal thank you guys for everything we do we love y'all. I am

sending a special thank you to our good friends from workers world party/International Action Center for always printing our information in your papers and always opening your doors to us and just being there when needed. We cannot forget all of our friends who have always been there to help in whatever way—Freda Willis, Alina Dollat, Clarissa Rogers, Patrice Armstead, Gabe, Shaseena, Sheena, Cindy Lou, Erica, Rufus, Mattie, Scott Ted, The Philly Crew. A special thank you to Joe and Betsy Piette and The Philly Coalition For Real Justice.

I wanted to take the time to shout out Students For Justice In Palestine for The contributions you have made in both Philly and NYC and nationally in the efforts to help free The Move 9. You brothers and sisters are the future. Shout out to sister Sophia Dawson and the beautiful artwork you have done for both The Move 9 and all political prisoners. Shoutout to Suzanne Ross, Paulette Dauteil, Daniel McGowan, Johanna Fernandez, Gwen Debrow, Keith Robinson, and Mumia Abu Jamal. Thank you to all the people who wrote letters and made phone calls to both the parole board and governor's office your contributions are greatly appreciated and The Move 9 appreciates it. Shout out to Kamua Bectemba and Sandy Jones. Shout out to the Shoatz family and Shandre Delaney we can't forget Noelle from prison radio neither.

Even after a successful worldwide campaign advocating parole for Eddie and our sisters they were all still denied parole, each given a two year hit. This by no means is a loss, it just pushed the cause of our fight against the parole board even further and has gained more support for our family. We appreciate all the hard work of our brother Johnnie Stevens and all the contributions he has always made to help us and we wanted to give him a special thank you along with brother Donnie and Sister Tsihow who helped with the live stream for February 12th. We can never forget our international crew in France and abroad. We say thank you to Sister Espy and Brother Benjamin. I'm sending a special thank you to our wonderful web administrator as well. This fight is far from over as Delbert, Eddie, Janet, Janine, and Debbie will all be going back before the parole board in 2018. We are still awaiting word on the August 2016 parole appeal hearing for Mike Africa still no word yet on the status. This parole issue has just not affected our family but is affecting Jalil [Muntaqim], Seth [Hayes], Herman [Bell], Sundiata [Acoli] and so many others. The time to take a stand is now. We are still urging people to sign the petition aimed at United States attorney General Loretta Lynch demanding the US Justice Department investigate the wrongful and ongoing imprisonment of The Move 9. People can sign the petition at <https://www.causes.com/campaigns/92454-free-the-move-9>.

So closing this out I couldn't mention everyone but your efforts and contributions in this fight is greatly appreciated. For 2017 this fight will intensify even more. Much love and revolutionary solidarity to everyone.

January 1st - The Move 9 And The Safety Of The Community

The fight in exposing the illegal parole denials of The Move 9 at the hands of the Pennsylvania Parole Board is still in full swing. During the respective 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016 parole denials of The Move 9, the main reason that has been cited is this bogus issue of them being concern to the safety of the community at large. This is the only issue that the Parole Board can use at this point, because we have taken away every excuse they have had and have in fact exposed them on so many levels that they could not afford to be exposed to the public.

The issue of responsibility/remorse had to be taken off the table because our family would not admit guilt to a crime for which they have maintained their innocence for 39 years. Akai Gurley, Sandra Bland, Anthony Baez, Michael Brown, Gideon Busch, and people from all across the country have been MURDERED by the police and these same police who have MURDERED citizens are still walking the street and are the REAL threat to the community, not innocent MOVE Members who have been unjustly denied parole since 2008 despite the FULL support of the community.

Since the Pennsylvania Parole Board is on the subject of community safety, let's by all means speak on the issue of community safety and the Pennsylvania Parole Board having a known pedophile on their board for a period of time. In October 2014, Pennsylvania Parole Board Member Randy Feathers resigned amid being involved in the kiddie porn email scandal that has disgraced former Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane. For a two year period Feathers received 400 emails related to kiddie porn as he worked for the office of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania.

From 2012 to 2014 Feathers—who also has not just pedophile credentials on his resume, but is also a former police officer, voted against parole for our family, citing the issue of safety of the community. Governor Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania Parole Board has a lot of explaining to do and having Feathers resign is by no means ENOUGH. What greater threat to the safety of the community and the children of the communities than to have a known pedophile in it and one who holds such a high position in office? It has been proven through their example our family is no threat to the communities safety.

This just further exposes how dirty and corrupt this system and its officials are and the character of the Pennsylvania Parole Board's background of law enforcement and pedophilia. This isn't just about our family, but it's about your family, too—the fact that your children are being kept in prison due to the nature of the crime or their failure to show remorse based on the opinion of smut peddlers and legalized killers casting judgement, knowing damn well their hands are dirty. People don't have to take our word for this, they can just go to the internet and search the name Randy Feathers Pennsylvania Parole Board.

There will be a course of action that will follow in the next couple of days aimed at Governor Tom Wolf, his character, and his new appointees to the parole board.

In the meantime, we are still urging people to sign and spread the petition we have aimed at the United States Justice Department, urging them to investigate the ongoing and wrongful imprisonment of The Move 9. People can sign the petition at <https://www.causes.com/campaigns/92454-free-the-move-9>. We would like to reach 10,000 signatures by May 2016 so we got work to do.

19 Dec - Leonard Peltier Update/Actions

We're closing in on the final moments to find creative ways to reach the president and urge him to grant clemency to folks held in federal prisons before he leaves office. Folks might feel like as anarchists this is a weird tactic, but the reality is we should be willing to take whatever options are available, including sending letters and making phone calls to the president. This does not compromise the organizing we do, takes very little time, and cumulatively builds toward the release of Leonard and others.

MORE:

I have an urgent question for you. Will you call Senator Schumer ASAP and ask him to support clemency for Leonard Peltier?

Your call could be key to freeing Leonard and reuniting him with his family.

- 1) Call Senator Schumer's DC office at 202.224.6542
- 2) Say: "Hello, I am calling to encourage Senator Schumer to support clemency for Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist jailed for over 40 years after an unfair legal process. My name is _____ and I live in _____, New York. Thank you."
- 3) Let us know that you called!

Here's why: This may be Leonard Peltier's last chance for clemency, and Senator Schumer's support could help convince President Obama to act before the end of his term. Leonard is 72 years old, suffering from serious health concerns and has been imprisoned on the basis of an unfair legal process for over 40 years.

December 21st - President Obama: use clemency to free a wrongfully convicted Native American

by Martin Garbus and Cynthia K Dunne (*The Guardian*)

Approaching the Standing Rock Reservation to stand with the Water Protectors, you couldn't miss the dramatic display of tribal flags flying high along the dirt driveway and surrounding the perimeter of the large campgrounds. Scattered between hundreds of flags are banners bearing messages such as: Mni Wiconi, "water is life" in the Lakota language.

Also scattered among the flags were banners calling for the release of Leonard Peltier, a Native American who has been in jail for more than 41 years, unjustly convicted of the 1975 murders of FBI special agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Barack Obama just pardoned or commuted the sentence of 231 individuals on Monday, and Peltier was not among them.

We represent Leonard Peltier in his 2016 clemency petition, which asks Obama to allow him to live his final years at home on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. Mr Peltier is old, ill and a threat to no one. The petition seeks his release in the interests of justice and reconciliation and is supported by Nobel Peace Prize laureates, humanitarians and scholars. Rights groups have embraced his cause, including more than 100,000 people who have signed an Amnesty International petition calling for his release.

Over the course of our legal representation, we reviewed old government records obtained through decades of litigation under the Freedom of Information Act as well as court proceedings. Viewed through today's lens, the case presents a glimpse of an era when social activists were considered a threat and Native American activists, in particular, were branded "extremists".

The incident took place in the wake of the American Indian Movement's (AIM's) 1973 siege of the Wounded Knee Massacre site, where hundreds of unarmed Lakota men, women and children were murdered by the US Army in 1890. That siege brought attention to broken treaties, failed promises and tribal corruption. Under the FBI's exclusive jurisdiction for the prosecution of major crimes, violence escalated in the impoverished and politically charged community; it is an era that locals refer to as the "Reign of Terror".

Leonard Peltier arrived in June 1975 to help protect Oglala Lakota families from violence. On 26 June that year, two FBI agents entered the private property in unmarked cars and gunfire erupted. By the end of the incident, Agents Coler and Williams died, as did Native American Joseph Stuntz, although no charges were brought against anyone for his death.

Peltier states in the petition: "I did not wake up ... planning to injure or shoot federal agents, and did not gain anything from participating in the incident ... I was [on Pine Ridge Reservation] to protect ... residents, not to cause harm ... If I could have prevented this tragedy from occurring, I would have done so."

FBI agents from across the country immediately were dispatched to Pine Ridge Reservation, where they launched what amounted to an assault upon the Oglala Lakota Nation. They made warrantless searches of homes, offices and residences, coerced testimony, detained people without cause and even restrained an attorney who attempted to prevent a warrantless search. Requests at the time from US Civil Rights Commission Investigator William Muldrow for independent oversight of the FBI were ignored by federal officials.

The injustices that contributed to Peltier's conviction are not subject to credible dispute. Federal agents made false statements to the press; submitted false affidavits to courts; coerced alleged witness statements; and deliberately withheld critical ballistics reports in order to gain an unfair advantage at trial.

When the ballistics results were discovered after trial, the government's attorneys conceded – as they had to – that they had no credible evidence regarding who shot the FBI agents, and did not know whose weapon actually killed the agents.

Peltier's many requests for a new trial were opposed by the government and denied by the courts. He remains in jail today primarily because of an "accomplice" theory of liability which was included in the written charges but not argued to the jury, that he allegedly assisted someone in an unidentified way.

The clemency petition does not reargue the verdict, but rather, it sets forth the facts and is supported by the FBI's own records. If Obama does not grant the petition before he leaves office in just a few weeks, then it will be a death sentence for Peltier, who is next eligible for parole in 2024.

The tragic loss of all three lives will never be forgotten. That pain should not blind us, however, to what the case represented at the time, and has come to represent since.

In our opinion, history will record Peltier's case as one of the greatest injustices in the history of the American justice system.

When a nation fails to reckon with its past, it risks the perpetuation of intolerance on one hand, and resentment on the other. To "seize a better future" as Obama has said, our nation must reckon with its historical injustices against Native Americans.

Granting clemency to Leonard Peltier is not a referendum on federal law enforcement. It is a declaration to the world that we embrace Native Americans as equal members of society, and a pledge to become a stronger and fairer nation. It presents a moral imperative relevant to our nation's past, present and future – and to Obama's legacy.

After 41 years, please Mr President, free Leonard Peltier.

December 23rd - Special Appeal from Leonard Peltier

Greetings Sisters, Brothers, Friends and Supporters,

Over the past 41+ years, with over 20 years of good time (GT) credit, I have now over 60 prison years of time served. Under the Old Law system that applies to my case, this is by far longer than I was supposed to serve. Per the laws I'm under and that apply to my case, 7 years was a life sentence!! It did not mean that was all I was supposed to serve, but that I was eligible to be paroled and unless they had evidence to keep me in prison, I was to be granted parole. In my case, I was to be paroled to the next 7 years, so in all I was to have only served 14 years. Next, there was the 30-year Mandatory Release (MR) law. All federal sentences were to be aggregated, meaning I would have to only serve 30 years. Many people have been released under the 30 MR law. Again, they could only refuse you a release if they "proved," not just made claims, that you continued to violate the law. These same laws still apply to me today or are supposed to.

We have made a very positive gain in the last week, enough to open the doors to my cell and give not only to myself, but supporters and the support network what could very well be the keys, the avenue to my release that we all have hoped and looked for these 40+ years with over 20 years GT. (Let's never forget the GT as it counts for anyone's release). I feel very good about this development. Just maybe I can go home to

die with my people. But until I can leave, it is not over. We are at a stage when we must put it ALL into this campaign for my freedom. And this is what I'm personally asking for - your help, again.

I want to say thank you to Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now!*, Norman Brown and one of my attorneys, Marty Garbus. Thanks to Amy for being a great journalist and for asking good hard questions about the many constitutional violations in my case. Without you, the violations probably would never have been mentioned. Thank you, Amy. You're the greatest and I love the hell out of you!! Norman, I heard you did a great interview and your testimony was not only very moving, but very convincing/believable. Thank you, Brother. Marty, I was told you also did an excellent job, so I thank you as well. No, I did not get to see or hear the TV show/interview, so I must rely on others to tell me how it all went.

Although we have social media at our disposal, we still need to get this new development I mentioned out to the people that read specific newspapers, so we need to purchase some newspaper ads and I need supporters to dig into your pockets and help. There are so many of you around the world, it doesn't need to be a lot of people. Even 500 people would be enough, I believe? But we need numbers to donate. as we need to put this ad in as many newspapers that we can, at least the ones THAT COUNT.

If any of my benefactors want to donate again, thank you. I was sent \$100.00 for the holidays, so I will send this to my niece to put it into the account for this project, as I would rather use it for this than anything else. I have asked Kari Ann to take on this project personally.

O.K. Thank all of you and let's finish this and make it work. Love you all.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse...

December 29th - Clemency for Leonard Peltier

Obama is in office for 23 more days and there are thousands of people imprisoned in federal prison waiting on their clemency applications to be approved (13,042 to be exact). My focus has been on people I know, know of or whose cases have pissed me off big time.

I first heard of Leonard Peltier when my sister offered to buy me a book at the Barnes & Noble at Nanuet Mall in 1996. She bought me a book about Leonard Peltier and it blew my mind to hear about the history of the American Indian Movement and COINTELPRO. I remember really thinking Bill Clinton was going to grant him clemency and being crushed when he didn't. In 2007, my legal defense crew and I worked with the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee to sponsor a toy drive for children on the Pine Ridge reservation.

With such little time left and with his chances for release being non-existent under the next dictator, I ask that you do what you can to help pressure Obama into granting clemency to Leonard Peltier.

Sign petition via Amnesty International

<http://act.amnestyusa.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1839&ea.campaign.id=27118>

* Call White House: 202.456.1111

* Email: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse/>

* Twitter: @potus or @barackobama

Video about clemency campaign for Leonard Peltier: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAx2dJDvrCU>

Warrior (film): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsYAYf_2WQU

More info: <http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info>

21 Dec - Marius Mail Question

Marius Mason is still having trouble receiving mail.

MORE:

Marius continues to receive very little mail, and we are trying to figure it out. If you have written Marius but have not heard back from him, please send him a letter or postcard saying you have written but not heard back. If you haven't written him recently, please do so now, even a postcard or brief card makes a world of difference.

21 Dec - Former President Jimmy Carter Sends Letter to Obama Urging Release of Oscar López Rivera

On December 13, 2016, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter wrote to President Barack Obama to ask for the release of political prisoner Oscar López Rivera and remind him that in 1979 he freed our Puerto Rican nationalists who were convicted of "most serious charges."

MORE:

"You have an impressive track record in granting clemency to those who have experienced grave injustices in our legal system, especially those due to disproportionate drug offenses," wrote the former president.

Carter recalled that although Lopez Rivera rejected clemency offered in 1999 by President Bill Clinton, his decision was based on the offer of release did not include two other companions.

Mr. López Rivera, who has spent 35 years in U.S. prisons after being convicted of seditious conspiracy because of his ties to the National Liberation Armed Forces (FALN), is the only one remaining in prison "from that era," Carter said.

"In 2011, I urged the United States Parole Commission to reconsider its decision to deny parole to Mr. Lopez Rivera despite many prominent individuals calling for his release, including Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Puerto Rican Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla, the Hispanic Caucus of the United States Congress, and the American Association of Jurists," Carter wrote.

Carter said that the nationalists released in 1979 and the militants of the FALN and the Macheteros released by Clinton in 1999 "have proven to be productive, law-abiding members of society, residing in Puerto Rico and in the continental United States."

President Carter's December 13 letter is made public at a time when President Obama has only 29 days left to decide whether to accept the petition for clemency presented by Lopez Rivera, who will turn 74 on January 6.

"You have an impressive track record in granting clemency to those who have experienced grave injustices in our legal system, especially those due to disproportionate drug offenses. I am respectfully suggesting that Mr. López Rivera's case deserves your attention as well," Carter appealed.

December 29th - Clemency for Oscar Lopez Rivera

Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera is also seeking clemency from Obama and as you guessed, there are only 22 days left for the president to do so.

Over 100,000 people signed a petition to the White House and the response was basically, “we do not comment on individual petitions for clemency.” Take some time today to remind them how many people support this move to grant Oscar clemency and help him come home.

* Call: 202.456.1111

* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

* facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse>

* twitter: @potus or @barackobama

Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera has served more than 30 years in prison, convicted of seditious conspiracy for his commitment to the independence of Puerto Rico, though he was not accused or convicted of causing harm or taking a life.

Serving a sentence of 70 years, he is among the longest held political prisoners in the history of Puerto Rico and in the world. No other country keeps its political prisoners behind bars for as many decades as does the United States.

bio continued at <http://boricuahumanrights.org/about/oscars-story>

January 6th - Birthday Twitter Storm for Oscar López Rivera

In line with the current campaigns to pressure President Obama, ProLibertad is calling for a Twitter Storm on Oscar's 74th Birthday! On Friday, January 6th, let President Obama know that Oscar has the support of the masses!

Tweet the following message to President Obama:

.@BarackObama I add my voice to the thousands demanding: Free Oscar López Rivera NOW!

#FreeOscarLopez

Ask your friends, family, co-workers, church members, classmates or union members, to support this campaign!

United our voices can make freedom happen!

22 Dec - Kuwasi Balagoon: Anarchist Warrior

Queer, Black, anarchist prisoner Michael Kimble writes about Kuwasi Balagoon in commemoration of his life and the anniversary of his death.

MORE:

I became acquainted with Kuwasi Balagoon in the 1990s through his writings and the writings of revolutionaries that knew and fought alongside him. What is clear is that Kuwasi had an intense love for New Afrikan people and all oppressed people, and an equally intense hatred for racist and oppressive authority, and dedicated the bulk of his life in defense and liberation of all oppressed people. First as a member of the Central Harlem Committee for Self-Defense and later as a Black Panther and soldier within the Black Liberation Army. Soldier is really a misnomer, because a soldier is one who follows orders and the dictates of authority without question. And that wasn't Kuwasi. We see that Kuwasi was rebellious as a young kid and later in his stay in the military. Kuwasi can best be defined as a warrior who lived to fight.

Sundiata Acoli, a comrade of Kuwasi's within the Black Liberation Army, wrote that if we had read Kuwasi's poem "I'm a Wildman" we would know Kuwasi, because he was a wildman – and that we need

more of today. Sundiata also wrote that Kuwasi hated authority. I don't know when Kuwasi officially or theoretically became an anarchist, but it's clear that he was always an anti-authoritarian. He exemplified that through the numerous actions he carried out, from bucking in the military to the numerous prison breaks after being captured, which one isn't supposed to do simply because authority says you should. It's against the law, right?

Well, Kuwasi didn't give a flying fuck about the law. He understood to really be free, one must act outside the law and destroy the lawmakers and their authoritarian institutions. Kuwasi's trial statement says it all – it's brilliant, defiant, and clearly shows what we should be about. I'm sure Kuwasi caught a lot of grief and heartache for becoming an anarchist because it's seen as a white thing, just as Ashanti Alston spoke about. But I'm sure Kuwasi said fuck you to those who criticized him for being an anarchist.

Note: December 2016 marks both what would have been Kuwasi's 70th birthday and the 30th anniversary of his death (murder) from AIDS-related illnesses while serving a life sentence on charges related to the robbery of a Brinks armored car undertaken to fund guerrilla activities. Read some of his writings at <http://www.kersplebedeb.com/mystuff/profiles/balagoon.html>

24 Dec - 2016: Crisis & Opportunities by Russell Maroon Shoatz

Globally, 2016 has been dominated by political, economic, and social changes in the Northern Hemisphere.

MORE:

Massive upheavals have been occurring, seemingly churned up by the millions of asylum seekers fleeing wars and economic- and climate-related depredations in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

The upshot of these upheavals brought proto-fascists to challenge the welfare states of Western Europe and the guinea pig economic systems of the former Soviet states. The Left there has either been crushed (Greece), is now on the ropes (Spain and England's Left Laborites), or is circling the wagons (Germany and the Scandinavian countries), while Russia under Putin is using its military muscle to try to replicate what China has been doing in the economic sphere: remain independent of the U.S. and Western economic domination.

In South America, the once promising Bolivarian bloc has disintegrated. And while Ecuador and Peru continue to resist, the uplifting of the dirt-poor masses on the rest of the continent is in a tailspin, with their true leaders one step away from prison—or worse.

In the Caribbean, the Haitians continue to suffer unspeakable climate, economic, and political hardships. Puerto Ricans may soon join them. The late Fidel Castro, whatever one may say about his decades in power, was instrumental in assuring all Cubans and thousands of poor allied peoples received free quality health care and education; something a rich country like the U.S. has refused to do. Rest in Power Brother Fidel.

Africa remains a victim of centuries of colonial and neo-colonial rule and plunder. Despite the heroic resistance by its people, nowadays—by and large—they are being dominated by their “Big Men” and the western corporations.

The Middle East is a horror show that needs no comment, except to point to Rojava in Northern Syria. There, the Kurds are leading a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and secular social, political, economic, and cultural struggle that we need to follow and support.

India continues its economic push, Myanmar's experiment in "democracy"—and its civilian/military government—slowly moves along, while Pakistan and the rebels in Afghanistan continue their struggle against the agents of imperialism.

North Korea continues to skate near nuclear annihilation, due to a regime that inherited an inability to divorce itself from an ideology that has lost its usefulness. Not so for China, which is operating as if the Earth is a GO board, and is gaining influence everywhere, while the U.S. attempts to surround it, as if it's playing chess, and the Chinese mainland is the king it can cut off and checkmate. Otherwise, for the most part, tens of millions of others in South Asia and the Pacific islands are struggling to stay alive.

The election of Donald Trump for President has focused the world's attention on what the right wing populist backlash has made crystal clear: the neo-liberal economic engine has allowed the large corporations to move from country to country, utilizing the cheapest labor they can uncover, which has all but destroyed the elevated living standards that used to be the pride of the U.S. and Western Europe, leaving in its wake a handful of multi-billionaires who have more wealth and control than the Devil himself! And when the millions who are looking to Trump to rescue them wake up, there's no telling how volatile things will get (remember that Americans got more guns than any people who are not involved in a shooting war).

Can a President Trump meet their expectations to "Make America Great Again"?

DOES A CHICKEN HAVE LIPS? DOES A SNAKE HAVE HIPS?

Trump will be able to get enough from Congress for some infrastructure projects to aid a portion of voters. Remember, Obama was able to push through a large "stimulus plan" to rescue the banks and GM, as well as spread around millions for a few years. But beyond something like that, Trump's rivals in the Republican-controlled Congress, and the long established sentiments on the Right that hate ANY plan resulting in an increase of the country's debt, will limit the jobs and "stimulus" money Trump has to spread amongst his following. When Trump goes back to his box of tricks, he'll discover that a king cobra has eaten all of the rabbits he was hiding there. The cobra represents the little understood, galloping TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES that are rapidly replacing the need for human labor. Think how retail sales, plus truck, bus, and cab drivers, will be on the verge of getting cut by as much as the capital the few remaining giants can pull together for the DRIVERLESS VEHICLES once the mergers end. Bye-bye FedEx, UPS, U.S. Postal Service, the millions of skilled 18-wheel truckers, and hello to the driverless vehicles and the drones that will allow Amazon, et al, to better do their thing, all the way down to delivering pizza! And why should forward-looking large corporations go along with a President Trump to hire his followers (except for a kickback), instead of some 3-D printing technology? I ain't scratched the surface. Being in prison prevents me from fully researching this angle, but I can still "see the writing on the wall."

Then 2016 has helped us better grasp the CLIMATE CHANGE threat. This is already the HOTTEST YEAR on record. And it's admitted that the Greenland, Arctic, and Antarctic ice caps are disappearing at a rate that assures us coastal cities across the entire world will have an almost impossible engineering job in order to survive another 20 years. All the while, Trump is filling his White House Cabinet with fossil fuel advocates. Apparently Trump plans to keep his promise to "drain the swamp"... so he can then fill the vacuum with oil and coal. Great! And don't forget our side's failure to take baseline measures, such as fostering a culture, far and wide, of growing as much of our own food as we can.

Here in the U.S., Black Lives Matter and the water protectors, being led by the Native Nations in the West, are movements we ALL can learn from, while continuing to support the human rights they are fighting for.

Closer to home, the Prison Industrial Complex continues to destroy lives: Mumia Abu-Jamal and thousands of other prisoners are being denied Hep-C treatment and other basic medical care.

NEVER FORGET that Trump vowed to round up and deport MILLIONS of undocumented peoples ASAP. That is certain to more than double the numbers of people being held!

On a personal level, I continue to (again) teach myself to “walk and chew gum” through Square Stepping and Tai Chi. Being forced to limit my leg workouts to tiny control unit cells and exercise cages for decades robbed me of the ability to mount stairs and even turn once through a doorway, since I was always all but carried along in chains whenever I left said cells. Though I maintained my leg strength, outside of walking in a straight line, my balance resembles that of a toddler, though much better than when I first got out of that hell hole!

I’m re-bonding with extended family members as well.

WITHIN ANY CRISIS RESTS OPPORTUNITIES. I’m calling on EVERYONE to rise to this challenge and figure out ways to overcome these added difficulties, as you can count on me to do.

Finally, you must get others to join you in deluging the White House and President Obama with the message that to protect his legacy amongst the world’s progressive people, HE MUST USE HIS POWERS TO RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS UNDER HIS ULTIMATE CONTROL BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE.

Love and Solidarity! STRAIGHT AHEAD!

25 Dec - “freedom” a poem by Eric King

Check out the latest by anarchist political prisoner Eric King.

MORE:

We talk about freedom

I don’t want freedom to buy whatever I want
freedom to browse a market and pick out the best top
or the latest piece of technology to hide my face
The joys of being free and being able to chose which job
is best to spend the majority of my waking life at
so that I can earn enough money to appreciate
all this capitalist technological freedom
Freedom to pick which fast food restaurant I eat at
How much money I want to pay these pigs
to shovel shit into my face forcing a painful early grave
which beer I want to drink to get drunk the fastest
which car will get me into that tree with the most precision
so I could forget all the fucking freedom I have
Freedom is warm blood
dripping off a knife stuck in a rapists throat
Its warming your hands over a blazing fire in your local precinct
The ability to decide my own limits and live according to them
to grow my own food or barter for what I need

its waking up next to my partner in our home
not trapped by society into working long hours
to buy more fucking freedom
Its waking up when I need to or want to
and making art or challenging myself how I feel
Freedom is making my own choices without fear of punishment
or judgment from anyone including my peers, or a jury of such
Its being released from addictive chains that have been wrapped
around my throat to keep me subdued or limited
brainwashed and bored to death, feeling like a failure because
I didn't reach my shopping freedom potential!
Its being without anyone's expectations but my own
Its choosing who I spend my time with and what we spend it doing
It's kissing for longer than 2 god damn seconds
putting our hands wherever they should be and are wanted
for however long they are wanted to be there
Its exploring our potential and removing walls
so we no longer have to waste so much energy
pushing up against them.
Freedom is a warm kiss, a warm bed, a heart full of love
and a life without others demands.

27 Dec - Open Letter from PP Seth Hayes

An open letter to comrades, loved ones, family, and supporters in this struggle, from Seth Hayes.

MORE:

Greetings one and all. At long last I have the strength to communicate and advise that I am FEELING BETTER. During the long journey I am about to disclose, I suffered many ups and downs before arriving at the present moment. It has been an arduous struggle, but one that was won by both your support and my determination. As stated above, at present I am feeling stronger, more purposeful and capable to persevere opposition to medical staff here, solely because they perform acts of medical neglect, malpractice application, and deliberate indifference, to the sufferings of those under their care. Coupled with that objective, I/We are working on a legal strategy that will hopefully see me free. Or at the lower accomplishment, act as a viable podium from where teachings, actions, strategies, can commence. Here are those factors, which lead us to the present.

Some of you from the past have written me without receiving responses back from me. In the past, I attempted to reply within days, to every letter I received but for some time now, that has not been the case. As letters increased in volume, I found myself consistently slipping farther and farther away from the strength to be up for the task and conversely suffering from longer periods of weakness and listlessness. I experienced 2 or 3 days out of 7, where I felt confident enough to sit among friends and discuss my difficulties and plans. The remaining days, I spent, sleeping. Retiring before 8 p.m. for the night while others stopped by to pay respects and to inquire about my state of health. My blood sugars began ranging for 200, to 300 in the mornings then up to 400+ in the afternoon, only to slam down into the 60's, 40's and lower in the evening. During this time, I maintained a steady diet plan and complied with portions, suitable substance, while refusing to deviate from the planned meal plan. Besides my diet I also engaged in exercise plans and partaking of insulin measurements to maintain my well being and sugars. In spite of all this there was and remained, no let up on ups and downs of sugar balance, or the side effects mentioned along with the depressive mind states. All of this was out of my control and despite my efforts.

Insulins were substituted for various brands, but nothing worked. It was concluded that a steadier insulin application beyond my present regimen of taking insulin 3 times per day “needed” consideration. It was hit upon that an “insulin pump” would best serve that purpose along with a blood monitoring attachment, which would alert or register sugar levels whenever required. A necessary addition because I tended not to sense or feel lowering or extreme high sugar episodes. By the time I feel hunger in a strong fashion, its already too late and I am slipping into comatose states. Other than that, I only know if my sugars are high or low during the scheduled insulin dosages where my blood sugars are checked. Inquires, questions, demands went unheeded. Hence, the mental states of self-diagnosis, “they are trying to kill me.”

Then your attention manifested. Telephone calls, letter writing campaigns and arduous involvement, turned the tide and results began to manifest. October 12th I was transferred to Coxsackie CF and interviewed by an endocrinologist who advised, “you need an insulin pump.” He further conceded, he would put forth the paper work to start the process immediately. It was only afterwards, that I became suspicious when nothing materialized. No procedure, no comment from the medical staff, no suitable answers of when or what’s occurring, surfaced. I immediately filed a formal complaint to the Superintendent, based on Medical Malpractice, Medical Neglect and Deliberate Indifference, shown me in not proceeding with attention in a life-threatening circumstance. I concluded my argument with the Patient’s Bill of Rights, was not being enforced. Patient was not consulted, updated, involved in, or given information to agree or disagree with current, or future planned procedures. In fact, patient was not informed enough to make any decisions.

The above two actions are meandering through bureaucratic lines, towards the Courts. At the formal hearing for the above grievance, the Nurse Administrator sat in as the civilian spokesperson of the panel. After the hearing, I returned to the clinic for my scheduled 11:15 a.m. (2nd) insulin dosage, where I spied, Nurse Administrator with Nurses holding a staff meeting. Perhaps advising them to be aware that future inquires of their acts would come forth. “Cover your own asses” by ensuring that the paper work appears, “you’ve answered present calls for medical attention,” because this one is beyond us. This all occurred on December 13th or 14th. And the next day, my insulin changed from Levamir to Lantus and Humulog coverage. That day, I felt a difference and maintain a more alert posture with the Humulog and Lantus insulins. Albeit, the sugars still maintain a high, high, low sugar count like before, but now those numbers are lower than previous numbers and I feel less listless and more alert. (End, medical report.)

Now we await the legal process, “seeking a reversal of past parole decision.” Presenting our Article 78 to the courts, we’ll argue that the “blatant racism of the parole board, has been ongoing and without intervention by the courts, would continue.”

Point of Clarity. I went before my first parole board hearing in 1998. As a PP/POW, it was expected by me that deceit and mis-justice was a given. I was not disappointed. I was given a 2-year hit (illegally) under Executive Law 259i explained as, “due to the serious nature (instant offense) of your crime.” I say illegal because Executive Law 259i became law in 1978. Approximately 4 years after I was upstate. It was and remains, illegal to apply said law, according to my research of the law, by making it retroactive (going backwards instead of forward) and including 1974 instead of 1978 and beyond as its suppose to. Under the law when I went upstate, the law stated, “it is the minimum and not the maximum portion of the sentence the covers the serious nature of the crime.” Hence, when I appeared in 1998 and was instructed that I had a formable conduct record, completed all programs, requirements and had been prosperous in all work details, that I had in fact, delivered the purpose for release having completed the serious nature of my crime. The laws intent certainly covers my issues. The law expresses, “what was the intent of the law? What did it hope to accomplish?” I appeared having no criminal history or acts of criminal intent while incarcerated. I had no Administrative crimes listed. There was nothing documented against me that could define “continued criminal activity.” Hence, I represented a “role model prisoner” and should have been

released at my first board appearance. Instead it appears, that Commissioners were aware of the misrepresentation of the law, but gave no concern. Of late, the recent the NY Times featured a 3-part article on Racism and Prison and Blacks Facing Parole, disclosing the ongoing racist attack I have been suffering. For the most part these struggles for justice that have been taking place behind the walls have been kept out of the public spotlight. Now after much work and struggle the public light is being shown to some extent and it is paramount that our work continues to further this conversation and see this struggle through to the end (End of legal report.)

I took this opportunity to report back and give consistent and constructive dialogue on both medical and legal standings and in closing, which to speak on “what can be done” by you future wise, because so many have asked in the past.

I apologize for my past actions of maintaining that “I am fine,” when I was asked, “what do you need?” It’s a way of being from my past. Standing firm, seeking to not be a burden. Wanting but sustaining until I could accomplish it myself. Realizing, that concept does not work, deprives the solution to a problem and deprives others from extending a hand. I apologize for that mistaken approach, and here’s what I ask.

I have a fund raising social page conducted by my comrade and family, Nate Buckley. Between each other, we try to meet its needs with information and updates as well as casting for funds to continue maintaining my substance and material needs. If you could, would you donate to that? It would help with winter clothing, books and additional materials as they manifest.- <https://fundrazr.com/810a58> Also please continue to stay informed as to what is going on, visit, write and continue to come to my aid in times of need as you have so wonderfully done. Support the many efforts to release all those who are have done their time and continued incarceration is an injustice and all of those who are working in parole justice efforts.

Finally, in closing, I’d like to report that my oldest son, Abdullah Rahim is in my life along with my grandchildren. Most of you know of my other children, but Abdullah was never mentioned. We lost contact with one another in the early 70’s and me not knowing his whereabouts left that matter undisclosed for my feeling fear of an attack may ensue. Instead, I probed and worked to discover him myself. I was successful for a time in 1979 but lost contact due to an untimely transfer away from him. We came together again in 2014. I invite you to share a prayer with me as we welcome him into our hearts, minds, spirits and thoughts. Thank you!

Freedom Now!

We come Forward!

28 Dec - Update on Anarchist Political Prisoner Jay Chase

Sorry for not posting many updates about NATO3 Political Prisoner Jared (Jay) Chase. Jay does not written many people back so updates tend to be a bit sparse.

MORE:

There is also rather little support for him where he is imprisoned in Illinois.

In addition to the 8 year sentence Jay got as part of the NATO3 case, he also got a one year sentence for apparently throwing waste at a prison guard while he was held in solitary confinement at Cook County Jail. This case has been covered in The Guardian, which you can read about here.

Since then, Jay continues to be held in the Secure Housing Unit (or SHU) of Pontiac Correctional. His release date has been extended to 6/6/2019 (Previously, it has been 11/6/2017). We can only assume this is due to Jay continuing to receive incident reports and losing good time. This is IL DOC punishes people they cannot control by putting in a cage within a cage.

Jay does not have a lot of support and has become one of the forgotten political prisoners whose case is becoming forgotten by much of the movement. He does not want visits but does like receiving mail and books.

If you can, please send books to Jay. He has been in solitary almost exclusively since 2012 and it still a few years away from release. He also has a debilitating condition called Huntington's Disease which is not being treated by the prison.

His wish list is updated when he requests new books. Check it out at <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1ZYU2MW7KDDON>

28 Dec - President Obama -- Grant Dr. Mutulu Shakur Executive Clemency

We're urging President Obama to use his executive power to grant clemency to Mutulu Shakur given the context in which his crimes were committed, the time he's already served, and ultimately in light of the positive good he can serve the community in light of his rehabilitation.

MORE:

Black Star News

Why is this important?

The continued incarceration of Dr. Mutulu Shakur is representative of the failure of our criminal justice system in working towards the stated goal of rehabilitation.

Dr. Mutulu Shakur is being held for punitive purposes because he broke the law in the service of a movement meant to break systemic racism. We demand that our criminal justice system works in the way that the system says it should.

Dr. Mutulu Shakur has been incarcerated for over thirty years where he's been denied parole eight times despite taking full responsibility for his actions and committing himself to community healing and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms while under state control.

Here is Dr. Mutulu Shakur in his own words, "For many years I have been a staunch advocate for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation process to address issues of racial and economic disparities. I have been influenced by examples in South Africa, Latin America, Northern Ireland and here in the United States of efforts at restorative justice through the pursuit of truth and reconciliation

"I cannot undo the violence and tragedy that took place more than thirty years ago. But for several decades while incarcerated I have dedicated myself to being a healer, spreading a message of reconciliation and justice, and playing a positive role in the lives of those I come into contact with, in and out of prison ...

"This country is not the same country it was at the time of my conviction and I have lived long enough to understand the changes the country and I have undergone. I will always care about freedom and equality for black Americans, marginalized people and the lower classes in this country and abroad. The struggle was never about me, but for the will of the people."

Please sign the petition

<https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/grant-mutulu-shakur-executive-clemency>

28 Dec - Nicole Kissane Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Nicole Kissane, accused of going on a cross-country rampage against the fur industry, reached a new plea deal with prosecutors this week — six months after a federal judge in San Diego rejected her initial plea agreement.

MORE:

by Kristina Davis (*Los Angeles Times*)

Nicole Kissane pleaded guilty Tuesday to a charge of conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, admitting to damaging the operation of an animal enterprise and freeing minks from farms across the country, causing more than \$100,000 in damage.

She also admitted to vandalizing the Furs by Graf store in San Diego's Kearny Mesa neighborhood on July 14, 2013, as well as the La Mesa and Spring Valley homes of the business' owner and the owner's parents, according to the plea agreement.

Kissane had pleaded guilty in February at the same time as her co-defendant, Joseph Buddenberg. Their plea agreements were unusual in that they were binding, meaning that rather than allow the judge to set the sentence, the judge had to accept or reject the specific sentence spelled out in the plea agreement.

Buddenberg was sentenced in May to two years in prison, as agreed upon in the plea deal.

When it came time to sentence Kissane in June, U.S. District Judge Larry Burns scoffed at the term in the plea deal — six months — saying the punishment didn't seem "in the interest of justice."

"I don't want my name on this," Burns said. He called the crime a "campaign of terror against an industry that goes multi-state, involves great planning and coordination by the defendants."

Kissane and Buddenberg had met at a lawful animal-rights protest and moved to Portland, Oregon together in 2012, according to Kissane's defense team.

Burns said he didn't hear any of that evidence when he sentenced Buddenberg and told the lawyers in June that he felt he made a mistake in sentencing him to a low-end term.

In the new agreement, which is not binding, the sentence will be left up to Burns. Prosecutors are expected to recommend 18 months, while the defense will argue for 15 months. Sentencing has been set for January 17.

Kissane also has agreed to pay \$423,477 in restitution, to be shared by Buddenberg. The amount includes damages to paid to the Graf's and several mink farms.

The pair were accused of traveling about 40,000 miles, freeing thousands of minks from farms and targeting others they felt were sympathetic to the fur industry. The damage to the Furs by Graf store included spray-painting the words "killer" and "murder" on the building, etching its windows and spraying acid into the shop, according to court records.

1 Jan - 1/22: 2nd Annual Trans Prisoner Day of Action

Jan 22, 2017 marks the second annual international Trans Prisoner Day of Action and Solidarity.

MORE:

If you are on the front lines, doing this work every day, then Jan 22 is a day to celebrate and honor your actions. For everyone else, this is a day to collaborate, be an accomplice not an ally, to prioritize, act, protest, resist, raise awareness, and reach out to trans prisoners, forging new relationships and dismantling the isolation of prison.

We encourage you to host a letter writing night reaching out to trans prisoners, hold vigils for those in our communities who have been taken by State violence, to plan an event, organize speakers, screen films, invite presentations, and give workshops to spread the word on the experience of trans prisoners, share knowledge, and build strategies of resistance.

Have dance parties and raise funds for people and groups already doing amazing work. Take action. Let's join together and show our conviction in supporting each other and ending prisons once and for all.

Let us know your events, local or regional campaigns, specific trans prisoners or organizations you'd like highlighted and we will post here.

1 Jan - Over 150 in the streets for NYC ABC NYE Noise Demo

2016 started strong as we welcomed home Albert Woodfox. To close the year, NYC ABC organized a noise demo outside of Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in order to protest, celebrate, and let folks on the inside know they are not forgotten.

MORE:

Throughout the year, we saw more comrades released (Mohaman Koti, Jason Hammond, Rebecca Rubin, Gary Tyler, Kevin Olliff, Luke O'Donovan, Barrett Brown, and Maliki Shakur Latine). And yet, as more elders age behind the wall, we lost two true warriors, Mondo we Langa and Abdullah Majid (also, sadly, Mohaman Koti died just two months after his release).

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

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

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

The demo lasted a couple of hours, but not before folks broke out sparklers and fireworks. And not before a fair amount of cops came to observe. They didn't have riot gear or visible plasitcuffs, so the threat was more in what a bunch of preposterous goons they are than in any potential for arrest.

We've been told before, by comrades who were once held in MCC, that the noise demos light up the whole place and get through to the prisoners. If you're thinking about organizing a noise demo in your town, do it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We remember in every act of rebellion against the state, our deceased comrades Mondo we Langa and Abdullah Majid— your legacies will never be forgotten.

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

YOU. ARE NOT. ALONE.

14 Jan - Birthday Party for Sundiata Acoli

WHAT: Birthday Party/Fundraiser

WHEN: 2:00-5:00pm, Saturday, January 14

WHERE: Ask someone from NYC ABC or email safc766@gmail.com

COST: FREE, but this is a fundraiser...

MORE:

Please join us on January 14, 2017 as we celebrate Sundiata Acoli's 80th birthday, and raise funds to continue the legal fight for his release. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to the Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign (or SAFC), and mailed to Florence Morgan, 120-46 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, New York 11415. Donations can also be made via PayPal at safc766@gmail.com. Please RSVP before or on January 12, 2017.