



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for February 28th

13 Feb - Chelsea Manning: to those who kept me alive all these years, thank you

Here is the latest from soon to be freed Chelsea Manning.

MORE:

by Chelsea Manning (*The Guardian*)

To those who have kept me alive for the past six years: minutes after President Obama announced the commutation of my sentence, the prison quickly moved me out of general population and into the restrictive housing unit where I am now held. I know that we are now physically separated, but we will never be apart and we are not alone. Recently, one of you asked me “Will you remember me?” I will remember you. How could I possibly forget? You taught me lessons I would have never learned otherwise.

When I was afraid, you taught me how to keep going. When I was lost, you showed me the way. When I was numb, you taught me how to feel. When I was angry, you taught me how to chill out. When I was hateful, you taught me how to be compassionate. When I was distant, you taught me how to be close. When I was selfish, you taught me how to share.

Sometimes, it took me a while to learn many things. Other times, I would forget, and you would remind me.

We were friends in a way few will ever understand. There was no room to be superficial. Instead, we bared it all. We could hide from our families and from the world outside, but we could never hide from each other.

We argued, we bickered and we fought with each other. Sometimes, over absolutely nothing. But, we were always a family. We were always united.

When the prison tried to break one of us, we all stood up. We looked out for each other. When they tried to divide us, and systematically discriminated against us, we embraced our diversity and pushed back. But, I also learned from all of you when to pick my battles. I grew up and grew connected because of the community you provided.

Those outside of prison may not believe that we act like human beings under these conditions. But of course we do. And we build our own networks of survival.

I never would have made it without you. Not only did you teach me these important lessons, but you made sure I felt cared for. You were the people who helped me to deal with the trauma of my regular haircuts. You were the people who checked on me after I tried to end my life. You were the people that played fun games with me. Who wished me a Happy Birthday. We shared the holidays together. You were and will always be family.

For many of you, you are already free and living outside of the prison walls. Many of you will come home soon. Some of you still have many years to go.

The most important thing that you taught me was how to write and how to speak in my own voice. I used to only know how to write memos. Now, I write like a human being, with dreams, desires and connections. I could not have done it without you.

From where I am now, I still think of all of you. When I leave this place in May, I will still think of all of you. And to anyone who finds themselves feeling alone behind bars, know that there is a network of us who are thinking of you. You will never be forgotten.

February 13th - Shadows and the Invisible

by Chelsea Manning (*Medium*)

We must not fear ourselves. We all want the same things.

Throughout our history, humanity has strived to be better. We have strived to be more free. To be more open, and to be more fair.

Suddenly, we are afraid of our own shadows. We are threatened by invisible enemies. Now, we fear reflections of ourselves. We see hidden demons that are everywhere. Inside and out.

This assault on our identity—this battle with our virtues of liberty and justice, on truth and openness, and on diversity and fairness—did not come out of a vacuum. This was created by a small and powerful group of demagogues. They take the low road. The low hanging fruit. Targeting those of us who are different.

In times of desperation and uncertainty, it is easy to forget that we all yearn for the same things—a good job, and a happy and healthy home. We are not stupid. We are not naive. We want to know that tomorrow will be a good day. We want to know that we have enough food and money to survive.

We cannot fear our own shadow. We want to know that no matter what life throws at us, we will be free and open again.

February 14th - Chelsea's Welcome Home Fund Reaches The Home Stretch

For the past seven years, Chelsea has been incarcerated. She survived solitary confinement, systemic denial of health care and years of being separated from her friends and community. Through it all she has remained a steadfast voice for liberty and justice and an inspiration to so many. We now have a chance to show our appreciation for all that she has given us.

Following the commutation of her 35 year sentence, Chelsea will head home to Maryland on May 17, 2017 and we, her closest friends and family, are raising money to meet her survival needs.

The majority of Chelsea's adult life has been spent under the control of powerful institutions. Upon her release she will need logistical, emotional, and financial support to safely transition into the free world. For the first time in her life, Chelsea will have the opportunity to live freely as her authentic self, to grow her hair, engage with her friends, and build her own networks of love and support. We want her to have the tools to do that and to overcome the years of abuse she has experience in custody.

Funds raised will be used to pay for Chelsea's rent, utilities, health care, clothing and other living expenses for the first year after she is released. Donate at gofundme.com/welcomehomechelsea

15 Feb - Eco-Activist Krow Arrested at Standing Rock, Needs Your Support

On February 4, while supporting the No DAPL struggle, Krow (Katie Kloth) was assaulted and arrested by a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer.

MORE:

She was walking on a public road, away from the Sacred Stone camp, when she was chased down by the officer. It is believed that she was specifically targeted because of her ongoing involvement and visibility

within the No DAPL resistance, which had resulted in two arrests on misdemeanor charges previous to this incident. Krow was also known at Standing Rock for being an advocate for creating a unified front in fighting the pipeline.

Krow has been charged with violation of felony probation and is being held at Morton County Correctional Center. The probation is from previous charges stemming from an environmental protest against mining in the Penokee Hills in 2013, for which she served nine months in jail. After a recent bail reduction hearing, Krow was assigned a cash-only bail of \$100,000. She cannot be bonded out—the stipulations of the judge require that the full bail is paid before she can be released.

We fear for Krow's safety and well-being, especially in light of her assault and the severe mistreatment other water protectors have received in this particular facility.

Krow is an activist, artist, forager, sustainable farmer, biologist, and amazing person loved by many within the environmental movement. We need to show her as much solidarity and support as we can at this vital time. In Krow's own words, "We must negate state repression by protecting ourselves and land-bases therein; we must not give our people up, and recognize that to be in solidarity with one another is more akin to the idea of 'harmony' than 'unity.' Harmony implies that we can all do different things within the same song, and still find conclusion together."

Whether you are a direct action environmental activist or simply support the No DAPL struggle and protection of the land and all of its people, join us in supporting Krow, in solidarity with all things wild and free.

Contact Krow's support team at supportkrow@riseup.net

February 17th - Support Krow, Water Protector-Penokee Defender, Letter Writing Campaign

Thank you for supporting Krow! This Eco-Warrior is currently in custody in the Morton County Corrections Center since February 4th 2017. Her current arrest stems from her being on probation for standing up as a Penokee Defender and standing up to Goegebic Taconite which was trying to level the ancient Penokee hills in Ashland Wisconsin to create the world's largest taconite mine. After being arrested for her involvement in a rowdy protest which shut down bore hole drilling at a mine site on the Penokee Ridge in June 2013. Krow was facing a grand jury so they could try to make her snitch on others who may have participated. She took a shitty plea deal and became a felon so that she could end the grand jury investigation. She was sentenced to 9 months in jail and 5 years of probation. It is expected that she was a target by BIA on February 4th 2017 because she was identified for her ongoing involvement and visibility within the No DAPL resistance. Krow was simply walking down a road, away from the Sacred Stone Camp when she was chased down by a BIA officer and beaten with a police baton and taken into custody.

Monetary need are always one of the greatest needs when we are in custody and facing serious trumped up charges, but anyone who has ever been locked up and caged will always tell you that receiving mail is what will lift you up and help get you through your day. Krow loves reading, she loves art, small sketches and detailed pieces. Send Krow a letter today please? Tell her what is going on in your hood, on your streets, write her a poem, draw her a picture, or just simply give her a big thank you for putting her body and freedom on the line for all of us, either way she will love to hear from you.
supportkrow.org/donate

15 Feb - Nicole Kissane Moved to FCI Dublin

Nicole has been in transit for a few weeks and has reached FCI Dublin, where she will serve out her sentence.

MORE:

This is great news as she will be able to establish a routine and receive visits from family and friends.

She is doing well and is in good spirits.

19 Feb - For Families Denied Clemency Under Obama, What Now?

While he commuted the sentences of over 1,700 prisoners, former president Obama denied almost 19,000.

MORE:

by Victoria Law (*Truthout*)

When her mother called, Miquelle West was in Michigan spending the holidays with a friend. The two were using Miquelle's phone to watch a documentary about Miquelle's quest for clemency for her mother, Michelle West, who had been given two life sentences for drug conspiracy and abetting a drug-related murder; the man who had committed the murder testified against her in exchange for full immunity. West, who has always maintained her innocence, had filed a petition for clemency, hoping that Obama would commute her sentence so that she could rejoin her daughter, who was 10 years old when she was arrested in 1993.

"She called and asked if I was sitting down," Miquelle told Truthout. "She said she had bad news for me." Hearing those words, Miquelle knew that her mother's petition had been denied.

Once their call was over, Miquelle didn't tell her friend what had happened. Instead, she simply handed the phone back to her friend, who continued to watch the documentary. "I needed to process it myself first," she explained. "I didn't feel like I could break down. I was holding it together and also trying to piece it together."

As the impact of the denial sank in, Miquelle, who had spent the past year telling her mother's story and advocating for clemency, wondered, "Did I not put in enough work? Should I have done something different?"

Thousands of Clemency Denials

In the last weeks of Obama's presidency, thousands of people in federal prisons -- and thousands of family members outside of prison -- had similar questions as the Office of the Pardon Attorney released lengthy lists of clemency denials. While Obama ultimately commuted the prison sentences of 1,715 people, including Chelsea Manning and Oscar Lopez Rivera, he denied 18,749 clemency applications and closed another 4,250 without taking action. This adds up to 22,999 people whose hopes are now on hold.

Amy Povah, the founder of CAN-Do Justice Through Clemency, has been advocating for clemency for Michelle West and many others in federal prison, particularly women serving draconian drug war sentences. A large part of the problem, said Povah, who was granted clemency by Clinton, lies in the fact that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has complete control over the Office of the Pardon Attorney, a fact that former Pardon Attorney Deborah Leff, who resigned in January 2016, after less than two years on the job, noted in her resignation letter. "I have reached this decision because I am unable to carry out my job effectively, despite my intense efforts to do so," wrote Leff in her open letter to then-Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates.

"If you read Leff's resignation letter, it's obvious that she resigned due to frustration that petitions she was giving favorable recommendations for were never making it to the White House," noted Povah. "Plus, the Department of Justice severed her ability to communicate with the White House, which is a complete departure from protocol. What is DOJ afraid of?"

On January 6, 2017, Michelle West was one of 1,161 hopefuls who were denied commutation. That morning, she was called into the office of her prison counselor and handed a form letter from the Office of the Pardon Attorney. "The application of Michelle West for commutation of sentence was carefully considered in this Department and the White House, and the decision was reached that favorable action is not warranted," the letter stated.

Reasons for the decision are confidential and not subject to freedom of information requests, so the Wests most likely will never know why Michelle's petition was denied. They only know that there is no appealing the decision and that West must wait a full year before submitting another application.

Even if she does submit another application, West most likely faces an even harder battle under the new administration. During his campaign, Trump slammed Obama's clemency initiative, calling recipients "bad dudes." Attorney General Jeff Sessions has similarly denounced the initiative, stating that "low-level, non-violent offenders ... do not exist in the federal system" and calling it a "dangerous game to advance [Obama's] political ideology."

Under the current clemency process, the Deputy Attorney General, who is appointed by the president, makes the final determination on any application that is sent to the White House.

"My Father Met All the Criteria"

William Underwood never received a letter informing him that his clemency application had been denied. Instead, his daughter Ebony received a call from her father's attorney informing her that her father's name was among the 600 denials issued on November 29, five days after Thanksgiving. But Underwood, now in his 29th year of a life sentence for conducting or participating in a racketeering enterprise (RICO), drug conspiracy and a continuing criminal enterprise, has yet to receive his form letter.

In 1988, 33-year-old Underwood was a prominent music manager and promoter, working with musicians like Keith Sweat, Johnny Gill, MC Hammer, Ray Charles and Michael Jackson. He had four children, two of whom -- Ebony and Anthony -- were in high school; the others were 12 and five years old. He raised his children around music. Both Ebony and Anthony remember hanging out in the offices of MCA Records with musicians who later became superstars, and going to concerts.

"I remember playing ping pong and pool with Madonna before she blew up," recalled Anthony. When the Jacksons played the Meadowlands during their 1984 Victory Tour, their father not only procured tickets but also rented two passenger vans to bring family and friends to the show.

Three days before William Underwood's 34th birthday, federal agents arrested him. Anthony, who had turned 18 the previous day, was shocked when he came home from school and found police and federal authorities in their home.

"They had already searched the house," he told Truthout. "They really destroyed our house." The agents had ripped the shelves and the walls and punched holes in the closets. But no one told him why the authorities had ransacked the house or taken his father away. It was not until he saw the papers the next morning that he learned that his father had, as a teen dad in 1970s Harlem, been involved in selling drugs.

By 1988, Underwood's drug-dealing days were long over, a fact that the FBI noted two years earlier when it closed its investigation on him "due to lack of activity." But others, facing lengthy prison sentences for drugs, named Underwood as part of a drug conspiracy, a practice known in New York City as "testalying." Under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, prosecutors need not prove that someone ever trafficked, sold or even possessed drugs to convict a person for conspiracy; they simply need testimony stating that the person did so.

William Underwood took his case to trial. He lost and, in 1990, was sentenced to a concurrent 20 years plus a life sentence. He has since completed the 20-year sentence, but the life sentence looms over him and his family. His appeals have been denied and, despite recent changes in drug sentencing laws, none apply retroactively to his case.

During his 29 years behind bars, Underwood's children have grown up and started families of their own. He has been incarcerated in at least eight different federal prisons across the country, making visits difficult and expensive. Nevertheless, he, his children and his three grandchildren have managed to maintain a strong bond.

"It's all him," reflected Ebony. She says that her father calls consistently, sends emails via the prison's e-messaging system, and never forgets to send birthday and holiday cards. When his children walked across the stage to Pomp and Circumstance to get their diplomas, he sent them graduation cards. When they began having children of their own, he sent Mother's Day and Father's Day cards. It's something that he's kept up for the past 29 years, a feat that most people on the outside can't keep up. "I don't always send a birthday card," admits Ebony. "I don't always send a holiday card. But he always sends a card."

When Obama announced his clemency initiative, the family began to hope that their father would finally be able to come home. Underwood, then 61, had already served 27 years in prison under a sentence that would have been much more lenient had he gone to trial today.

For the Underwood children, the clemency initiative pushed them to begin speaking out about their father's case, breaking a decades-long silence and uncovering pain that had long been buried.

"As a child of incarcerated parents, you create a wall of resilience just to operate," explained Ebony. "In speaking out, I realized how much pain I had buried. I had no idea I had all this stuff festering inside."

Despite the pain, she and Anthony jumped into advocating for their father's release. They started a Change.org petition, garnering nearly 72,000 signatures. Ebony, a filmmaker, created the documentary and campaign #HopeforFathersDay to show the effects of harsh sentencing on children of incarcerated parents, her (and her siblings') efforts to sustain a relationship with their father, and their advocacy to free him. Anthony attended the Justice Roundtable in Washington, DC. He also started Celebrities for Justice, calling upon over 100 musicians and entertainers who had worked with his father to support efforts to bring home his father and others sentenced under draconian drug laws. Both traveled to Washington, DC, to draw awareness to their father's imprisonment and his bid for clemency. In March 2016 they were invited to the White House for an event entitled Life After Clemency about the challenges facing clemency recipients as they try to rebuild their lives. They even got the support of Sen. Cory Booker, who met Underwood during his August 2016 visit to the federal prison in Fairton, New Jersey.

When they learned about their father's denial, both siblings were shocked. "My father met all the criteria," noted Ebony. "We had so much support from so many different people. We went to the White House several times. And then, to not be heard? It's really heartbreaking."

After 40 Years in Prison, Leonard Peltier Still Denied Clemency

Shortly before leaving office, Obama commuted the sentences of political prisoners Oscar Lopez Rivera and Chelsea Manning. But the following day, he denied clemency to Leonard Peltier, a member of the American Indian Movement (AIM) sentenced to two consecutive life sentences for allegedly shooting FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975 -- charges that he has always denied. Now 72, Peltier has suffered from heart problems, a stroke that has left him partially blind in one eye, and diabetes. Even his prosecuting attorney, James Reynold, urged Obama to commute Peltier's sentence.

But opposition to clemency for the aging AIM activist, whose trial and conviction have been fraught with controversy, has been fierce. When Peltier applied for clemency during Clinton's presidency, nearly 500 FBI agents and their families protested outside the White House. Clinton, who granted clemency to political prisoner Susan Rosenberg and 16 members of the FALN (Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional or Armed Forces of National Liberation, a Puerto Rican independence group), took no action on Peltier's application.

Peter Clark, the former codirector of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, visited Peltier at the federal prison in Coleman, Florida, days after the denial. "He was understandably upset and disappointed in President Obama," he told Truthout. "We don't know why Obama denied him clemency this time, but we know there was FBI pressure."

Unlike William Underwood and Michelle West, who were convicted in 1990 and 1993, Leonard Peltier has a shot at parole. In the federal prison system, parole was abolished in the late 1980s. However, the parole ban was not retroactive, so people convicted before November 1, 1987, can still apply for parole. Peltier, who was convicted in 1977, had his first full parole hearing in 2009; he was denied. His next full parole hearing will not be until 2024, but the Parole Commission is legally required to conduct interim hearings every 18 to 24 months. At these hearings, the Commission considers any factors that may warrant modifying the person's release date.

While they're not ruling out future clemency applications or compassionate release, given Peltier's age and declining health, neither Clark nor Paulette D'Auteuil, one of the Defense Committee's new directors, is overly hopeful about those options. Given Trump's executive order to prevent violence against law enforcement and establish new mandatory minimum sentences for existing crimes of violence against law enforcement, clemency seems even less attainable over the next four years. "We're looking into new legal strategies and a broader international perspective," D'Auteuil told Truthout.

"It's Not Going to Crush Us. We're Going Around It."

Despite the denials, no one is giving up hope. Ebony said her father's denial "is another boulder. It's not going to crush us. We're going around it." Her siblings and she are not giving up on their father's freedom. They are heartened by the support of people from the music industry, even after her father's 29-year absence. "I was floored that so many people remembered," she said. Understanding that the pain of her father's imprisonment is currently shared by 2.7 million children, Ebony is also creating We Got Us Now, a digital hub with resources for children of incarcerated parents. It's a resource that she and her siblings never had while growing up and one that she hopes will lead to greater change in policies around incarcerated parents.

Miquelle West also remains resolute in seeking her mother's release. "I'm going to continue advocating," she told Truthout. "I'm not going to change anything." She and Ebony are both members of the National

Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, and often speak at public events about their parents' incarceration and their fight for freedom.

Miquelle noted that, under Obama, over 1,700 people were granted clemency and were able to return home early. "That's a lot," she reflected. "We do know it's possible. We have to continue to keep our faith, to keep our strength. If we lose hope, then we're losing out."

19 Feb - Show support for Cleveland 4 as snitch in case released from prison

Before it was the Cleveland 4, it was the Cleveland 5 -- but the fifth defendant, Anthony Hayne, cooperated with the government against the others in order to get a reduced sentence and so was dropped from receiving community support.

MORE:

Hayne has now been released from prison into a halfway house.

While people should know to be cautious of Hayne and remember that it is never safe to let him back into our communities, the real focus should be on Brandon, Connor, Doug, and Josh -- and the continued support they deserve.

As Hayne walked out of prison, the Cleveland 4 still have years left: Brandon has 3 years 9 months, Connor has 2 years 4 months, Doug has 5 years 3 months, and Josh has 4 years 7 months. These years that they still have left are because they chose to not cooperate with the government -- they instead chose to stay on the side of their friends, to not be pressured into turning their backs on their community. In return, they deserve community support.

Let Hayne's release from prison be a reminder that every day that Brandon, Connor, Doug, and Josh have left in prison should be a day that they feel our support. They're still in there because of their dedication to solidarity with others; we have a responsibility to show solidarity with them.

Please continue to support the Cleveland 4: write to them, send them books from their wish lists, and make donations to their commissary fund. Thank you.

20 Feb - UPDATE: Ongoing Medical Campaign for PP Robert Seth Hayes

NYC Jericho visited Seth on Sunday, February 12 and had an excellent visit despite the current dire circumstances.

MORE:

The giant lump on Seth's head has subsided. The gash above his right eyebrow is butterflyed with two or three butterflies. Seth reports that he awoke in the shower in a pool of blood and does not really remember passing out. He was taken to the nearest outside hospital with a possible fractured skull, which was ruled out. Seth did suffer a severe concussion and is still having headaches as a result of this. He was kept in the so-called infirmary at Sullivan for two days for observation. Seth reports that being in the infirmary is like being in SHU, all by himself with two COs constantly present and no witnesses except the nurses, who do everything the COs tell them to.

Seth is also concerned because the medical personnel at Sullivan have told him that, even if he gets the insulin pump, he will still need to be monitored three times a day. This is leading Seth to believe that he will be getting an insulin pump without a monitor, which is not what the endocrinologist at Coxsackie told him back in October. Seth absolutely wants the pump with the monitor, as he can no longer tell when his sugars are high or low. He feels that having an insulin pump without the monitor may actually worsen his

current situation. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEMAND THE INSULIN PUMP/MONITOR AS A LIFE-SAVING MEASURE FOR SETH.

21 Feb - Eric King Disciplinary Hearing Update

Eric finally had his long awaited disciplinary hearing on February 10th after his abrupt transfer from FCI Englewood to the S.H.U. (Secure Housing Unit) of FCI Florence on January 6th.

MORE:

As explained in previous blog posts, this is all for expressions of his political and personal beliefs including some doodles found on a piece of paper in his cell at FCI Englewood. As a result of the February 10th hearing, Eric received four sanctions: loss of phone, loss of visits, loss of commissary for 60 days, and loss of 27 days of “good time”. Considering the main allegation was a cartoon these are pretty harsh restrictions. Eric has been bumped up from a low to a medium security level and is now awaiting transfer to an unknown facility which will likely be sending him further from his family.

As we well know, the practice of unfairly targeting political prisoners is nothing new. It is now abundantly clear that we have to prepare for what could be a long and arduous road ahead for Eric. We are thankful that he now has radical attorney working on his behalf however it is imperative that we continue to strengthen and broaden his support base.

If you haven't yet listened to a recent Which Side podcast episode <http://whichsidepodcast.com/rebecca-buck-eric-king-support> featuring one of us discussing Eric's current situation check it out here and pass it along to all of your friends and comrades!

In the meantime please send love via letter, card or owl post. Transfers can be super intense and scary especially without access to family and friends via phone. Feeling supported can mean the world.

21 Feb - Support Needed for Arrested Worcester Antifascists

February 19th, the day before President's day, was a day filled with police oppression and the silencing of civic engagement for community members in Worcester, Massachusetts.

MORE:

Worcester Antifascist Action, a local activist group, spent Monday hosting a public march and protest around the antifascist and anti-KKK work that they have been doing locally.

As members of Worcester Antifascist Action and others were walking on the sidewalk, a team of Worcester police in riot gear came up to tackle and arrest seven members of Worcester Antifascist Action. Here is a link to video of the start of arrests. The individuals who were arrested are now facing substantial legal fees and probable jail time – all for exercising their right to protest in the United States.

This is wrong. It is a travesty that young people who care about resisting racism and fascism cannot do so publicly without fear of government reprisal. It is a further travesty that peaceful public protest is being treated like a crime.

Worcester Antifascist Action has a history of working to fight fascism, undermine the local KKK, support immigrants rights, and support trans and queer rights. Please contribute whatever you can to this legal aid fund – these are brave and brilliant young people, but they are going to have a very difficult time covering their fees alone. We estimate that each of the seven members arrested will have at least \$500 in fines.

If you're the kind of person who might have bought a \$3 coffee every day this week, consider donating \$35 now instead. If \$50 is an amount you can give without losing sleep, think about donating that amount. If all you have is \$5, that will help too. Our liberation is bound together.

Donate at generosity.com/emergencies-fundraising/legal-fees-for-antifascist-protesters-arrested

22 Feb - An Update on Getting the Sabal Trail Pipe-Sitters Out of Jail

Early on the morning of February 21, Sabal Trail Resistance received word there were two people inside a stretch of pipeline along FL-200 near the Halpata Tustanaki preserve in Dunnellon.

MORE:

They refused to come out until the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Sabal Trail (and the whole Southeast Market Pipelines project) was revisited to fully include an assessment of impacts environmental justice communities and school children along the route and in the blast zone for accidents.

Their action spurred much news coverage and social media buzz, as well as inspiring a renewed pressure campaign on Senator Bill Nelson's office (where word has it the phone lines were tied up all day.)

Instead of meeting their reasonable demand for an adequate EIS, they met with threats of tear gas and K-9 dog attacks, and ultimately were dragged out from 250 feet deep into the pipe, where they were locked to each other and to a concrete box.

Thankfully, they are in good spirits, despite being banged up from the long drag.

But they are now facing multiple felony charges, including "grand theft" for slowing construction, and are being held on \$19,000 bond, total between the two.

We are fund raising to get them out, but if we can't provide collateral for the bond, we will need to raise the full amount (as opposed to the 10-percent.)

DONATE towards the bail fund to get STR pipe-sitters, Karrie and Niko, out of Marion County jail!
sabaltrailresistance.wordpress.com/donate

Or get in touch if you would consider offering the collateral on this bond.

24 Feb - Thanks for Your Support, From Maliki Shakur Latine

Family and Friends of Maliki Shakur Latine would like to give you a long overdue THANK YOU for all the support and love you've shown us on rally.org/maliki.

MORE:

We know there are many demands on your time, attention, and wallet in these troubling times and we thank you for thinking of Maliki Shakur Latine.

Maliki says he is doing well, moving on the path he wants to be on, and moving at the pace in which he wants to move. He says the funds have helped immensely, in terms of speeding things up. While he still has things to accomplish, he has already navigated around many of the bureaucratic hurdles placed before a human being leaving prison after 37 years.

If you have donated to Maliki's release fund, thank you. We ask now that you share this update on social media and/or by word-of-mouth, and ask some community members to donate as well.

Also, NYC, please SAVE THE DATE of March 25, 2017, 4-8pm, for Futures without Walls, a welcome home celebration for Maliki Shakur Latine. Details coming soon!

We also hope you'll show other people recently released and soon-to-be-released from prison the same solidarity. #GoBeyondGiving and help Zolo Agona Azania rebuild his life here. Contribute to the Chelsea Manning Welcome Home Fund here. Look out for opportunities to donate to Oscar López Rivera's release fund soon.

Of course please also don't forget the many people still behind the walls. Check out organizations such as NYC Anarchist Black Cross, the Anarchist Black Cross Federation, the Jericho Movement, the RAPP Campaign, and Parole Preparation Project of the National Lawyers Guild-NYC Chapter for more information!

25 Feb - Support Imprisoned Water Protectors

The Freshet Collective works in close partnership with the Water Protector Legal Collective, the Water Protector Anti-Repression Crew, and other allied groups and individuals to meet the many different legal needs of Water Protectors who have been involved in the struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock.

MORE:

We work to aid in jail support, bail support, criminal defense, and education efforts.

After nearly a year of putting their bodies on the line to fight the Dakota Access Pipeline and protect sacred land, there are still water protectors being held as prisoners for standing up for sacred water and land. It is essential that we continue to support them to remind them that they are loved.

Please follow their stories and donate to their legal funds or commissaries.

2-5 Mar - Beyond the Bars: Transcending the Punishment Paradigm

WHAT: Conference

WHEN: March 2-5, full schedule at centerforjustice.columbia.edu/event/beyond-bars-7th-annual-justice-conference

WHERE: Columbia University, see above link for all locations

COST: FREE

MORE:

The Beyond the Bars Conference, now going into its 7th year, is an annual event that brings together a trans-disciplinary group to advance the work of ending mass incarceration and mass criminalization and building a just and safe society. Each year scholars, students, activists, advocates, policy makers, government officials and those who have been most directly impacted by issues of incarceration and criminalization come together for three days to deepen our collective analysis, strengthen our network of those working for change and make visible the many ways those from the academy and the community can engage in action.

This year's conference, Transcending the Punishment Paradigm, will address the criminal justice system's responses to violence focusing on the following four questions:

What are the root causes of violence within communities? What are the root causes of state violence? How do the two intersect?

What is needed to makes communities safe?

What are the existing narratives about people who have committed violent acts? How do we change those narratives?

When violence happens in the community, what are responses that decrease mass criminalization and incarceration and do not rely on the punishment paradigm?

4 Mar - BLACK RESISTANCE MATTERS: No Surrender, No Retreat

WHAT: MXCC Annual Dinner Tribute to the Families of PP/POWs

WHEN: 3:00-7:00pm Saturday, March 4, 2017

WHERE: Harlem State Office Building - 163 West 125th Street, 3rd floor

COST: \$40

MORE:

It has been quite a challenge, but we are pleased to bring news that the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee's Annual Dinner Tribute to the Families of our PP/POWs, a tradition started twenty-one years ago by Iyalua Ferguson, wife, comrade and life partner of our late co-founder and Chairman Emeritus, Herman Ferguson, returns to the Village of Harlem.

Though the date and place have changed, the purpose and tradition remain the same.

All proceeds go to the commissary accounts of the PP/POWs represented at the Dinner.

This 21st ANNUAL DINNER TRIBUTE to the FAMILIES of our PP/POWs is co-sponsored by the National Alumni Association of the Black Panther Party (NAABPP) with the theme of "BLACK RESISTANCE MATTERS: No Surrender, No Retreat." This year we pay tribute not only to our captured Freedom Fighters and their Families, but to a few of our Movement attorneys—Soffiyah Elijah, Joan Gibbs, Florence Morgan, Robert "Bob" Boyle, Michael Tarif Warren, Nkechi Taifa, Susan "Tip" Tipograph, Lynne Stewart and Eve Rosahn—for their commitment, solidarity, support and representation of our PP/POWs and their families across decades and generations of struggle against a criminally unjust legal and prison system. We also pay tribute to Movement doctors Barbara Zeller and Alan Berkman (posthumously) for their life-saving medical contributions to our living and Ancestral Freedom Fighters, as well as make honorable mention of attorneys Moira Meltzer-Cohen and Roger Wareham.

This Tribute is our way of expressing publicly our deep appreciation and value of these individuals for their refusal to surrender or retreat in the filing of briefs/Article 78s, making/accepting phone calls, visiting, and assisting our PP/POWs and their Families in unsung and innumerable times of trouble.

In closing, we recognize that for two decades, it has been freedom-loving folk like you who have helped carry this Dinner Tribute forward. We count on your continued commitment and support as we work to carry our captured Freedom Fighters and their families forward.

6 Mar - No Separate Justice! Vigil

WHAT: Vigil

WHERE: Metropolitan Correction Center - Pearl Street, between Cardinal Hayes Place and Park Row
WHEN: 6:00-7:00pm, Monday March 6
COST: FREE

MORE:

All are welcome. We have plenty of signs to share.

Recently the steering committee of No Separate Justice met to discuss our plans for the year ahead in light of the many challenges facing all of us in 2017. In an attempt to think especially about additional public education events we would like to work on this year, we made a decision to slightly alter our vigil schedule for 2017. As a result, instead of holding our vigils— to shed light on and end a pattern of human rights and civil liberties abuses in “War on Terror” cases in the U.S. criminal justice system— on the first Monday of every month, we will instead be holding vigils four times throughout the year.

7 Mar - Jail & Court Support Training

WHAT: Jail and Court Support Training
WHEN: 7:00-9:00pm Tuesday March 7
WHERE: The Base – 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221
COST: FREE

MORE:

On January 20, we saw a number of our comrades rounded up and unexpectedly charged with felony riot on the streets of Washington DC during protests of Donald Trump's inauguration. Because they are our friends and comrades and we supported the protests, we formed a legal support group to help those from New York City who were arrested, and to help comrades facing legal troubles in the future with an expectation that authorities will be treating demos more harshly than in recent memory.

We'll need help with this! And perhaps you are wondering what you can do immediately if you are at a protest and one of your friends is arrested. Or maybe you see someone arrested at a protest and you might be the only friendly person nearby, and they shouted out their name to you. Where are they taken? When will they be released? Who might need to know that they have been arrested? Should you call a lawyer for them? Should you call the NLG? What do they need? Should you wait for them to get out or go to the courthouse in the morning? Come to our workshop to find out how you can get information and be supportive. Bring your friends so they can learn how to be helpful should you be arrested at a protest. This will likely be the first of several workshops. We'll have written materials available as well for those who cannot make it or for you to take home.

10 Mar - We Freed Oscar López Rivera

WHAT: Celebration!
WHEN: 6:30-9:30pm, Friday, March 10
WHERE: Casabe Housing - 150 East 121st Street, Lbby 1, New York, New York 10035
COST: \$10, suggested donation

MORE:

We, the people, FREED Oscar Lopez Rivera!

For 35 years, the Puerto Rican community and OUR ALLIES organized, educated, mobilized, and agitated until our brother Oscar Lopez Rivera's sentence was commuted.

Currently, Oscar is in Puerto Rico under federal custody. He will finish his sentence under house arrest with his daughter. His official release date is May 17th!

Join The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign as we celebrate Oscar's upcoming release with a tribute and fundraiser. 100% of the proceeds of this event will go to Oscar to help him transition into civilian life.

We will have refreshments, poetry, fun, music, and a lot of JOY AND CELEBRATION!

Invited Poets/Performers:

Bonafide, Papoleto, Rafael Landron, Zero Prophet aka Not4Prophet, and Noel Quinones.