



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for April 25th

10 Apr - Update from PP Robert Seth Hayes

NYC Jericho received a phone call from Seth on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. He called to inform them that DOCCS is finally beginning to train him and Sullivan medical staff in the use of the insulin pump/monitor.

MORE:

He would have begun training today, but the individual had only brought the pump, not the monitor, so training has been delayed until later this week or early next week, when the entire apparatus will be present.

Seth wants to thank everyone who made phone calls, faxed and wrote on his behalf. He says this shows the power of the people!

Thank You for Your Time & Effort. It has and continues to make a difference!

To contribute to ongoing efforts supporting Robert Seth Hayes, please donate online at:
<https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/810a58>

April 20th - Hallmark Doesn't Make The Birthday Card That I Need

by Crystal M. Hayes (*Huffington Post*)

I turn 47 years old in a short couple of weeks and Hallmark doesn't make the birthday card that I need.

I will likely celebrate my birthday the same way I have for most of my life, particularly in recent years.

I will wake up — God willing.

I will walk my dog — or maybe we'll go for a run.

I will talk to my daughter.

I will read birthday cards.

Among those cards there will undoubtedly be one from my father. Every year for the past 40 plus years like clock-work he remembers my day. He sends me a birthday card and he makes me a promise: he promises that next year, he'll be home to celebrate with me.

I was barely three years old when my father was sent to prison. My small feet were still learning to thump around the house as I was just beginning to run and explore our tiny Bronx New York City apartment. I was a daddy's girl from the very beginning and loved playing games with dad who made sure to keep me safe.

The police nearly killed my entire family that day and everyone else in the house. Unfortunately, that safety was quickly shattered in September 1973 when the police arrived and began shooting into our home blowing the peephole off the door. My father laid my tiny three-year-old body in the bathroom tub under a mattress away from the violence. My father was arrested that day, after a 15-minute gun battle with NYPD, along with his friends and former Black Panther Party members, Avon White and Melvin Kearny. The police nearly killed my entire family that day and everyone else in the house.

Every year around this time I think about my birthday not just as the day I was born, but also as the decade that marks two key moments that would come to shape the rest of my life: my father's arrest and the period that made mass incarceration possible—both happened the decade I was born.

Understanding my father's arrest and what drove him to be in conflict with police is hard to understand without first understanding the very volatile political and economic climate of the 1960s and 1970s. This context pushed urban communities into rebellion, as black and brown people felt like they had no choice but to arm themselves against an extremely aggressive and punitive racist police system.

It is no secret that New York City Police Departments in the 1960s and 1970s spied on civil rights groups and other political organizations like the Black Panther Party. My father was involved in direct-mobilization against police brutality and other forms of aggressive policing that targeted low-income Black and Brown communities that we still see happening today.

A couple of years before the raid on our family and home, President Johnson's administration helped to militarize the police under his aggressive "war on crime" policies that brought a largely white, heavily-armed police force into Black and Brown urban communities while social service programs were being eliminated.

These policies and practices that came out of the Johnson administration led to an era of hyper-incarceration that's grown exponentially over the past 40 years. For example, in the 1970s and 80s, there were only roughly 300,000 people in US prisons and jails—still an extremely appalling figure.

Today there are more than 2.3 million people in US prisons and jails and an additional seven million under correctional supervision. When my father was arrested, 1 in 125 minor children had an incarcerated parent. Today, 1 in 28 or 2.7 million minor children in the United States have an incarcerated parent.

How we all got here is a complicated story that historian Elizabeth Hinton threads together in her brilliant 2016 book *From the War on Crime to the War on Poverty*. In other words, mass incarceration today is a mixture of bi-partisan efforts, racism, bad policies and broken promises, hard choices and tough decisions, neo-liberal politics, lost opportunities, and lack of imagination.

No matter how it happened, we're now living in a world that incarcerates more people than ever before – there are more than 10.35 million people in prison (and counting) across the globe. However, the United States leads the world in incarceration rates for both men and women.

In addition to my father and the growth of incarceration among men, particularly Black and Brown men, we also incarcerate more women than any other country. At the time of my father's arrest there were under 6,000 women in US prisons and jails. Today, there are more than 200,000 women in prison, with the fastest growth beginning around the late 1980s early 1990s.

When you include probation, parole and the entire carceral system, there are more than a million women ensnared by decades of harsh criminal justice policies. This distinguishes the US from the rest of world. The US holds the unique distinction of only having 5 percent of the world's women living in the US, but 30 percent of all women prisoners, Add to that almost 10,000 pregnant women are incarcerated annually and in one year, nearly 1,400 babies were born to women in US prison and jails.

The 1970s was supposed to be the best decade to be born a Black girl. It was right after the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts were passed. It was also the decade when abortion became a constitutionally-protected right. I could vote, I didn't have to live under the dehumanization of segregation, and I could control my

own fertility. It should have been the best time to be a Black girl, instead it was the decade my father was taken and the beginning of a new era of policies and politics that helped to heighten policing of Black and Brown communities and mass incarceration today.

If you were born Black and low-income after 1965 you were more likely than not to go to prison simply because of your identity and not actual participation in crime. In other words, we know that the over-representation of Black and Brown people in prison today isn't a function of Black crime rates, but a function of racial bias in law enforcement practices in Black neighborhoods and sentencing policies, particularly associated with the drug war.

For the past 47 years, I've watched my father become an elderly man in prison with chronic illnesses and diseases that have nearly killed him. I've spent every holiday and special occasion without him. Still, every year, on my birthday, my father tries to make me feel as normal as possible.

Every year, the phone rings and a pre-recorded voice tells me, "You have a collect call from ... [in his own voice] << Seth >> ... an inmate at a New York State Correctional Facility. To accept the charges dial three." Every year, I dial three, and our 30-minute birthday call begins.

He laughs and teases me about getting old, while he remains young and handsome. We talk about my birthday plans and I mostly pretend to be happy that I am enjoying my birthday as if there's never been a prison separating us.

I know it makes him happy to think I am happy, but in recent years it's been more and more difficult to pretend like this is okay. I don't always have the strength to pretend like I am happy or to even tell him the truth: that my birthday serves one purpose – I use it to track how long he's been in prison.

I don't exactly know when or why I started this habit, but every year, I use my birthday as some sort of benchmark or milestone to mark how many years it's been. Still, every year is the same. We talk for the entire 30 minutes.

I let him mostly speak about himself, his case, parole and his health issues. He tells me how he can't wait to bake me a cake with my favorite sprinkles and just as I start to get overwhelmed by my rage and tears, that pre-recorded message invades our call to tell us we have 60 seconds left to the call.

We begin to speed up our conversation to try and fit in whatever last minute thing we have to say and it never works. The final warning chimes in: you have 30 seconds remaining. We begin to say our goodbyes, and before we can hang up we're disconnected. Our time runs out just as the air is beginning to run out of my lungs. We didn't really get to say goodbye. The call is over, and my birthday is over.

See what I mean?

Where's the birthday card for someone whose entire life has been completely distorted and shaped by the largest law enforcement system in the world and the one that was specifically designed to target Black and Brown people?

Where's the birthday card for someone who can't share a private birthday moment with her father, but instead is limited to a 30-minute state-monitored call through the prison system?

Where's the birthday card for someone who has spent countless hours of her life since childhood riding overnight on a bus to a prison in upstate New York only to spend the first half of a six-hour visit inconsolable as the trauma from childhood is revisited during every prison visit?

Where's the birthday card for all the times you had your body-searched and invaded by prison guards and forced to remove your bra so that it can be searched before you can enter the prison visiting room to see your father?

Where's the birthday card for someone who can't visit with her own father without being told where to sit and how close you can sit next to him?

Where's the birthday card for someone who has never ever sat at an actual dinner table with her father, only a tiny prison table, in a cold visiting room, eating stale junk food from a prison vending machine?

Where's that birthday card?

Prison is dehumanizing in so many ways for those living it, but it warps all of our lives. It distorts and warps entire communities, and it's perverted our nation and entire justice system when we incarcerate more of our people than South Africa did at the height of Apartheid. Former US Attorney General Eric Holder said that "We need to ensure that incarceration is used to punish, deter and rehabilitate - not merely to convict, warehouse and forget. Although incarceration has a role to play in our justice system, widespread incarceration at the federal, state and local levels is both ineffective and unsustainable. ... It imposes a significant economic burden — totaling \$80 billion in 2010 alone — and it comes with human and moral costs that are impossible to calculate."

Holder is partially correct. The stolen lives and stolen birthdays of the 2.7 million children with an incarcerated parent can never be truly calculated. However, I disagree that incarceration should play a role in our culture. I think with a little creative imagination and bold political leadership we can come up with a much more humane and just system that doesn't rely on simply "warehousing" people. Unfortunately, we aren't there yet.

As I approach my 47th birthday in a couple weeks, I do so deeply concerned about my own families future and the future of our country. I am deeply troubled and concerned because our new US Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, dismissed reports about police abuse without even reading them and he's recently signaled his intention to bring back the failed war on drugs despite bipartisan agreement to end it and mountains of evidence that it's an inherently racist policy used to target and incarcerate low-income Black communities. Add to that we recently confirmed Neil Gorsuch to the US Supreme Court even though he has a deeply troubling record on police abuse. Gorsuch once ruled in favor of police in a police brutality case involving a nine-year-old boy.

There is real reason for concern when we are backing away from the very reforms needed to address the immoral and costly problem of mass incarceration. I can't help but wonder how much longer I will have to wait before I get to blow out the candles on my birthday cake with my father? How long should freedom take when you've already waited nearly 45 years?

If there's a birthday card coming in the mail this year, I hope it's filled with freedom too. We can get free together.

Freedom is worth it.

10 Apr - Two plead guilty to assaulting police during anti-Trump protest in Pittsburgh

First a corporate news article, then practical ways to help Shea and Maxx, recently sentenced to three and twelve months, respectively.

MORE:

by Paula Reed Ward (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*)

Two men arrested for attacking police officers as part of an anti-Trump protest last year in Pittsburgh pleaded guilty Monday to simple assault and resisting arrest.

Kennon Hooper, 32, of West Oakland, and Maxwell Yearick, 30, of Perry South, were ordered to serve three to 12 months in jail, one year of probation and perform 100 hours of community service by Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Anthony M. Mariani.

Pittsburgh police officers were working what they call the "skirmish line" between protesters at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Downtown, on April 13 while then-candidate Donald Trump was in town for a rally. The officers were keeping supporters and protesters separate when a protester deployed a type of pepper or chemical spray.

Officers attempting to stop interaction between the groups were thrust into a physical confrontation. Detective Sourouth Chatterji was kicked in the back of his knees and in the hand by Mr. Hooper, according to a criminal complaint.

Then, the complaint continued, Mr. Yearick grabbed at a sergeant's protective vest, and when another officer, Detective Michele Auge, tried to arrest him, he resisted, and they fell to the ground. Detective Auge tore her bicep, according to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. She needed surgery and was out of work for six months.

In exchange for the plea agreements, charges of aggravated assault were withdrawn.

April 16th - Pittsburgh, PA: Solidarity Needed on Multiple Fronts for Arrestees

On April 13th 2016, Shea and Maxx were arrested for protesting then-candidate Trump outside a campaign rally at the David L Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Both were charged with felony aggravated assault, felony riot, and resisting arrest. Last week they were sentenced to 3 to 12 months in Allegheny County Jail, in addition to a year of probation, community service, and prosecution costs.

Maxx and Shea need your help! Prisoners at ACJ must pay out of pocket for decent food and other basic needs that people on the outside take for granted. In addition to this commissary money funds will be needed to cover prosecution costs and probation fees.

Please donate if you can! Even small amounts are much appreciated. We are also requesting folks to spread the word on social media, and in real life as well. Tell all your friends! <http://fnd.us/81EHQ4>

Noise Demo Arrests

On March 18th, prisoners at Allegheny County Jail in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania began a 24 hour sit-in. Eighty prisoners took part in the action to demand more case workers, better medical services, and a legitimate grievance procedure, among other things. On the evening of March 20th, a noise demo was held in support of the striking prisoners. While the demo was successful in entertaining and encouraging those confined within, the cops turned up at the end and arrested eleven comrades. Our friends are being charged with multiple felonies each and are facing exorbitant legal fees. Please donate to this fund to help out with

the high costs that follow arrest. Solidarity is everything and with help from everyone, we can continue to keep fighting! <https://www.fundedjustice.com/71Dss1>

Preliminary hearings for the 11 have been continued until April 28 at 8AM at the Pittsburgh Municipal Courthouse. Supporters are urged to show up, but please dress appropriately and follow the courthouse rules. Currently all the defendants have lawyers retained through the prelims, but more funds will be needed for those whose cases go further.

12 Apr - ABOLISH ALL PRISONS: KROW TAKEN INTO CUSTODY TODAY

Krow was taken into the custody of Morton County at 5pm, April 12, to await Wisconsin's extradition attempt.

MORE:

Send love, & rad vibes & please, also remember to support other homies who are incarcerated too! Thanks! May her exonerated bond, returned to Freshet collective, be used to bond out any and all folks caught in the crossfire of police state repression out of Burleigh & Morton County jails! No prisons means no prisoners! Community solidarity & resistance building!:) Make the most of your freedom & kickass & fight fascism for all creatures!

12 Apr - How the Government Is Turning Protesters Into Felons

Lost between the tumult of Inauguration Day and the spectacle of the Women's March was the arrest of 214 protesters—now facing felony charges and 10 years in prison.

MORE:

by Natasha Lennard (*Esquire*)

"It's crazy, a few windows got smashed," 23-year-old Olivia Alsip said, two months after her arrest on felony riot charges. "Why are 214 people looking at ten years in prison?"

Alsip only knew one other person at the protest march that day. The political science graduate student from the University of Chicago had met her partner in November, when the two had joined the camps at Standing Rock opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline. When they heard about calls to protest Donald J. Trump's inauguration in D.C. on January 20th under the banner "Disrupt J20," they felt they had to be there. "I identify as an anarchist, and I've been an activist for women's and queer rights since the 8th grade," Alsip told me over the phone from Chicago.

Alsip is among 214 defendants facing felony riot charges, up to a decade in prison and a \$25,000 fine for their participation in the anti-capitalist, anti-fascist march, which ended with a mass arrest on the morning of Inauguration Day. As far as the student understands, the evidence against her amounts to little more than proof of her presence at the unruly protest, as indicated by her arrest. Like the vast majority of her co-defendants, Alsip didn't break or throw anything. Now she lives in shock over the steep price she and her fellow protesters might pay as the new administration and police forces set the tone for how they will deal with the spike in organized dissent.

Anarchists and anti-fascist activists across the country have responded to Trump's ascendancy, and particularly the attendant emboldening of white supremacists, with confrontational protest. Rivers of digital ink were spilled approving and denouncing the meme-friendly punch delivered to neo-Nazi Richard Spencer, as well as the militant demonstrations that prevented far right troll Milo Yiannopoulos from waxing hateful at UC Berkeley. But while scattered vandalism and punching (a neo-Nazi) were deemed

headline-grabbing militancy, the media relegated the most extreme incidents involving anarchists and antifascists—namely, recent treatment of them—to footnotes.

A *New York Times* article published two weeks after the inauguration about anarchist protests accorded just half a sentence to the fact that a Yiannopolous supporter in Seattle shot and seriously injured an anti-fascist activist, and has yet to face charges. Fifteen paragraphs down, a mere mention was given to the mass arrest of the 200-plus anti-fascist protesters on Inauguration Day. The fact that these arrestees now face felony riot charges went unmentioned by the Times—blanket charges, which carry a heft unheard of in the last decades of protest history.

"In my over thirty years of practicing law, I've never seen anything like this," said veteran D.C. attorney Mark Goldstone, of the charges. Goldstone, who has defended dozens of activist cases and is representing six of the J20 defendants, called the charges "unprecedented territory."

Dragnet arrests at protests are nothing new—recall the arrest of over 700 Occupy protesters on the Brooklyn Bridge. Nor is the leveling of serious criminal charges to demonstrators accused of property damage. With a legal logic seemingly opposite to that in the J20 cases, just one man was blamed for the \$50,000 of property damage wrought during the 2009 Pittsburgh G20 Summit; he was convicted of felony criminal mischief and three misdemeanors. But the charge of felony riot is in itself rare, let alone when applied to over 200 people.

The charges all stem from the single mass arrest of protesters who had taken part in the Disrupt J20 march. It was a typical black bloc march, in which protesters mask their faces and wear all black. More than 500 participants gathered some two miles north of the inaugural parade route and surged southward, marching, chanting, and crowding the streets as an aesthetically united force. Whether illegal activity occurred in the context of the march is not in question. By the time D.C. Metropolitan police moved in with pepper spray and flash-bang grenades, a number of march participants were smashing windows—of banks, of chain restaurants, of a limo. Some pulled trash cans into the street, some set off handheld fireworks, and one cop was hit by a rock. Police filings claim that protesters damaged more than \$100,000 worth of property that day (a figure that includes destruction caused after the mass arrest).

But no one—neither the police nor the government—suggests that that most or even many of the arrestees directly engaged in property destruction or violence. Nonetheless, the police department and the government maintain that not only was a dragnet arrest appropriate, but that the police had probable cause to believe that each and every of the more than 200 arrestees had "willfully incited or urged others to engage in the riot." On this point, the law is precise: Even in the case of an alleged riot, the police must have probable cause to arrest each and every individual.

"All the police officers were outstanding in the judgment that we used," Metropolitan Police Department interim chief Peter Newsham said the day after the inauguration, "I couldn't be more proud of the way this department responded." Mayor Muriel Bowser tweeted her support for "our officers as they handled crowds." But it is precisely police judgement that problematizes these riot charges.

The original arrestees included a handful of professional journalists, medics and legal observers, most of whom have since had their charges dropped. Of the remaining 214 arrestees, a handful of individuals also face property damage charges, having been allegedly identified smashing windows. One man, Alsip's partner, has been charged with felony assault on a police officer for allegedly throwing the rock that struck a cop; he was identified by his shoes.

As the pretrial court proceedings enter into the discovery phase, the prosecution's position is becoming clear: The evidence so far against numerous defendants amounts to no more than video footage of their continued presence in the march and their choice of black bloc attire. If the mass arrest was imprecise enough to sweep up journalists and legal observers, how can it be maintained that the police had probable cause to arrest every single other protester for rioting and inciting? If continued presence, proximity and black garb is sufficient for the necessary legal standard of individuated probable cause for arrest and prosecution under these charges, the D.C. police and the government have, from day one of Trump's presidency, lowered the standard for what it takes to turn a protester into a felon.

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, the executive director of the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, a legal organization that has long fought civil and human rights cases, expressed concern about police making dragnet mass arrests without particularized probable cause. She said that arrests "simply based on proximity or shared political views at a march" set a troubling precedent for all protests, not just anarchist marches. She explained that "it means at any demonstration," if a participant or a provocateur commits an illegal act, then "the entire demonstration can be subject to indiscriminate force and large groups of people can be suddenly arrested without notice or opportunity to disperse, and face life-altering charges."

Mass arrests, let alone with felony charges, have been rare in D.C. since 2002, when the then-assistant police chief Peter Newsham (the current interim police chief) ordered the arrest of roughly 400 people during an anti-World Bank/IMF demonstration in Pershing Park. The dragnet arrest included both peaceful protesters and bystanders walking to work, and led to years of litigation and an \$8.25 million settlement on the part of the Justice Department and Department of the Interior. It also led to the establishment of policies and statutes governing protest policing and defending First Amendment activity in the capital. "From the first day of the Trump administration, Newsham and the police department have really stepped back in time," said Verheyden-Hilliard.

I had joined the march at its genesis at Logan's Circle, as participants tightened black bandanas around their faces and gathered in formation behind block-wide banners. I heard glass crack around us as we snaked through the city's wide boulevards, and some protesters peeled from formation to take a rock or a stick to a window. Chants common to contemporary U.S. protest boomed louder than any breaking glass: "No Trump, No KKK, No Fascist USA!" At no point did the police move in to grab individuals as they destroyed property, but after minutes that felt longer than they lasted, cops charged the group en masse.

After one group of protesters had broken through a police line on the intersection on L and 12th Street, cops penned in the remaining crowd of 230 and held them there for more than four hours before taking them into holding. In the chaos of charging police, wafting pepper spray, and scrambling protesters I had detached from the crowd just half a block before the cops closed in.

"When the police kettled us [corralled them into a net], they pushed us all into one big writhing mass with not enough room to stand," Alsip recalled. "When they stepped back, people were screaming and crying because they had just been maced or hit."

The government claims that First Amendment protections don't apply in the J20 cases because property damage began "from the jump" (i.e. immediately). The indictment states that protesters "did not exercise multiple opportunities to leave the Black Bloc," and cheered and chanted "fuck it up", "fuck capitalism" and "whose streets?" (Slogans that have peppered most every protest I've attended, from Occupy to environmental marches to Black Lives Matter.)

According to Verheyden-Hilliard, such a claim goes against 50 years of cases in which property damage or violence occurs during First Amendment activity. "The glue that holds this group together is First

Amendment activity," she said. "The line that violence began 'from the jump' distracts from the fact that the police acted unlawfully, as we can see from the fact that the government is trying to extricate particularized probable cause after the fact."

At a pretrial status hearing I attended in March at the high modernist D.C. Superior Court building, assistant United States attorney Jennifer Kerkhoff told the court that the government had collected more than 600 hours of video footage and data pulled from more than 100 cell phones taken from the arrestees. She said that each defendant would be shown individuated evidence of their participation in the riot and its incitement. But on a late-March conference call with 15 other lawyers representing J20 clients, Goldstone learned that for a number of defendants this alleged evidence amounted to no more than, as he put it, "Here's your client at the beginning of the march, wearing black clothes and goggles, your client could have left but did not, and here is your client at the end, in the police kettle."

"The scary thing about it," said Goldstone, "is that defendants who want to test that theory have to be willing to face a jury, who could uphold the government's line." It's not hard to demonize a masked protester.

As such, while civil liberties groups and legal support groups stress police misconduct and prosecutorial overreach, the pressure for defendants to plead out is high. And if pleas are extracted from most defendants, the ability to bring civil litigation against the police department will be significantly diminished if not foreclosed. It's a predicament all too typical of the judicial process in this country, which threatens lengthy prison sentences to extract pleas out of court.

At the time of writing, just one defendant has taken a plea. Last week, an 18-year-old man pled guilty to one count of misdemeanor rioting or inciting to riot, a suspended 180-day sentence, one year of supervised probation, a \$500 fine, and 50 hours of community service. Because he is under 23, the defendant was charged under the Youth Act, which allows for a young person who "will derive benefit" to get special treatment under the law. This would not apply to most every other arrestee, most of whom were between 25 and 40. "The plea deal that was accepted by one defendant was both a bad deal and irrelevant to everyone else's cases," the Dead City Legal Posse, a D.C. volunteer legal support group set up to assist the J20 cases, wrote in a statement.

The support group does not offer legal advice, but commented on perhaps the most salient information to come from the plea. "After the plea deal was accepted, the prosecutor is required to say what the government 'would have been able to prove'," the collective noted. According to the group, the government was only able to show the following: That the defendant joined a black bloc with 200 other people; marched with the black bloc for 30 minutes; Had multiple opportunities to leave and did not; Wore black and goggles; and, in the words of the prosecutor, "knew or reasonably should have known that the black bloc was causing destruction," and "the actions of the black bloc caused and constituted a riot."

This, the statement notes, "is literally all they had on him." As the cases against more and more defendants appear to rest on the same scant evidence, it doesn't take a defender of black bloc tactics to see a dangerous legal precedent quietly crystallizing. A possible 10 years in prison would be an extreme punishment for breaking windows. But the J20 cases are not an occasion to debate the moral or tactical merits and flaws of political property damage. How could it be? Most J20 defendants broke nothing at all.

Of the dozens of New York activists I know who traveled to D.C. to join the J20 protests and the vast but placid Women's March the following day, three were arrested in the kettle. In the week that followed the J20 arrests, the names and personal information—including some addresses of arrestees—were made

public by far-right site GotNews.com, and the New Yorkers I spoke to claim to have received numerous online threats.

One 29-year-old Brooklyn-based protester told me that this sort of harassment highlights one impetus for deploying black bloc tactics in the first place—tactics that have grave implications for less seasoned dissenters. "Clearly, it was in the best interest of everyone present for the anti-fascist march on the day of my arrest to conceal their identities," he said, "because in the current climate in which we exist, the danger is very real."

But while the shock of felony charges, and the arduousness of a lengthy legal process weighs on the defendant, he told me that he has been surprised and heartened by the supportive attitude of some more mainstream anti-Trump protesters towards the black bloc.

He told me that following his release from jail on January 21st, he went with some friends to D.C. institution Ben's Chili Bowl. "We found quite a few pink pussy hat-wearing Women's March attendees inside," he said. He asked the women what they felt about the Richard Spencer punch and the J20 protests, expecting that they might repeat historic denunciations of "bad protesters." "To my surprise," he said the women said that they wished they could have punched Spencer themselves. "The women thanked me for being in DC that weekend and for everything that took place on the 20th."

Government action, like the mass J20 arrest, could make the tired "good protester/bad protester" narrative obsolete, if presence, proximity and chanting are sufficient to "bad protester" make. While radical leftists would banish the "bad protester" label to collapse the dichotomy, the state seems keen to erase the concept of "good" protest. In recent weeks, as the preliminary hearings J20 defendants began, Republican lawmakers in at least 18 states introduced legislation to increase the severity of charges for traditionally non-violent protest tactics, like blocking highways.

The government has already proven its willingness to set what Goldstone called "a monstrous trap" for protesters, by leveraging high risk trials against paper-thin cases. At this point, unsurety hangs over the remaining J20 cases. With 213 remaining defendants, and nearly as many separate lawyers defending them, it is unknown whether better pleas will be offered or taken, how many protesters will take their case to trial, and how many, if any, convictions will stick. The process may well bleed into 2018, with the threat of lengthy sentences weighing on the defendants every day as it goes on.

"It definitely hits in waves," Alsip told me. "I'm nervous. I try to think that even if I do go to prison, I would remain committed, and politically active. But," she paused, "I just can't believe that my thoughts have to go there. And that we're all facing this." Another pause. "A few broken windows."

12 Apr - Help get Marius out of Carswell

One reason Marius' supporters are excited to bring the 2017 Fight Toxic Prisons (FTP) convergence to North Texas is the launch of the Close Carswell Campaign.

MORE:

The campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons will be hosting its second annual national convergence this Summer! Last year's convergence gathered activists and revolutionaries from across the country to explore the intersections of the environmental movement and the struggle to end mass incarceration. We also took our voices to the streets of DC, together with former prisoners and banners declaring support for those yet to win their freedom, we blocked the entrance to the Bureau of Prisons as well as the major intersection between the FBI and the Department of Justice!

This year's convergence is taking place from June 2nd through 5th in the Denton/Ft. Worth region of North Texas. Registration is now open. It's free to register, we ask only for a sliding scale donation.

Those who focus attention on support for political prisoners may know of the infamous Carswell federal prison, located in Ft. Worth, Texas. The facility houses over 1,500 prisoners who allegedly have special health-related needs. Carswell is surrounded by toxic military Superfund sites from the Air Force base where it is co-located.

Carswell has housed many prominent voices from the inside, from current residents Marius Mason and Aafia Siddiqui to former political prisoners Lynne Stewart and Helen Woodson. The goal of the Close Carswell Campaign is to immediately shut down the overly-restrictive Administrative Unit, which BOP states only contains 24 beds, and call attention to the general conditions of the facility. For years, prisoners and their loved ones have been documenting abuses with little to no response from the Bureau of Prisons.

Join us June 2nd–5th to learn more about the Close Carswell Campaign and to take action directed at this toxic prison! [Click here for convergence registration.](#)

Environmentalists have long recognized Texas as the financial headquarters and political stronghold of the global oil and gas empire, and prison abolitionists know Texas as home to one of the most brutal and corrupt state prison systems in the country. It's hard to imagine a more appropriate setting to discuss the intersections of ecological resistance and mass incarceration. We look forward to seeing you in June as we continue to build our movement to Fight Toxic Prisons!

April 13th - Transgender Bathroom Bill Blues – new song

Goin down South for some grits and eggs
You better learn to cross your legs
Cause they don't want you in the W. C.
They got all kinds of problems with you and me
Seems like we never did nobody harm
But some of those haters done raised the alarm
Though all along we been here quietly
Got a bunch of new laws to prevent it bein' – publicly
(chorus)
So I gotta tell you true
All this gives me those transgender blues
Can't you see just the shape I'm in
Tryin' to get by and I just can't win
Let me tell you bout those Transgender Blues (2x)
Seems like at least once on the nightly news
There's a story about some kid who's just tryin to use
The same bathroom as all of his friends
And it's freakin out strangers, to no end
People comin undone, gettin red in the face
Causing a big stink all over the place
Worry so much about what other people do
Like to know what's it got to do with you
(bridge)
So please tell me, when there's so much to be scared about
Like war and Zika epidemics, global warming and economic shifts
That's enough to make you scream and shout

So tell me, since noone's ever done you harm....
Just what are you so very mad about?????
(chorus 2x and out)

April 24th - June 11th 2017 Callout: Communication is a Weapon

By now it is a platitude to speak of the isolation and silence that prisons strive to impose. Every week another one of our imprisoned friends tells us that their mail is getting fucked with, the phones on their unit are “broken,” or that our publications are being rejected with no recourse.

For us, one of the most exciting elements of June 11, 2016 was the proliferation of words and ideas shared between and from anarchist prisoners. Along with spreading material solidarity internationally and keeping the names of our comrades on our lips, our contribution to facilitating that communication is one of our most important tasks. While the starting point of our project was support for Marius Mason and Eric McDavid (the first of whom remains imprisoned in an extremely restrictive unit, while the latter has been freed!), it has been through a spreading web of communications that we have expanded the scope of our project to solidarity with long-term anarchist prisoners around the world. This year, we are seeking to emphasize this communication.

Maintaining communication is a lifeline for those caught in the snares of state repression or locked in its dungeons. Prisons function to isolate those held within these dungeons, to remove them from human community, and to break their will. Receiving letters and publications, being able to connect with individuals outside of the walls, and being able to call upon the solidarity of comrades on the outside are all vitally important to retaining dignity in dehumanizing conditions. When Chelsea Manning attempted suicide, communication enabled her and those close to her to mobilize and act. For prisoners who seem to live under a microscope due to their rebellious activities, a constant stream of letters shows their tormentors that they have friends on the outside and that there will be consequences for any action taken against them. Throughout the September 9th US prison strike, the relationships built over years made it possible to know of work strikes and rebellions happening in prisons all over the country, allowing supporters to organize counter-repressive action.

We must not, however, confuse actual communication with the absentminded chatter of liberal democracy. In totalitarian societies, speaking out can be subversive to systems of power; in liberal democracies it strengthens them. History textbooks teach us to speak truth to power, allowing power to better understand our frustrations so it can then maneuver to undermine us – either by regurgitating and disfiguring our criticisms as popular appeals or otherwise attempting to sell them back to us through edgy marketing campaigns. The more we tell power what we're mad about, the better the chance they can manipulate us. Ranting on the internet is a microcosm of the pressure valve function of free speech in neutralizing social unrest. We are encouraged to say whatever we want, as long as we don't actually do anything about it. Free speech becomes a fetish. For people who have never experienced a moment of freedom in their entire lives, freedom of speech is taken for freedom itself.

When direct action actually does take place, it either is castigated as coming from “outsiders,” or framed to fit into democratic rhetoric around speech. After the uprising against police in Ferguson, Missouri, Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote that “riots are the language of the unheard” went viral because it was a way to frame the uprising as revolving around freedom of speech, as if the silencing of Ferguson residents' voices is what caused the riots, or that their rioting was intended only to amplify their voices.

When we speak of communication, we are not talking about “freedom of information” – media attention and generalized knowledge of the horrific practices and conditions inside prisons will never result in public outrage, nor will they cause a wave of shame that will wash over the authorities and affect them to the point

where they'll change what they're doing. While trying to bring attention to issues sometimes has its place, we don't expect anything from the authorities (or the "public") and we know all too well that, especially in democracies, public opinion usually does very little to affect the policies or practices of the state. We're talking about something different: that finding and speaking with our comrades is vital to attacking power and living full lives.

Within liberal democracies, prison functions to isolate those who do not take the bait of the democratic illusion. We amplify the stories of those anarchists serving time in prison who have chosen active revolt against any regime of power rather than played into democracy's games. In February 2017, Eric King received sanctions – including loss of phone, visits, and commissary; increase in security level; and loss of "good time" – for writing poems and drawing cartoons depicting violence towards the Bureau of Prisons and the government in general. In early 2017, Sean Swain went on a successful 50-day hunger strike demanding the restoration of his email and phone communications, which had been cut off years ago due to his alleged threats of outside direct action against prison officials. In 2014, Bill Dunne received a 15-year "hit" to his parole, with the parole commission citing his "continued association and affiliation with anarchist organizations" as evidence he "still harbor[ed] anti-authoritarian views that are not compatible with the welfare of society." Marius Mason is currently being held in the intensely-restrictive federal prison in Carswell, Texas, which surveils and controls his communication with the outside world and imposes harsh limits to his ability to connect with struggles on the outside. The comrades arrested in Italy under Operation Scripta Manent have seen their mail restricted, including a permanent seizure of all material from Croce Nera Anarchica [Anarchist Black Cross].

Despite the state's best attempts to fetter our comrades' tongues, imprisoned anarchists continue to contribute to struggles inside and outside of prison. Sean Swain's Final Straw segments, Marius' art and poetry, Jeremy Hammond's incendiary tweets, and prison writings crossing borders and oceans show the innumerable and diverse forms communication can take in the belly of the beast.

That said, we want to share specific news of Marius' struggles on the inside. This year was filled with new heartbreak as the Bureau of Prisons developed means of isolating him further. Beginning last summer, Marius began to see huge gaps in the mail he received, sometime going weeks without personal mail, with movement newsletters even more scarce. It was finally revealed via a phone call with a friend that FMC Carswell had been cutting off all communication about the National Prison Strike and thus any personal mail mentioning the strike was destroyed.

Even with these more obvious events Marius is going into his 10th year of incarceration, friendships and supports on the outside have been pushed to their limit, consistently thwarted in their attempts to get mail past Carswell's complex and unexplained regulations. Aside from the few close friends and immediate family he has left, Marius receives very little mail. Mail is his lifeline to the outside world. He needs supporters to recommit to correspondence, and to visits, for those of us who knew him before his arrest (a requirement of the BOP). Know that letters which mention political actions will not make it through the tight censorship.

On the outside, new projects which seek to break down the barriers imposed by prison have flourished. Comrades all over the US and elsewhere have started publishing prison newsletters, giving wings to the ideas of our imprisoned comrades, enabling them to spread seeds in the "free world" and in the prison cells. Individual support websites, counter-information websites, zines collecting prisoners' writings, the Certain Days calendar, the new Black Bridge website, and other efforts keep our comrades behind bars connected with us, and us connected with them – through creative expression, mutual contribution to theory, and strategizing for continuation of struggle.

This extends also to the realm of action, with solidarity rooting itself in the spirit of combative, internationalist struggle against prison and its world. Following the arrest of Pola Roupa and Konstantina Athanasopoulou and the detainment of Pola's six-year-old child Lambros-Viktoras, diverse and combative actions took place, resulting in Lambros-Viktoras' grand-mother gaining custody of her grandchild. The actions taken all over the world in solidarity with the US prison strike in September 2016 offer a clear vision of how words and deeds can mix in the cauldron of revolt. We also want to mention the upcoming Fight Toxic Prisons convergence in Texas, drawing the important connections between ecological devastation and prison society and rooting both in active solidarity with imprisoned comrades.

This year we challenge ourselves to weaponize our words and gestures to one another, to give them teeth. Let's find ways to fight the censorship of those sending messages from the inside, and those sending strength and support from the outside. Let us not be satisfied with merely expressing our desires and ideas to whoever is listening, but really live them, and develop them together. The state wishes to crush our comrades by separating them from communities of struggle. We will not let it succeed!

13 Apr - Solidarity with Jacksonville Five

Call State Attorney Melissa Nelson at 904.255.2500 and say, "Drop the charges against the Jacksonville Five!"

MORE:

The Jacksonville Five are a group of anti-war protesters in Florida beaten and arrested by police at a "No War in Syria" rally held on Friday April 7, 2017. A right-wing provocateur appeared with a Trump flag, and then harassed and shoved anti-war activists, while police did nothing to him. Then the Jacksonville Sheriffs Office (JSO) physically attacked the anti-war protesters who did nothing wrong.

The police descended upon Connell Crooms, a deaf African American man, who had been leading chants. The police savagely beat, kicked and tased Crooms until he was unconscious and had to be taken to the hospital. Crooms is a well-known Teamster and a Black Lives Matter leader.

The police also punched Vietnam veteran Willie Wilder in the face and arrested the 74-year-old peace activist. Christina Kittle, the leader of the Jacksonville Coalition for Consent was thrown to the ground and arrested. Transgender activist Toma Beckwith was also tackled and arrested.

As protesters were leaving the park to do jail support, the police arrested union activist and anti-war speaker Dave Schneider, charging him with "felony inciting a riot" for organizing the anti-war protest. Police never arrested the right-wing provocateur. In fact, there are many photos on social media of him posing with JSO police, including Sheriff Mike Williams.

Jacksonville quickly rallied to the defense of the Jacksonville Five. The next day, April 8, over 200 people rallied to demand all charges be dropped. Leaders of the labor, African American, and progressive movements chanted, "Drop the charges!" The mother of Connell Crooms gave a tearful testament to her son's good character and denounced the police attack on her son, "JSO should not be allowed to get away with this type of behavior."

The rally demanded a full independent investigation into the police misconduct of April 7. Protesters are also demanding an independent investigation into a police spying program. Just weeks earlier the Florida Times Union newspaper reported the Sheriff's Office was spying on activists, including the Jacksonville Five, with photos of Dave Schneider, Connell Crooms and Christina Kittle appearing.

Jacksonville Sheriffs are lying and denying, claiming the protesters "incited a riot." Fortunately, dozens of people took video of the police brutality. The social media pages of the provocateur contain ties to white supremacist groups and to Sheriff Mike Williams who denies he knows him, despite their photo together at a Trump rally.

To add insult to injury, the total bail amount issued by the court for all five arrestees came out to over \$157,000. They are outrageously charging the people who were beaten and arrested by the police with serious felony charges. We need to mobilize national support and raise enough money to cover this and pay for the defense.

There is a continuing campaign to drop the trumped-up charges and investigate the abuses by the JSO.

Please call the State Attorney for the Florida 4th Circuit, Melissa Nelson at 904.255.2500, and demand she drop the charges against the Jax5.

13 Apr - Mumia Abu-Jamal: The illusion of correctional medicine

New writing from Mumia!

MORE:

by Mumia Abu-Jamal (*San Francisco Bay View*)

In the netherworld of American prisons, one must jettison any medical assumptions one brings in from the so-called "free" world.

We have been conditioned to see nurses as sweet sources of solace and doctors as people dedicated to healing the sick and easing our pains.

In prison, new rules govern medicine and care. Here, money is master; the ill are all but ignored.

This may seem harsh but, I must assure you, reality is even harsher.

Recently, I wrote of jailhouse lawyer Dennis "Solo" McKeithan and his battle to get examined and treated for the painful nerve disorder known as shingles. As I read the trial transcript, I was struck by a question raised by the judge.

He asked essentially if the company hired by the DOC (Department of Corrections) to provide health care had a conflict because, as a private company, its interests were to make money by refusing to provide needed medications sought by patient-prisoners. The DOC medical staff witness denied his suggestion, but the judge had hit a nerve.

From 2015 to today, my lawyers and I have been demanding real treatment for my hepatitis C infection. The DOC initially filed a false affidavit, which justified a U.S. magistrate's dismissal of my suit. The DOC argued that my hepatitis was fine and that I could go years without treatment.

A federal judge disagreed and held a hearing which showed the affidavit was false – and, months later, declared the DOC's so-called "protocol" – first disclosed at our hearing! – was unconstitutional.

The DOC fought back, arguing that my Hep C was at a relatively low level.

The judge again disagreed, declared the “protocol” unconstitutional a second time, and ordered me treated within 21 days. The DOC essentially ignored the court order for two months – and earlier this week subjected me to more testing.

The results just came back. Not only do I have advanced hepatitis C, I have cirrhosis of the liver – Stage F4, because the DOC didn’t want to spend the money to treat my infection.

The DOC said it would cost them \$400,000,000.

It may only cost me my life.

14 Apr - Jaan Laaman in The Hole

Our comrade Jaan Laaman has been put in “segregated housing,” flowery language for the hole, resulting from receipt of the NYC ABC Updates. Below is part of a letter Jaan recently wrote, explaining his situation.

MORE:

I am just now able to answer your letter, because I am in segregation "the hole", since my birthday, March 21st. Yes, it was not a very nice birthday! Only last Friday was I finally able to buy some paper, envelopes and stamps, so I have been writing letters since then.

OK, the reason they threw me into seg was because a short message of support I wrote for International Women's Day was printed in a magazine (NYC ABC Update). Also, I had put together an obituary for our dear friend Lynne [Stewart] that I think was also printed in the same magazine. So, the magazine came in the mail to the prison and they locked me up! It is pretty absurd — crazy. I mean, I have been writing observations about world and USA events since I was first captured. And I've been doing it here for the last 8 years also. So, there is something else going on now.

Ever since they shut down all my email last year, they have been trying to silence me. Now there is even more going down. This might be a plan to send me to some kind of lock-down — control unit type prison. They are certainly trying to test me. Maybe they figure I am getting old and too tired to resist. Well, old I am getting (ha ha), but I'm not too tired. In the meantime I am in a seg cell writing you a letter.

I have almost no access to a phone in here. I was able to get a legal visit last Friday, so I have discussed all this with my lawyer, and people outside are now becoming aware of what is happening to me.

The actual charge against me is 'threatening the security of the prison.' I have to go to a disciplinary hearing. They might take their time before I go before this hearing. I mean I should be found not guilty — but like I said, there is more going on than what is being said.

In the meantime, I have no idea what is happening in the world. I have not seen or heard the news since March 21st.

While here in seg, where things are strange, I am numbering all my mail. This is # 1 to you from seg. Not much space in here, but I have been doing some yoga every day, and some meditating too.

20 Apr - Bill Dunne is in The Hole

Something is in the air with these damned federal prisons. Another comrade, Bill Dunne, is also in the hole and has been since January.

MORE:

Political prisoner Bill Dunne has been in the hole since January, so his contact with his partner has been limited. It was just discovered by her that he passed out in his cell 2 weeks ago and was taken to the hospital, where he stayed overnight. It is not known what caused him to lose consciousness.

Bill is currently also awaiting a disciplinary transfer and could really use some love, jokes and news of the world.

23 Apr - Twitterstorm For Jalil

If you have access to a twitter account, please join in the call for #clemency4jalil. If not, please promote it to folks who do.

MORE:

From Jalil:

“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 out of a 1 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* newspaper 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 the *New York Times* 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 Gov. 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. But 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.”

Jalil would like support and is asking that we get the word out by focusing on a Twitter Storm on Wednesday, April 26th to Governor Cuomo.

TWITTER STORM FOR JALIL MUNTAQIM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017

In addition to appealing this latest parole denial, Jalil has also submitted a request to Governor Cuomo for commutation of sentence to time served.

Tweet the following message to Governor Cuomo:

*I add my voice to demand: Commutation of sentence for Anthony Jalil Bottom #77A4283 NOW!
#clemency4jalil @NYGovCuomo*

Ask your friends, family, co-workers, church members, classmates or union members, to support this campaign! United our voices can make freedom happen!

If you don't tweet, call the governor at 518.474.8390 or write the governor at:

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State

NYS State Capitol Building

Albany, New York 12224

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

Twitter @NYGovCuomo

#clemency4jalil

cc this office:

New York State DOCCS

Executive Clemency Bureau

The Harriman State Campus – Building 2

1220 Washington Avenue

Albany, New York 12226-2050

PardonsAndCommutations@doccs.ny.gov

April 23rd - What's in Your Wallet?

Have you been declared UnAmerican?

CEO Trump and his sidekicks are not UnAmerican.

Don't be aghast because at last, the past is the present.

When was America not racist?

When was America not an exploiter?

When was America not a capitalist-profiteer?

When was America not an imperialist?

Since I am not a racist, exploiter, capitalist, profiteer, or imperialist — I'm UnAmerican!

Do you remember when slavery was legal, — guess what, it still is!

Do you remember when Cointelpro action was legal —guess what, it still is!

Once there was the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities denouncing Communists; Once America interned the Japanese alleging they were UnAmerican ... such is the way of being American. So, can it then be said the Americans control the White House? It was the Americans who elected CEO Trump!

Native Americans are corralled on Reservations declared by Americans they are not Americans — go figure?!

Puerto Rico has been declared American its people suffering Americanism.

So, for all of you proud Red, White and Blue Americans — if this is your America, please declare me UnAmerican, save me

me from Americanism ...

Oh, but you argue being American is to fight, resist, revolt, rebel, riot, insurrect ... What are you saying, there are 2 Americas — that America is bi-polar, schizoid from its inception, has been at war with itself to define itself, to become aware of its place in the World?

From Afrikan slavery, annihilation of the Indigenous, the internment of Japanese, the slaughter of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the decimation of Korea, splitting it into two, and carpet bombing Vietnam, the embargo of Cuba, the raping of Haiti and Puerto Rico — all speaks to the Greatness of America — that's just a start ...

Oh, go on — Okay, how about the invasions of Grenada, Panama, Iraq, now Syria — Manifest Destiny, Monroe Doctrine, Black Codes, Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration ... Oh, say can you see by the daunterly light, bombs bursting in the air, America's elation no longer having to disguise what has been its truth all along?

Wait, I'm not finished ... Remember the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the assassination of Sadiqqi Mosaddegh, the Cointelpro assassination of Fred Hampton and destruction of the BPP, the assassination of Martin L. King, Jr. the assassination of Malcolm X, the assassination of Filiberto Ojeda Rios, the assassination of Che Guevara, the kidnapping of Aristide and Noriega ... Imperialism in its glory — making America great, as colored people's red blood flows and metamorphs into greenbacks and the conspicuous consumer consumption flourishes like the blooming of the cherry blossoms.

Can't you see, this is both the
Matrix and Avatar — wrapped into
a love story. America — either love
her or leave her!

So, I ask the question — Are
you American or UnAmerican?
Capital One would ask —
What's in Your Wallet?

Remember, We Are Our Own Liberators!

1 May - MAY DAY

There are several events happening in NYC for May Day. Check macc.nyc for details and check out a few things we've listed below.

MORE:

3:30pm - Anti-Fascist Bloc in solidarity with immigrants and workers. Meet at the northwest corner of Union Square

#DisruptNYC: A Call for Anti-Fascist Bloc to Join March on May Day

This year's May Day demonstrations have the potential to be a rallying cry for the wider anti-authoritarian left, with calls circulating for strikes and mass demonstrations that build on the momentum from events like the International Women's Strike and the Day Without Immigrants. May Day represents an opportunity to generalize these various struggles and to build new bonds of solidarity amongst radical anti-capitalists and anti-fascists in resistance. New York City is a particularly meaningful place for actions to occur this May Day as it is Trump's hometown and business headquarters.

The Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) calls on comrades in the New York City area to join us and march in solidarity with immigrants and workers this May Day.

About the March

The march starts at Union Square and proceeds south to Foley Square. This march happens every year, sometimes with and sometimes without a permit, but always with a large police presence. This year's march is unpermitted. We will meet at the NW corner of Union Square at 3:30 pm prior to marching. Look for the may pole.

An Anti-Fascist Bloc

We call for a bloc to march in support of the communities who are most vulnerable to attacks by the emboldened and growing far-right movement. We march to support their voices. As the far-right continues to organize we must counter them by engaging with and lending aid to those targeted by their hate. If cops and klan go hand in hand, we hold the hands of those whom they intend to do harm.

With other direct actions happening throughout the day the march will be a show of solidarity.

7:00pm - Noise Demo in Solidarity with Incarcerated Workers! Columbus Park - Corner of Bayard & Baxter

On May 1st, 2017, as we honor and celebrate the history of workers and the labor movement, it is equally important to remember our comrades locked behind bars and trapped in ICE detention centers, subjected to State-sanctioned violence and slave labor.

Conclude your daytime marches and demonstrations by meeting with comrades in Columbus Park at 7pm—at the corner of Bayard and Baxter—for a festive, celebratory noise demo to take place in front of the Manhattan Detention Complex. Bring whatever you have that can make a noise! Drums! Trumpets! Kazoos! Buckets and Sticks! Vuvuzelas! Airhorns! Whatever you have, bring it, and we will let our comrades know that they are not forgotten behind bars!

Despite New York's pledge to shut down Riker's Island in favor of establishing more jails, the United States prison system continues to disproportionately target minorities and immigrants. Capitalists see a great market in continuing to incarcerate these populations. After all, prisoners end up in facilities that are either entirely privatized, offer privatized "services" under government contract, or use the prison population as a slave labor force for little or no pay. And these heartless employers do not have to cover health insurance or vacation for a slave labor force.

The United States imprisons 2.25 million people—more than Russia or China—and nearly 1 in 100 American adults are in prison or jail. Although only 29% of the population identifies as Black or Hispanic, they make up 59% of the prison population—a legacy of slavery that treats brown bodies as exploitable.

Understandably, prisoners in at least 29 prisons across 12 states protested their conditions with strikes and calls for prison labor reform in September 2016. Furthermore, several peaceful calls for prison labor, living, and education reform at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in Smyrna, Delaware went ignored, culminating in a prisoner revolt in February 2017.

Donald Trump's authoritarian emphasis on law and order promises to worsen conditions and heighten tensions throughout the prison system. Trump's rhetoric recalls the systemic racial discrimination of the "War on Drugs," and his administration is already breaking families apart by increasing ICE raids throughout the country. These policies make sense for the 1%. They enrich a wealthy minority and enforce a racist, anti-worker agenda all in the same breath.

It is imperative that we gather together to demonstrate solidarity with our comrades whose liberty and dignity have been taken from them by the State and by Capital. As such, we hope to see you at Columbus Park for an evening continuation of May Day's festivities.

8:00pm-2:00am - Mayday Festival - A Night of Anarchist Culture - Starr Bar
214 Starr Street, Brooklyn, New York 11237

Performances will begin around 10 PM after the day's actions and demonstrations.
\$10 – NOTAFLOF (no one turned away for lack of funds)

Join the Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) at Starr Bar as we celebrate May Day. We intend to carry on the spirit of this traditional anarchist holiday by supporting immigrant and incarcerated workers in struggle during the day and getting loose around the maypole at night! We'll be showcasing anarchists' contributions to the arts, hosting a number of anarchist speakers, artists, musicians, DJs and poets. Join us for drinks and revolutionary culture.

Honoring May Day, MACC will be sharing the labor with Starr Bar staff and contributing a portion of the proceeds to the workers. Upstairs, radical media collective Global Revolution will be celebrating their anniversary!

Tentative Line up:

Mayday Multimedia Presentation

Matthew Whitley (Poetry)

Pavel Arsenev (Poetry)

Роман Осминкин - Roman Osminkin (Poetry & Music)

Elektra KB (Video Art)

WILD TØR ▽ S (Video Art)

Anarkoartlab (Performance)

Anarcha-Feministxs (Video Art)

Years of Lead (Experimental Music)

Noise Krov (Experimental Music)

DJ ELENI will be playing music between sets!

5 May - TROUBLE

WHAT: Screening

WHEN: 7:00-10:00pm, Friday, May 5

WHERE: The Base - 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York

COST: FREE!

MORE:

Join us for a special screening of sub.Media's "Trouble" with one of the show creators. The second episode of "Trouble" entitled "Bash the Fash" hones in on contemporary organizing efforts against the upsurge of right wing movements in Europe and North America, and looks at the root causes for this phenomenon. sub.Media interviewed antifa and anti-racist organizers from Europe, the US and Canada, to bring us a unique view to the strategies and tactic these folks use, to thwart fascists and racists of all stripes. A discussion on local antifa and anti-racist efforts in NYC will follow.