



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for July 4th

18 Jun - Call for the Third Annual International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners, July 25, 2017

As the third annual July 25th International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners approaches, we find ourselves fighting the hydra of fascism and far-right ideology.

MORE:

While its many heads have distinct looks in different parts of the world, this beast spews the same venomous poison of nationalism and bigotry everywhere. It demonizes refugees and immigrants, stokes hatred for Muslims, and attacks LGBTQ and other oppressed groups who are fighting for liberation and their very lives.

The July 25 International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners originated in 2014 as the Day of Solidarity with Jock Palfreeman, an Australian man serving a 20-year sentence in Bulgaria for defending two Romani men being attacked by fascist football hooligans. Whether acting as individuals or as part of larger organized demonstrations, this is the kind of bravery and solidarity which defines antifascist actions against the forces of hate. Since the day of solidarity last year, we have seen this spirit all over the world—in Indonesia, Czech Republic, Brazil, Poland, England, Greece, the United States, France, Syria, Australia, Japan and all points in between.

While antifascism is global, unfortunately so is state repression. In the U.S., hundreds of antifa have been arrested resisting both the Trump regime as well as Far Right street forces. In Belarus, the state continues to harshly repress the antifascist resistance. While many of these comrades are awaiting sentences, there are still many who languish in prison. We will not forget these comrades behind the prison walls!

We call on anti-fascists worldwide to act in solidarity with antifascist prisoners. Consider having an event or dedicating an action to them. They are in there for us, and we are out here for them!

No Pasaran!
Until All Are Free!

USE THE HASHTAG: #J25antifa

19 Jun - Update on Medical Condition of Robert “Seth” Hayes

As people know, Seth has been having serious problems with his blood sugar levels in the past month, especially since finally receiving the insulin pump.

MORE:

While the process of properly calibrating the pump is rather complex, there has also apparently been some medical incompetence in the use of the pump (without the monitor).

Seth's sugars have, if anything, always tended to run too low, leading to incidents of him passing out, having "Code Blues" called, and being rushed to an outside hospital on an emergency basis. However, since the installation of the pump, his sugars have been running high (in the 200+ to 400+ range). In one recent incident, the infusion set was improperly inserted, and Seth was receiving no insulin whatsoever. His sugars were in the 500-600 range, which is life-threatening.

After one of the nurses arbitrarily removed the pump more than a week ago, stating that Seth was "too delicate" to have it, Dr. Wolf (the prison doctor) has been very concerned, since this is totally undermining her authority as a physician. This occurred during a weekend, when Dr. Wolf is not at Sullivan. (Also, the pump was removed, but the infusion set was still inserted into Seth's body for 2 days after that. Luckily, he did not develop an infection.)

Dr. Wolf had Seth in the "infirmary" all last week, and that is where I visited him on Father's Day. The last time I visited Seth when he was in the "infirmary," he was allowed to come up to the regular visiting room. However, this time I had to visit in the "infirmary," which was an educational experience for me. When I arrived to the visiting room, the Sergeant called down to the "infirmary" to ask if Seth could come up to the visiting room. I also asked if I could at least bring down some water and light snackage, and was told that I could not.

When I was on the elevator to the infirmary, I asked the CO, who was not wearing his name badge, when visiting was over, and he told me "We will kick you out of here at 2 p.m." This was fine with me, as the bus driver had requested we all come out with the 2:30 escort.

So Seth and I are in a locked glass-walled small visiting room right in front of the COs' desk. At around 11:30 a.m., the technician came to do the finger stick. He was very professional, placing the vial of insulin on the table so Seth (and I) could see exactly what he was being injected with. Seth stated that his sugars had been at 70 in the morning, but the fingerstick monitor showed his sugars were 280+. The technician then injected him with 6 cc's of insulin.

So, the standard practice is that the patient is to eat shortly after receiving the insulin, even if the sugars are high. This is to prevent a precipitous drop and allow for a gradual decline in the sugars. Since the food cart had gone by shortly before that, we had to make sure that Seth got his lunch. Luckily, one of the nurses happened to arrive at that time, and I knocked on the glass to gain her attention. I asked for the lunch tray, but she could not hear me, so I made an eating motion, and she went down to the hall to speak with the COs, and then shook her head. So I made the motion of Seth getting an injection, and she nodded her head and the CO arrived with the food tray within 5 minutes. So kudos to the nurse who did the right thing and did not let herself be intimidated!

So I finally got to see the infamous "Class B" diet that Dr. Koenigsmann insists is an adequate diabetic diet. I don't know where he went to medical school, but he obviously doesn't know much about diabetes and nutrition. The lunch consisted of white pasta, a large hamburger on a white roll (with ketchup), and beets, all of which were cold by the time Seth got to eat. (Of course, since Seth's sugars are high, let's make sure we give him even more sugar!)

Since they keep giving Seth milk with every meal even though he is lactose intolerant (Seth has had diarrhea off and on for almost a week), I took the little milk container. This caused the CO (same one who brought me down to the infirmary on the elevator: a tall, slim white guy with glasses) to leap out from behind the desk, rush into the visiting room and come within an inch of physically assaulting me. He was screaming at me "That's what I thought! You did this on purpose so you can eat his food!" with his fists up as if he was going to hit me. I haven't seen anyone so enraged in a long time. I remained calm and replied, "I was told when I came in that I could not bring anything to eat in here. I'm only drinking the milk because Seth is lactose intolerant, and this gives him diarrhea." The thought of anyone actually wanting to eat this food (which I would not serve even to a rat) was so hilarious that Seth and I burst out laughing. We couldn't help ourselves. We were laughing so hard we were practically in tears. Meanwhile, CO FNU LNU (First Name Unknown Last Name Unknown) quickly locked the bathroom door before once again locking us into the visiting room and Seth literally forced himself to eat the hamburger and some of the beets.

Since the inside bathroom was locked, I asked to use the bathroom and thus got an informal tour of the infirmary. One thing I can certainly say is that it is freezing in there. Seth said that luckily, since all the beds are not occupied, he can grab an extra blanket from one of them.

Since I had been told by this same CO when I came in that visiting in the infirmary ended at 2 p.m., I was not concerned about the time, but it certainly seemed longer than it should have been. (There is no clock.) When the escort came to get me, it was already 3 p.m., so of course that meant I was late for the bus. I guess this was FNU LNU's petty revenge for me having made sure, with the assistance of the nurse, that Seth was given his food (if you can call it that) in a timely manner. So I commented to the escort that I was late for my bus, and she replied, "That's your responsibility." I replied, "Well, since I was told that infirmary visitation ends at 2 p.m., and since I have not yet developed the ability to pass through locked doors and walls, there wasn't too much I could do about it."

So I went back up to the regular visiting room with this young woman CO and waited for the rest of the visitors who were there. As we were walking out, we visitors were conversing. People asked where I had been, and I explained that we were visiting in the infirmary, where visitation is supposed to end at 2 p.m. I also commented the FNU LNU seemed to be hyperactive and extremely aggressive and possibly should be given some antipsychotic medication to calm him down.

When I finally arrived outside, it was 3:15 p.m. and the bus was not there. Since the prison now insists we cannot even put our cell phones in the lockers, my phone was also on the bus. A nice woman offered me a ride if I was going toward Albany, and I replied: "Oh, the bus probably went to Woodbourne to pick up people there and will come back for me." Then I saw the bus coming up the hill. Jeff, the bus driver, said the COs said to leave me behind, and I said, "Yes, they did that once at Mohawk when a visitor was caught in the count and they wouldn't let him leave. I went inside to see what the delay was, and the COs said to leave without him. I replied; "You are COs. You do that. We are community; we don't leave our people behind." Jeff smiled and said, "Exactly. I've been doing this for 30 years and have never left anyone stranded in the middle of nowhere!"

Seth called as I was getting off the bus in the Bronx to see how I was doing. He was concerned because I had not had anything to eat. So I told him not to worry about that and asked what his sugars were at 4 p.m. At that time, his sugars were at 202, but if he hadn't eaten, they probably would have been at around 60 or 70. Seth is to see Dr. Wolf today, June 19, 2017, to discuss the current situation and see what next steps are. Of course, Seth wants to have the insulin pump and monitor and so does the endocrinologist at Coxsackie.

We have an update from Seth this evening, Monday, June 19, 2017 on the outcome of that conversation with Dr. Wolf. When I asked him what his sugars were today, he told me that not everyone is as professional as the technician who was there on Sunday, and he was not told what his glucose level was. He is still in the infirmary, but hopes to be out of there soon.

Also, you can call the facility at 845.434.2080. Ask to speak with the Superintendent and state you are concerned about Robert Seth Hayes #74A2280. Be polite but firm and say you are calling to make sure Seth gets the insulin pump and monitor returned to him as a life-saving measure for his diabetes.

Seth wants to start a campaign about the issue of the COs, not the doctor and nurses, making medical decisions in the infirmary. Sullivan is supposed to be a regional medical hub, but the doctor and nurses are mostly upstairs in the clinic, and the COs are running the show in the infirmary. I will write this up in a follow-up shortly.

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

June 26th - EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN FOR ROBERT SETH HAYES!

Just heard from Seth this evening.

He had an incident last night, apparently low sugars again. He woke up at around 1 a.m. and his bathrobe was on the floor. He reached over to get it and fell out of bed onto the floor. He was then unable to get up, with his arms and legs flailing about. (Seth also suffers from diabetic neuropathy in his legs.)

He managed to drag himself over to the toilet and used that to somehow pull himself up. It did not occur to him to call out and let folk know he was in trouble. (This happens when his sugars drop, since it affects his thinking.) This morning, he found his glasses in the toilet.

Anyway, he went back to bed and slept for a while. Then he woke up because he was freezing (because his sugars were so low), so he ate a couple of peanut butter cookies and went back to sleep.

In the morning, his sugars were 150. But after breakfast his sugars were over 300 at 11 a.m. In response to this, they apparently put too much insulin into his bolus.

He ate all of his lunch plus a couple more cookies, and his sugars were only 87 when she took them at 4 p.m. So Dr. Wolf said, "You didn't eat enough!" and Seth told her he had eaten all of his food. Then the nurse said, "This pump doesn't work for you."

Whether it is medical incompetence or something else, this is the same thing that happened in the past, giving Seth too much insulin when his sugars are high and then having his sugars become too low. Obviously, medical staff at Sullivan are doing the same thing as when Seth was getting insulin injections. When his sugars are high, they give him too much insulin, and then his sugars become too low. This happened again today. Seth's sugars were almost 400 at 11:30 a.m. So the bolus insulin was too much, and Seth's sugars were at 56 at 4:30 p.m., despite having eaten his entire lunch plus some high sugar items.

Clearly, staff at Sullivan need additional training in the use of the insulin pump. Also, Seth needs to have the monitor as soon as possible as a life-saving measure, as well as the manual for the insulin pump/monitor.

CALL SULLIVAN AT 845.434.2080

Ask to speak with the Superintendent. This will probably not happen, but you can state your concerns to whomever answers the phone. Be sure to get their name.

You can state the following: I am calling on behalf of Robert Seth Hayes, number 74-A-2280. I am a friend of Mr. Hayes, and am very concerned for his health and well-being. Although Mr. Hayes finally received his insulin pump a while ago, he has not yet been given the accompanying monitor. Additionally, his sugars have been ranging from almost 400 down to as low as 56 within 12 hours.

Since Mr. Hayes can no longer tell when his sugars are high or low, he must be given the monitor as soon as possible as a life-saving measure.

Also, if you work in the healthcare field, let Sullivan know if you are a Doctor, Nurse, Paramedic, EMT, etc. This has an impact. If you, a family member or loved one has diabetes, you know how important this is.

Please let us know what day you called and what response you received. Encourage all of your friends, family and co-workers to call as well. Send us an email at nycjericho@gmail.com.

19 Jun - Walter Bond is in the SHU (Solitary Confinement)

Walter was placed in the SHU on June 19th because he is being investigated for an assault.

MORE:

He can't discuss the incident because he is being investigated. He said he could be there for a few months. He would like to receive letters from you all, and include your address in the body of the letter even if you are already a correspondent, because he doesn't have anybody's address where he is now. He sounded okay. We can make his time in the hole go faster by sending him entertaining letters and cards. Jokes and funny stories and pictures are good.

Maybe you only know a little about Walter, and it's hard to imagine what he is like as a person. Some of what makes him stand out as both a personable individual and as a man with clear insight who is willing and able to extend himself for right, comes out in this recent interview:

<https://soundcloud.com/rufrebelradio/dr-jerry-vlasak-interviews-walter-bond-the-alf-lone-wolf>

19 Jun - Respect a Grieving Mother's Wishes

The following is a poem for Philando Castile's mother.

MORE:

Black people,
Will you respect a grieving mother's wishes?
Or will you only do so when she calls for peace?
If you claim to be #woke, so in tune with the community,
Then you can't go about ignoring what a mother says
Like those white kids that throw temper tantrums in the supermarket.

I see,
You only listen to black mothers once our so-called "leaders" have put a bug in their ear.
In that case,
You only listen to Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, or that second-hand knockoff, Jumaane Williams.
While everyone talks all that intersectionality, it seems to me that the absent father still has the final say,
even when their kids miraculously dodge police bullets...

So called "white allies",
Will you go beyond the self-help books and lectures penned by minstrels,
That snake-oil for white guilt,
And check your privilege by looting a Walmart,
In solidarity with the youth that you refuse to make eye contact with on public transportation?
If you break the window of the cop shop,
Then they won't even throw the book at you,
Cause your daddy wrote it.

I see,
You only listen to black mothers when they are running diversity trainings,
In that case,
You only listen to your boss,
The same cracker bastard that would prefer it if we still called him “masta,”
Instead, call him like he is: a pig is a pig with or without a badge and a gun.

Black people,
White people,
You heard what she said,
Say whatever the fuck you want to say,
Do what you do,
Do what your heart desires,
Do your motherfucking thing.

19 Jun - Walking As A Tool

Here's the later from Eric King, as well as a report back from the international day of solidarity with him.

MORE:

I walk slowly, always. The state can control where I walk, the space in which I am confined to walking, the people I have to walk amongst and what times I am allowed to walk outside, but they can never control the speed in which I walk. I choose always to walk AS SLOW AS FUCKING POSSIBLE. Conscious walking my yogi told me it's called, Doctor Joel insisted I do it, because everything is so fucking fast in prison, everything is rushed. Every movement, every decision, every thought. It doesn't have to be. Slow down, feel what you are doing, be aware of the movements you are making and the muscles you are using. Understand that by slowing down you are exercising the ultimate control over your body. The government wishes they could do this, that they could control our bodies this way, to contort us into their shape of how a human should be and should perform.

The COs hate this, I get shit for it EVERYDAY. Today I was walking down the side walk, right in the middle of it on the way back from breakfast after a really beautiful yoga session. Walking slowly, VERY SLOWLY. I can hear their little golf cart cruising behind me, getting dangerously close..then I hear the swerve onto the dirt and he goes by within about 7 inches of me. "MOVE YOUR ASS NEXT TIME!" the cop shouts. Nope. We are only allowed to walk on the sidewalk, we are restricted from walking on the dirt, so I will not move for your cart, I will not jump out of the way. Hit me and I win, swerve and I win. I'll move for no cop. When I get close to my unit the disgusting pig like officer ask me "what's your problem".."what do you mean"..."you hurt or something".."nope, just walking"..."well next time move it a little faster"..."is that in the program statement or does it just make you personally uncomfortable"..."you think you're clever smart mouth?"..."clever enough to make you nervous over walking.."...silence...a moment later when I am closer "you're lucky you're not in my unit"..."would you write me up for not moving at your preferred pace?".. "look dude walking's not against the law, it's just weird".."so is commenting on someone else's walking.."...convo ended.

This is our power, to control our bodies and our minds. They can only limit so much, despite their best efforts. We must stay constantly conscious of this, their desire to limit us and their desire to pressure us into conforming our actions and thoughts to their acceptability. Not fucking happening. This is our win. Tools can be weapons, not used to attack but to defend. I can defend against their oppression by owning my body, just like on the streets, just like anywhere dangerous. People here think it's weird, I think speed walking because someone in a shirt is pressuring you to hurry is weird. Annoying those who think they control you

is a feeling that is unparalleled and one that I crave and succeed in finding on a daily basis. We win through self control.

June 28th - NYC: Report Back from Celebration of International Day of Solidarity with Eric King

In the spirit of honoring and celebrating our comrade and friend Eric King, a group of folks gathered together at a space in Queens, NY. We read Eric's June 11th statement and heard from some local poets and writers who shared some of their work. A couple of folks led a group sing along to "Baby I'm an Anarchist" by Against Me, one of Eric's favorite bands, and another friend played his favorite song while we sang along and thought of him. There was delicious vegan chocolate cake and we passed around a card to let him know we were thinking of him.

As Eric has written, "what is more powerful than knowing your voice will be heard, than knowing that out in the world people exist who love you and will refuse to let you get lost within these walls?"

In solidarity with Eric King!

20 Jun - CARNAGE: New Blog by Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim

Please check out the latest by our comrade Jalil Muntaqim.

MORE:

Like many, I was horrified when I heard about the children killed at the Ariana Grande concert, followed by the rampage in London. The increasing incessant violence in the name of Islam, the murdering of non-combatant civilians, is WRONG! Generally speaking, it scars the beautiful face of Islam, making it appear ugly to the world's peoples. Certainly, this is not the first era of historic proportion of man's cruelty to man, where humanity has put the world on tilt. However, it seems this epoch of carnage supersedes all previous manifestations of evil.

When considering the history of carnage, we can consider the 100 million Afrikans killed during the ravishing of Afrika and 200 years of the transatlantic slave trade. We can further give recognition to the millions of Indigenous Americans slaughtered and herded into reservations in America. We can think of the 6 million Jews and others killed by the Hitler regime and rise to power during WWII, and the millions of Japanese murdered in the U.S. bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. We can consider the millions killed by Pol Pot in Cambodia, and the more than a million Vietnamese killed by U.S. carpet bombing of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia during that conflict. The most recent government policy of carnage is the U.S. invasion of Iraq, killing millions of Iraqis in a total lie given to the American people.

All of which leads to the current and present danger of Jihadist inspired terrorism whose claimed motivation is based on Islamic exegesis. These terrorist Jihadists proclaim they are fulfilling the prophecy of the Fitna (tribulations) to usher in the advent of the Makdi, Messiah (Jesus) and eventually Allah (SWT), the ending of the world as we know it. While it is true such Islamic prophecies are written, as are Jewish and Christian prophecies of the last days, there seems to be a religious convergence in these beliefs. Although the Holy Qur'an informs that no one knows when the "HOUR" (Last Days) will come. Yet, in terms of the Islamic exegesis and what is written as markers of events to recognize the Fitna, there are some resemblances of what is written to what is being manifested.

Needless to say, in each era in which people believe they are witnessing "signs" of revelation being manifested, more often than not (how many times over the ages has it been said we are in the end times?), people are deluded by false prognosticators and malevolent actors. I am not pointing fingers, but rather, shaking a fist, saying that ISIS is not part of the prophecy. The geo-political reality of U.S. imperialism, we

can generally agree, has exacerbated these delusions with its own hegemonic sense of its power in the world (i.e. Sunni/Shia divide, etc.).

Furthermore, it has been alleged the leader of ISIS may have been a stooge of the CIA, and has now gone rogue (?). Muslims can certainly agree the tactics of ISIS are not remotely Islamic, and more appropriately reflect the practices of the CIA and other blackbag operations of the U.S. government, including the destabilizing of governments.

Being able to weed out the real from the illusion is the struggle both Muslims and non-Muslims must struggle with, and in this regard I urge everyone to study the Fitan online. In so doing, one will be able to recognize the false teaching/preaching, to assist in the challenge to prevent the young from being Jihadist terrorists, that the greater probability is such engagement will lead to hell, not Paradise.

For example, suicide is STRICTLY PROHIBITED in ISLAM; the killing of non-combatant women, children, the disabled and elderly is an abomination. It is believed in Islam the killing of one innocent person is as if killing the world. That is a serious burden to carry subject to one's ignorance and blind following of the delusional. While it is true the prophecy of Fitan states the tribulations will begin in Khorasan (the ancient name of Afghanistan), it is also held the first major city to fall in control of the Mahdi is Damascus, not Raqqa—Oops!

It should be added that Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) commanded Muslims to not kill one another, and for those who do, they both will end in hell, because they each intended to kill the other. In the same regard, the Holy Qur'an instructs that justice is found in the "Laws of Equality", a wound equal for equal, more so that "... But if anyone remits the retaliation by the way of charity, it is an act of atonement for himself." (Sura V/Ayat 48). I raise these concerns because of what I wrote in the essay "Blowback"—"Needless to say, I would hate to see my Mom or children blown up on a bus, train or plane because an Islamic militant sought to avenge the death of his family caused by U.S. hands. The idea of acceptable collateral damage is unacceptable."

Giving recognition to what Martin L. King, Jr. observed, "America is the greatest progenitor and harbinger of violence in the world," it is critical we understand this world conflict as part of the overall struggle to end U.S. imperialism abroad, and racist oppression/repression at home.

Having said all the above, I must go on record stating I have absolutely no conflict with oppressed peoples fighting for their liberation and independence from any and all forms of colonialism and neo-colonialism. This is especially important as it pertains to occupations by foreign governments and their military apparatuses. However, in these wars of liberation and independence there is a code of military engagement, something that revolutionaries and progressive militants in my days adhered to, being extremely careful to not injure or kill innocent civilians. If, in fact, the Jihadists are engaged in a struggle for independence from foreign occupation, then I strenuously encourage them to operate in accordance to the Sunna and Qur'anic injunctions. Stop the suicide bombings and the killing of non-combatant civilians, and end the internecine murdering of Muslims. By no sense of the imagination do I profess to be an Islamic scholar or even learned, but common sense informs that suicide and the killing of innocent civilians do not engender folks to the beauty of Islam.

As Martin L. King, Jr. asked: "The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice, or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?"

I dare say, by Allah (SWT), the killing of noncombatant civilians, especially women, children, the disabled and elderly, is a severe injustice and an affront to all humanity.

This is a cry to STOP the killing of the babies, whether it is regional wars, U.S. government bunker buster bombs, or gang violence in urban streets ... We Must Save the Babies!!!

June 26th - Twitterstorm for Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim

Every two weeks, supporters are contacting Governor Cuomo to push him to grant executive clemency for political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim. In order for this to be successful, we all need to contact Cuomo on all platforms and in real life.

July 12th is the next date we will be contacting Cuomo.

Jalil has submitted a request to Governor Cuomo for commutation of sentence to time served (he has been in prison since 1971). On July 12th, please tweet the following message to Governor Cuomo:

.@NYGovCuomo I add my voice to demand: Commutation of sentence for Anthony Bottom #77-A-4283 NOW! #clemency4jalil

Also, we need you to:

- 1) Call the Governor 518.474.8390
- 2) Email the Governor: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>
- 3) Write the Governor:

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

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

20 Jun - The Ongoing Legal Battle Over the “Black Bloc” Inauguration Day Protest

On the morning of January 20th, the day Donald Trump was inaugurated, in Washington, D.C., a large group of anti-Trump protesters, dressed in black, roamed through the city for close to an hour.

MORE:

By Colin Moynihan (*The New Yorker*)

Some chanted, some dragged newspaper boxes into the street, and some smashed the windows of various stores. In response, the police arrested more than two hundred people, setting in motion a complex legal saga that, months later, is far from over.

On Wednesday, the American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia filed a federal lawsuit accusing the police of violating the rights of several people by using pepper spray and explosive devices without warning or justification; by making a mass arrest without differentiating between those who had broken laws and those who hadn't; and by holding detainees for hours without food, water, or access to toilets, and subjecting some to “humiliating and unjustified” invasive searches.

The four plaintiffs in the A.C.L.U.'s lawsuit include Shay Horse, a twenty-three-year-old whose Twitter account identifies him as a photojournalist and "scrumptious/rambunctious anarchist." According to the lawsuit, Horse broke no laws on the day of the protest but was doused with pepper spray, trapped between police lines for several hours, and then arrested and subjected to a rectal probe. In February, prosecutors dropped all charges against him. The other plaintiffs are Milo Gonzalez, a protester who, the lawsuit says, was also subjected to a rectal search after his arrest and was denied access to a bathroom for nine or ten hours; Elizabeth Lagesse, who, according to the suit, did not break any laws before being arrested but was handcuffed so tightly her wrists bled; and a lawyer named Judah Ariel, who said that he was among a group of people on a sidewalk who were pepper-sprayed without cause but not taken into custody.

The protest—which used tactics long associated with anarchists and anticapitalists, including dressing in black to create a sense of solidarity and to make it difficult to distinguish individuals—was the most confrontational to take place in Washington in more than a decade, and it provoked an unusual response from local prosecutors: they obtained indictments charging more than two hundred people with conspiracy and with instances of property damage that appear to have been carried out by only a few individuals.

The morning protest was broken up following a mass arrest that police conducted around 11 A.M. on L Street, but others continued for hours afterward, causing a significant disruption in the city. According to the authorities, protesters damaged more than a hundred thousand dollars' worth of property in the course of the day. On K Street, some protesters threw rocks and set a limousine on fire. Police officers, wearing helmets and carrying plastic shields, tried to quell that crowd, and officials have said that several officers were injured in the clash, including one who was briefly knocked unconscious.

Dustin Sternbeck, a spokesman for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, said that the police do not believe that the protesters participated in "a First Amendment assembly." Instead, he said, they had acted in "a concerted effort" to destroy property, using crowbars, hammers, and collapsible metal batons. "We stand by our assertion that officers acted responsibly and professionally during the riot and believe our officers made reasonable decisions during extremely volatile circumstances," Sternbeck wrote recently, in an e-mail. In response to the A.C.L.U. lawsuit, he added, "All instances of use of force by officers and allegations of misconduct will be fully investigated."

While it seemed clear on the day of the protest that the vandalism and property damage were committed by a small number of people, a superseding indictment handed down in late April charged two hundred and twelve people with rioting, inciting a riot, and engaging in a conspiracy to "damage, destroy, or deface property." Because participants in a conspiracy can be held responsible for an offense committed by a co-conspirator, the defendants were all charged with breaking the windows of a Bank of America branch, a McDonald's restaurant, a café, and two separate Starbucks stores. All of them faced the possibility of lengthy prison sentences.

According to defense lawyers, there appears to be no modern-day precedent for charging everyone arrested during a particular protest with conspiracy, and, in May, thirty of the accused filed a motion saying that those charges lacked merit and asking that the superseding indictment be dismissed. Lawyers from the Georgetown Criminal Justice Clinic, white-shoe firms like Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer, and D.C.'s Public Defender Service joined in the motion, which argued that the indictment had attributed crimes "collectively and indiscriminately" to defendants without offering evidence of individual culpability.

Some of the defendants have said that they believe they are being targeted for their perceived political identity. Calls for an "anti-capitalist anti-fascist bloc" on Inauguration Day had begun circulating soon after the election in November. Social-media messages included a photograph of a group of black-clad figures brandishing flags and what appear to be flares along with the hashtag #disruptJ20 and the words "wear

black.” A communiqué on the Web site CrimethInc read, “If Trump is to be inaugurated at all, let it happen behind closed doors, showing the true face of the security state Trump will preside over. It must be made clear to the whole world that the vast majority of people in the United States do not support his presidency or consent to his rule. . . . We must take to the streets and protest, blockade, disrupt, intervene, sit in, walk out, rise up, and make more noise and good trouble than the establishment can bear.”

The authorities seemed aware of the political leanings associated with the protest. Charging documents said that police officers had been “monitoring a planned assembly of individuals that were known to be associated with an anarchist group” and that intelligence-division officers knew that they would be gathering “with the express intent to disrupt Inauguration-related activities.”

Prosecutors in D.C. now face a potentially daunting number of cases, and whether they will be able to come up with individual evidence for each defendant’s case remains to be seen. So far, according to court documents, they have looked at photographs taken by police officers, reviewed video footage, and obtained a judge’s permission to search more than a hundred cell phones seized from those who were arrested. In March, they obtained a warrant to search the home of a man described as a protest organizer and to take computers, cell phones, tablets, and any material documenting the planning of a “riot or ‘Black Bloc’ march” or the planned destruction of property.

The A.C.L.U. suit doesn’t address decisions made by prosecutors in the past few months but it does call into question the police tactics that preceded the Inauguration Day arrests. Scott Michelman, the senior staff attorney for the A.C.L.U. who is handling the case, told me that he and his colleagues had been troubled by the events of January 20th, saying that officers had “forced a bunch of people into a mass detention whether or not they had any involvement in unlawful activities.” The suit, he said, was meant, in part, to send a message to the city that it should avoid “guilt by association policing,” which could threaten First Amendment rights, particularly during events of national political significance, when protests are bound to take place.

“When this sort of thing happens on Inauguration Day, it raises a special level of concern,” Michelman said. “People in the future will start thinking, Well do I want to go to this demonstration, or is there a chance somebody’s going to break a window and I’m going to end up getting charged with multiple felonies that could put me away for more than ten years?”

22 Jun - Judge grants release to halfway house for Red Fawn Fallis

A federal judge has given Red Fawn Fallis permission to move from a jail in Rugby to a halfway house.

MORE:

by Caroline Grueskin (*Bismarck Tribune*)

U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland ordered on Tuesday that Fallis be released as soon as space is available at Centre Inc. in Fargo. Hovland had previously denied a similar request for Fallis, who is accused of shooting at police officers during a Dakota Access Pipeline protest on Oct. 27.

In his order, Hovland cited Fallis’ successful completion of a furlough to attend a memorial service in Colorado for her mother and the need for easier communication with her attorney, Bruce Ellison, of Rapid City, S.D.

U.S. Attorney David Hagler had opposed the request, saying she remained a danger to the community and a flight risk.

Fallis' trial, which was scheduled for July 17, has been postponed to Dec. 5. Ellison asked for the continuance due to the amount of evidence and legal issues in the case. The government did not oppose this request.

Ellison has also requested to move the jury trial out of Bismarck to another jurisdiction. Ellison cited "the massive, pervasive and prejudicial pre-trial publicity that has attended the pipeline protests and, specifically, her arrest and prosecution."

The government and judge have not yet responded to his request.

26 Jun - Statement from Leonard Peltier for the Oglala Commemoration

Below is the latest from American Indian Movement prisoner Leonard Peltier.

MORE:

Well, here we are, another year, another memorial. After 42 yrs this does not get any easier. It seems as if you get lost for words. At times I feel as if it has all been for nothing, but I know that's just weakness speaking. The struggle is never for nothing. So many of our children, grandchildren and in my case now, great-grandchildren, depend on us to try and save our lands, our Nations, our culture, religion and our People. But the young people should know many of us are growing old and soon it will be our time to leave this world. The next generation has to step into our shoes and become leaders. As they say, they will have to step up to the plate and be a strong hitter of the ball. These are words that I have repeated many times over the years.

To see the younger Sisters and Brothers who are doing just that is an enormous relief from the stress that stems from feeling we may have lost the Battle for Survival as a Nation of Peoples. From in here all I can see is a lot of areas where we are losing ground. Like the young drinking, drugging and gang banging - KILLING our own kids on our Rez. Streets with these drive by shootings, "How cowardly is that!" Then there are so many children who are living in this world of oppression. They take their own lives because they believe it is their only way out. Our young girls/women - fed up with the Rez life of dysfunctional family life and poverty and all of the evils that go with it - seek a better life by marrying out of our race, which in reality, is effectively an act of genocide AGAINST OUR OWN RACE. This is a strategy perpetuated by the USA government that has been going on for centuries now - 'breed the Indian out of the Indian' was their Plan. I know it's true, "AS IT HAS HAPPEN WITH IN MY OWN FAMILY!" They wanted a better life. One with which they could at least escape poverty and be able to support their family.

SO WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS? How do we correct or fight this and will the Powers that be allow us to correct it? Those remain very hard questions to answer. But we have tried and must continue trying. AIM and the other native organizations (it wasn't just the American Indian Movement), who believed in reversing those plans, all pushed hard through Native country and made them work in a lot of areas. Those that believed in our principals taught their children the ways of their tribes, culture, etc. I'm hearing their children are doing good things and are strong advocates of Native culture, our Nation, and Our People. Some Native Nations have almost eliminated alcohol and drugs, and more of their young people are finishing high school and going to college. Some are restoring their lands to their Natural Habitat after yrs, of destruction by mining or development. Although we have made many gains we are still a long way from being successful. So we elders need you young people to stand up and take over, as we have always said, and pursue a life on the good red road.

When I first heard about Standing Rock - WOW! - what a proud, warm feeling went through my body. Here were MY people leading the way to try and save our - HELL, not just OUR's, but "The world's!"

future generations. This is what we in the 60's, 70's were doing with some of our political issues and protests. Standing Rock's water is a stand-in for the water we all depend on. It is so important for life. Without water we People, the Animals, the Land itself, CANNOT LIVE. IT'S SIMPLE AND THERE ISN'T ANY TRUTHFUL ANSWER OTHERWISE. Why can't they understand this? The answer is because they don't give a damn!

Well, I have said enough for now. Some of what I have said I'm only repeating and probably will repeat them the rest of my life. Until we win and the world is a safer place for all peoples, then I don't feel like it is being said in vain. You all have a good day and thank you very much for all these the years of support and the love you have shown me. You're awesome and it will be worth every moment of these 42 yrs of hell I have lived in if we - not me as one man -but we as a Nation and a culture, can emerge victorious.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse - Doksha

26 Jun - Take action now! Political prisoner Jaan Laaman still in segregation, threatened with transfer to CMU

As of Monday, June 26, 2017, Jaan Laaman, long-time anti-imperialist political prisoner, was still locked down in segregation (minimum of 23 hours locked down in a 6'×9' cell).

MORE:

Jaan has been in "segregation" for three months simply for issuing two statements, a clear violation of free speech and human rights. He is being threatened with transfer to a Communication Management Unit (CMU) or Special Management Unit; punishments that are not appropriate for a prisoner of Jaan's age, and would be a violation for practicing free speech.

After a prison hearing on May 4, 2017, Jaan was found to not have violated prison regulations regarding "misuse of mail," but was found to have violated prison regulations concerning "misuse of the telephone," for speaking on the phone to a friend and conveying his support of the "Day Without a Woman Strike" (International Women's Day, March 8, 2017), and his feelings about the death of his friend, Attorney Lynne Stewart. Jaan was sanctioned by losing 10 days good time credit and by loss of the telephone for 6 months (in addition to the loss of email access which was imposed without a hearing one year ago). Jaan is currently appealing this ruling. Meanwhile, Jaan is still in "segregation," and still being threatened with transfer to a CMU.

How you can support Jaan:

Write/call/email the Bureau of Prisons Regional Director and ask her not to transfer Jaan to a Communication Management Unit.

Please remind her that Jaan is an elder prisoner, and you are concerned about his health in segregation and you would be concerned about his safety if he is moved to a Communication Management Unit.

Mary M. Mitchell, Regional Director

BOP Regional Office

7338 Shoreline Drive

Stockton, California 95219

– Select 'USP Tucson'

– Send a message that includes his name and number: 'Jaan Laaman #10372-016'

1 Jul - Urgent Bail and Legal Funds Need for Camp White Pine

For over a year now, the Gerhart family and a huge number of dedicated volunteers have been working to stop the Mariner East 2 pipeline from being built, putting too many miles of beautiful Pennsylvania forests, streams, and wetlands at risk.

MORE:

As a last resort, volunteers have taken to the trees and used direct action to stop this pipeline from being built. Arrests while non-violently defending this land are probable, and the right of the Gerharts to maintain their property have already been violated.

Pennsylvania judges have a nasty habit of imposing harsh and unreasonable bail and legal costs on people arrested for environmental direct action. Please support these brave volunteers by donating to their bail and legal fund. We already have a lawyer in place who is ready to defend any arrested individuals, but there are many costs associated with legal defense. Every dollar helps! fundrazr.com/campwhitepine

5 Jul - A Basic Introduction To Surviving Encounters With The Police

WHAT: Know your rights and more

WHEN: 7:00-9:00pm, Wednesday, July 5th

WHERE: The National Black Theater - 2031 Fifth Avenue, Harlem, New York 10035

COST: FREE

MORE:

Last week was a devastating moment for our communities with THREE painful not guilty verdicts in the police murders of Philando Castile, Samuel Dubose and Sylville Smith. The horrible reality is that cops can kill Black, Brown and oppressed people and get away with it.

Join us at Harlem's National Black Theater for a "Free" introductory mini-workshop to learn some basic information that could very well save your life and the lives of your loved ones.

Featuring:

- A Short Film Screening of "Every Mothers Son"
- Know Your Rights & Legal First Aid at Home, your Car and In The Streets
- Cop Watch, Self Defense & Survival Against Physical Police Attacks
- People's Security and Anti-Police Terror Tactics at Marches & Demonstrations
- People's Cyber Security & Countering Police Intelligence

14 Jul - Punk Rock Karaoke! Benefit for Political Prisoners Calendar

WHAT: Benefit for Certain Days

WHEN: 9:00pm-12:30am, Friday, July 14th

WHERE: Pine Box Rock Shop - 12 Grattan Street, Brooklyn, New York 11206

COST: \$10

MORE:

The *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar* is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal, Toronto, and New York, in partnership with three political prisoners being held in maximum-security prisons in New York State: David Gilbert, Robert Seth Hayes and Herman Bell. The initial project was suggested by Herman in 2001, and has been shaped throughout the years by all of our ideas, discussions, and analysis. All of the current members of the outside collective are grounded in day to-day organizing work other than the calendar, on issues ranging from migrant justice to community media to prisoner solidarity. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer- and trans-liberationist position. More at certaindays.org