



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for November 21st

31 Oct - Water Protector Alexander Simon Released From Jail + Updates

Alexander Simon and Mary Redway were the first two Water Protectors to be sentenced to jail time for first amendment activity at Standing Rock.

MORE:

By imposing jail time the judge departed from the State's Attorney's recommendations for suspended sentences. Simon and Redway faced a total of five charges at trial. They were acquitted on all but one count of Disorderly Conduct.

Simon released a statement from jail that read in part:

I was singled out among many who were unjustly arrested. It seems that Judge Thomas A. Merrick wanted to make an example of me, berating me because, in his opinion, I didn't "have a dog in the fight." He is mistaken and I am proud to help shoulder the burden in the fight for Indigenous Rights. If this is the price I must pay for Indigenous Peoples to pursue a path towards sovereignty, I am honored to do it.

Redway was among the group that met Simon on his release today. She had the following to say:

I firmly believe that the judge was sending a message when he found me guilty of Disorderly Conduct, sentenced me to six days in jail, and had me shackled right there in the court room like a scene from a bad movie. He wants to discourage allies from standing in solidarity with Standing Rock: If you dare to come here and protest, we will arrest you and throw you in jail. We do this even to 65-year-old white women who go on prayer walks.

Alexander Simon, 27, is a teacher living in New Mexico. Mary Redway is 64 years old, and a retired environmental planner from Rhode Island.

Simon and Redway were arrested along with approximately 140 others on October 22, 2016. The vast majority of those cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence. The other Water Protectors who were tried together with Simon and Redway on October 18-19 were acquitted of all charges. All but two of the previous trials arising from that day have resulted in acquittals. The previous two convictions carried no jail time.

Eleven other Water Protectors have been convicted at trial, but in each of those cases the judge did not find jail time to be appropriate.

Nearly 400 Water Protectors are still awaiting trial in their state cases and six are preparing for federal felony trials. The first federal trial will be Red Fawn's at the end of January, 2018.

November 14th - More Dismissals for Water Protectors

Three Water Protectors arrested on October 10, 2016 appeared in Morton County Criminal Court before Judge Haskell yesterday, November 13th, for a hearing on their attorneys' motions to dismiss for want of probable cause. They were arrested while praying on an unmarked construction site, on a federal holiday during which no construction was occurring, no workers were present, and no landowner objected to their presence.

Two identical cases were dismissed by Judge Haskell on October 17, 2017 after a finding that the State's Attorney could not prove the existence of a valid government function with which the Water Protectors could have been interfering at the time of their arrest. After brief arguments, consistent with his previous ruling, Judge Haskell dismissed the three cases yesterday finding that since he could not find a valid government function with which they had interfered, their arrests were without probable cause.

Police are forbidden by the Fourth Amendment from entering onto private land without an independent basis for doing so. This independent basis may be their reasonable belief that a criminal offense is occurring. In these cases, the state first charged the Water Protectors with Trespass and Riot, but dismissed those charges, and re-charged then with physical obstruction of a government function. The government function they claim was obstructed was their clearing of people from the work-site. They argued that the Water Protectors were trespassing, and needed to be removed from the land, but there was no clear no trespass posting, no fencing clearly intended to exclude people from the land, and no explicit request of the landowner that police remove people.

“I crossed a fence line while hunting last weekend,” Judge Haskell said. “Does that give the police the right to arrest me?”

Three cases stemming from the same set of facts remain scheduled for trial. At this time the office of the State’s Attorney does appear to be pursuing them.

November 17th - Motions Argued on Behalf of Water Protector Arrested Oct 17 2016

A Lakota Sioux man from Standing Rock who was arrested on 10/27/16 while peacefully protesting against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline next to his home appeared in court today. He is presently charged with Engaging in a Riot and Causing a Public Nuisance.

His attorney argued the following motions in court before Judge Reich:

- Motion to Dismiss for lack of Probable Cause to make the arrest on these charges (Engaging in a Riot and Causing a Public Nuisance);
- Motion to Dismiss the Public Nuisance since the charge is Unconstitutionally Vague;
- Motion for a Bill of Particulars;
- Motion to Compel the Deposition of the Arresting Officer;
- Motion to Dismiss and for Sanctions for Failure to Comply with Discovery and
- Motions *in Limine*.

Three different police officers have claimed that they were the one that arrested this water protector, at three different times spanning two hours, and at two different locations a mile apart. All three officers charged him with different charges. This appeared to trouble the Court – just as it has troubled his defense attorney.

Judge Reich held an extensive hearing in which he agreed with the defense arguments that the state had failed to establish probable cause. He found that a general affidavit discussing the actions of 147 people arrested on 10/27/16, which did not name this water protector as having done any specific illegal action, was inadequate to confer probable cause to make the arrest. He further found that the affidavit’s failure to allude to any actions in which this water protector allegedly engaged further established a lack of probable cause to arrest him.

Although Judge Reich indicated he would probably not find that the Causing a Public Nuisance statute was void for vagueness, he ordered the prosecution to respond to the defense’s Motion for a Bill of Particulars and to state specifically what section of the statute the state claimed the water protector violated.

The Court also ordered that the state answer defendant’s Interrogatories within fourteen days from today’s date.

Finally, he ordered that the state let the defense know within 14 days when they would produce the requested witnesses to be deposed by the defense attorney.

Although not the outright dismissal we had hoped for, the Court's orders can only be viewed as a victory:

- The state must articulate specific facts alleging the specific acts of this water protector which gave law enforcement probable cause to arrest him.
- The state is required to produce witnesses for their depositions, after three previous unsuccessful attempts by the defense to take their depositions.
- Requiring that the arresting officer answer interrogatories.
- Evidence admitted at trial must be limited to establishing the actions of this water protector and cannot be extraneous to the events of 10/27/16 that led to his arrest.

The Court reserved ruling on most of the defense's motions *in limine*.

Unless this case is dismissed (or if only one of the two charges is dismissed) trial is scheduled for 1/23/18 at the Morton County Courthouse.

November 13th - DOJ Vows to Prosecute Activists Who Stop Pipeline Construction

by Justine Calma (*Grist*)

As new pipeline battles ramp up, the DOJ vows to prosecute activists who stop construction.

The Justice Department's edict comes after 84 Congressional representatives submitted a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions in October asking whether it could charge protestors who damage pipelines and other energy infrastructure under domestic terrorism laws.

Meanwhile, arrests are piling up. Last month, police arrested 23 people for trespassing as they stood hand-in-hand to block the construction of the Atlantic Sunrise natural gas pipeline on land owned by a group of nuns. Activists won a brief legal victory last Monday when a court halted progress on the pipeline. But days later the U.S. Court of Appeals allowed work to restart. Both the construction and the protests are ongoing.

Across the Midwest, indigenous communities are organizing against the Line 3 Pipeline, which they say could contaminate soil and water and threaten wild rice crops on reservations. Police arrested several pipeline opponents in Wisconsin on Wednesday for holing up inside a pipe for seven hours.

"We have attended public hearings, marches, and rallies," a Line 3 protester said in statement. "At this point we feel like the only way we can make our [sic] voices heard is by locking our bodies to the equipment."

November 15th - Woman Injured In Pipeline Protest Still Being Investigated

by Amy Forliti (*Associated Press*)

A New York City woman who suffered a serious arm injury while protesting the Dakota Access pipeline last year is preparing for her fifth surgery, even as she faces assertions by the government that she or her fellow protesters are at fault for an explosion they blame on police.

Recently unsealed court documents indicate the government last spring sought evidence that might implicate Sophia Wilansky of federal crimes dealing with homemade explosives by searching her Facebook account.

Wilansky was injured during a violent clash between protesters and police in November 2016 that's become the emblematic skirmish of the months-long protest in North Dakota against the recently finished pipeline that's carrying oil to Illinois.

Protesters tried to push past a blocked highway bridge near their main encampment but were turned back by authorities using tear gas, rubber bullets and water sprays. Police said protesters threw objects including rocks, asphalt and water bottles at officers.

Wilansky suffered a left arm injury in an explosion. Protesters allege the blast was caused by a concussion grenade thrown by officers, while police maintain it was caused by a propane canister that protesters rigged to explode.

"There is probable cause to believe that violations (of explosives laws) have been committed by Sophia Wilansky," FBI Special Agent Brian VanOosbree said in an affidavit accompanying the March 28 application for a search warrant for her Facebook account.

Eight months later, Wilansky hasn't been charged with any crimes, though the investigation is ongoing, according to the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Both agencies declined to comment. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Delorme didn't respond to requests for comment.

Delorme received permission from a federal magistrate judge in March to keep the Facebook search secret. It was unsealed in late October. The FBI sought information that took 1 ½ pages to detail, from photos and videos to lists of friends.

"It did seem like one of the motivations of going after her Facebook account was to see her associates, to see her friends," said Wilansky's attorney Lauren Regan, who heads the Civil Liberties Defense Center.

Wayne Wilansky said he and his daughter weren't aware of the search but aren't surprised or worried by it.

"There's nothing on her Facebook page that would concern me," he said.

The family is planning to sue the FBI to obtain shrapnel that authorities took as evidence, hoping it will bolster an eventual lawsuit they plan to file against law enforcement seeking monetary damages.

Sophia Wilansky has limited use of her left arm and hand, which her father said is "totally disfigured." She's scheduled for tendon replacement surgery on Dec. 12.

3 Nov - Update on political prisoner Veronza Bowers

Below are letters from Veronza as well as his youngest sister regarding the renewed call for his support.

MORE:

Here we are again and hopefully this will be the last time I will have to call on you for contributions to my Legal Defense Fund. As you know, we have had some successes in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. They have ruled in our favor twice, but each time stopped short of ordering my immediate release. My Freedom Team flew into Atlanta and argued my case before them (Oral Arguments), for yet a third time during this past summer. We now await their decision and it could come down any day, literally. Of course, even though we are right by law, we don't know how they will rule. However it turns out, we are prepared to continue until I take my long overdue long walk to freedom.

On yet another battle front, most of you know that I was diagnosed as having lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes). I was transferred from USP Atlanta in June to the Federal Medical Center in Butner, N.C. I've undergone six chemo therapy treatments. What a rough journey that was!!!! But I made it!!!! The doctor had said that he was very pleased with the way my body responded to the treatments and that there has been a significant shrinkage of the tumors. Recently he said that my cancer is in remission. I have to take a CAT scan and a CT scan to make sure everything is all clear. What a relief!!!!

So, again I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued love, support and generous financial contributions. Every time you've been called upon, you haven't hesitated to step up to the plate. Without YOU...I can't imagine.

Hello, this is Rhonda Woodruff Jones. I am Veronza's youngest Sister. I currently live in Phoenix, Arizona. I hope you all are doing well. So much has transpired since my last update to you all in December 2016. I wanted to give you all an update and Veronza has also written a letter to you. Veronza was diagnosed with Lymphoma cancer this summer. He is no longer in Atlanta, Georgia. He is now in Butner, North Carolina receiving chemo treatments. He has undergone 4 treatments and has responded well to the medication. Veronza met with Dr. Carden a couple of days ago regarding his latest blood tests. Dr. Carden informed him that the results were "impeccable", and that his lymphoma was in remission. Veronza was then moved to an area of the hospital where the risk of serious infection would be mitigated. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for results of recent CAT and CT (computer tomography) scans as well as a ruling by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding his habeas petition that was argued this past Spring.

Update on Mr. Maynard Garfield

My brother Veronza (I call him Butch as his nickname) has asked that I help in administering the Defense Fund on his behalf, as dear friend Maynard Garfield has fallen ill and I just received word this week that Garf has passed. His daughter contacted me this week of the news. I ask that you please keep Garf's memory close to your heart and that you pray for comfort for the family.

Legal Defense Fund Donation Instructions:

I am a Certified Public Accountant, licensed in the state of Arizona. I am also the Assistant Treasurer at Oxford Life Insurance company headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona. I take my new role with Veronza's fund very seriously and will make sure all funds are accounted for spent on Veronza's legal expenses. I thank you in advance for supporting my brother and any donation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me. My social media account is under "Rhonda Woodruff Jones" on Facebook (I am a part time spin instructor, so you will see me in my spin gear on Facebook) or you can send me an email at rwjones0217@qwest.net.

All of funds are held in a separate secure account at Wells Fargo Bank. If you would like to donate, you can do so two ways:

Paypal

Use the following email address to send donations: veronzalegalfund@yahoo.com. Funds will be transferred directly to Veronza's Wells Fargo Account

Donation via Check by Mail

Please write checks to Veronza Bowers Jr Legal Defense Fund and mail to:
Rhonda W. Jones
c/o Veronza Bowers Jr Legal Defense Fund
1304 East Briarwood Terrace

Phoenix, Arizona 85048

Rhonda will deposit all checks to Veronza's Wells Fargo Account and send receipts to all donors.

6 Nov - Doug Wright transferred to FCI Talladega

Doug Wright, of the Cleveland 4, was recently transferred to FCI Talladega in Alabama.

MORE:

Transfers and adjusting to being at a different prison can be a stressful time, so please take a moment to send Doug a card or letter to express support. You can also order a book for him from his Amazon wish list at [amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/37YXSRCKU6OB8](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/37YXSRCKU6OB8) and view information about how to make a donation to his commissary fund or the general support fund at cleveland4solidarity.org/support-0

6 Nov - The Making of a Movement

The following was written by Jalil Muntaqim for the San Francisco Bay View newspaper.

MORE:

by Jalil A. Muntaqim (San Francisco Bay View)

I was captured on Aug. 28, 1971, in San Francisco after a car chase and gun battle with San Francisco police. It was alleged that myself and co-defendant Albert Nuh Washington were attempting to avenge the assassination of George L. Jackson in San Quentin on Aug. 21, 1971.

I was convicted for the S.F. shootout, a federal bank robbery, and in 1975 convicted of killing two police officers in New York that occurred on May 21, 1971. This conviction was code named NEWKILL by the FBI in a May 26, 1971, meeting at the White House between J. Edgar Hoover, then-President Richard Nixon and members of the Watergate plumbers.

I'd been a member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, and the White House had decided to ensure BPP members were convicted for NEWKILL. I was captured for alleged revolutionary-military actions, charged and persecuted in criminal proceedings; the U.S. corporate government criminalizes political rebellion.

After my conviction in New York City, I was returned to California to complete the S.F. conviction and sentence. I was placed in San Quentin Adjustment Center, locked on the first floor in a cell between Ruchell Cinque Magee and Charles Manson. The San Quentin Six were locked a few cells away on the same tier.

In 1975, I received a newsletter from Yuri Kochiyama, representing the New York City chapter of the National Committee in Defense of Political Prisoners. The newsletter highlighted a call for the United Nations to consider the existence of the U.S. political prisoners.

After reading the newsletter, I drafted a proposal for progressives and activists to assist political prisoners to petition the United Nations on our behalf to call for a formal investigation into our existence and the conditions we suffered in prisons across the country. I showed the draft to Ruchell, who thought it was very good, but suggested I let Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt review it.

I had the proposal smuggled to the second floor of the Adjustment Center where Geronimo was being held, along with Russell Little and Bill Harris, members of the SLA (Symbionese Liberations Army), for his

critique. Geronimo tweaked the proposal and sent it back for me to rewrite and send to Yuri and NCDPP to implement.

Unfortunately, after several weeks there was no response from Yuri or NCDPP, so the proposal was abandoned until early 1977. At that time, I met a white guy in San Quentin nicknamed Commie Mike, and I shared the proposal with him. He put me in contact with the United Prisons Union, a prison reform advocacy group in San Francisco.

After a meeting with Pat Singer, a leader of UPU, it was agreed UPU would take on the proposal and develop what evolved into the National Prisoners Petition Campaign to the United Nations. Soon thereafter, the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee joined in support of UPU in building the petition campaign to the U.N. We were able to obtain former Amnesty International attorney Kathryn Burke to assist with the development of the petition to be presented to the United Nations.

By 1978, the campaign had prisoners in 25 states, including Hawaii, supporting the petition. The petition was submitted to the U.N. Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and recorded as U.N. document E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/75. This was the first time a document concerning the existence of U.S. political prisoners and racist prison conditions had been filed, recorded and heard at the U.N.

In 1979, evolving from this initiative, an effort was made to have the International Jurists tour the U.S. and interview political prisoners. After a number of interviews, the International Jurists filed a report to the United Nations affirming political prisoners exist in the United States.

Also in 1979, our campaign knew a journalist in Paris would be attending a news conference by U.S. United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young. I was asked were there any specific questions I wanted asked by the journalist, and I said only one: "Do political prisoners exist in the U.S.?" Ambassador Young answered truthfully, stating "... perhaps thousands," and for his admission, then-President Jimmy Carter fired Andrew Young from his post.

It should be noted, also as part of the overall campaign, Cuba's President Fidel Castro offered to trade U.S. political prisoners for prisoners in Cuba the U.S. wanted. Unfortunately, because we did not have contacts with the State Department or know anyone who was willing and capable of intervening in our behalf, that trade did not happen.

Many years later, the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika organized annual marches around the White House, demonstrating and calling for the release of U.S. political prisoners. In 1995, the PG-RNA, for lack of funding and participation, stopped the Jericho marches, which I thought should continue.

So, in 1996, I distributed a call for action to reestablish the Jericho marches. Comrades Safiya Asya Bukhari and Herman Ferguson came to visit, decrying they were unable to organize a national Jericho march in a year's time. In our meeting in the visiting room at Eastern Correctional Facility in New York, we agreed that a concerted effort would be made to organize the Jericho March for 1998.

Sista Safiya and Baba Herman's organizing ability was incomparable, initiating the campaign by establishing an organizing committee, a P.O. box address for communications, and a non-profit tax status to raise funds. They then issued a call for progressives in the left, especially those supporting political prisoners across the country, to join in the organizing initiative.

Both Safiya and Herman crisscrossed the country, meeting with activists, explaining the importance of the march and demonstration, letting activists know we have a collective responsibility to support our captured and confined warriors and demand their release and amnesty. Within two years, their indomitable spirit and revolutionary determination successfully brought 6,000 activists from across the country to Washington, D.C., for the Jericho March and rally.

After the march and rally, it was decided the momentum from the effort should continue, and the Jericho Amnesty Movement was born. The Jericho Amnesty Movement is charged with the responsibility of supporting and representing the interests of U.S. political prisoners and calling for their release, especially those known to have COINTELPRO convictions.

There have been continued initiatives to raise the profile of U.S. political prisoners at the United Nations. In 2016, Jihad Abdumumit, the current chairperson of Jericho, made a presentation in Geneva, Switzerland, on behalf of U.S. political prisoners. Jihad was a member of the Black Panther Party and BLA and a former political prisoner; he understands this struggle to forge a determination to free U.S. political prisoners.

In 2018, the Jericho Amnesty Movement will reach a milestone of 20 years of actively fighting on behalf of U.S. political prisoners. In these nearly 20 years, Jericho has established a medical committee to assist political prisoners in their health needs and a legal defense committee to assist political prisoners in their legal defenses and challenges, assist families of political prisoners to visit, and continue to fight for their release.

When we consider that many of those who were COINTELPRO targets are still in prison, we can agree that Jericho is an important formation bridging the generations from the struggle of the 1960s and 1970s to the millennials. Obviously, for any movement to be sustained, grow and evolve, activists must support their political prisoners.

The Black Panther Party was instrumental in developing community organizing and political objectives to be achieved. The Party made people understand the process of fighting the status quo to empower the community.

For example, in 1967 the Party started armed patrols of the police, carrying weapons and law books, demanding cops follow the Constitution and laws on stop and frisk procedures. This type of public display of challenging police procedures encouraged folks on the streets to recognize the police weren't all powerful or omnipotent.

This was the primary reason the FBI COINTELPRO launched over 300 attacks against the BPP. In fact, the FBI employed every tactic used to destabilize a country in order to destroy the Black Panther Party. This includes illegal surveillance, infiltration, provocateurs, burglarizing offices and homes, stops and frisks, illegal arrests, poison pen letters, misinformation in the media, snitch jacketing and assassinations.

Indeed, on March 9, 1968, J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI, issued a COINTELPRO memorandum that stated in part: "The Negro youth and moderate must be made to understand that if they succumb to revolutionary teaching, they will be dead revolutionaries."

It must be understood that the FBI COINTELPRO did not begin with the U.S. corporate government's efforts to destroy the Black Panther Party, and "to prevent the rise of a Black Messiah." However, the FBI COINTELPRO illegal, unconstitutional activities from 1967 to 1970 resulted in the death of approximately 33 Panthers.

Despite the attacks on the BPP, the youth flocked to the Party, especially after 1967 when Bobby Seale and 26 armed Panthers entered the California legislature protesting hearings on gun control. This action captured the imagination of young Black youths across the country that the fight for revolution was here. The subsequent passing of the Milford Act made it illegal for Panthers to publicly carry weapons while patrolling the police.

Also in 1968, membership increased when the Party established its "Serve the People" programs, initiating the free breakfast program for children. In 1969, the first BPP Free Breakfast for Children Program was started at St. Augustine's Church in Oakland, and the Party was distributing and selling 100,000 copies of its newspaper, The Black Panther, weekly.

By 1968, the BPP had established 38 branches and chapters with 5,000 members. It was the indomitable spirit of these thousands of young people dedicating themselves to the Party and continuing the struggle for freedom and equality that began from the time when New Afrikans were brought to this country as slaves.

Hence, when Willie Ricks and Stokely Carmichael proclaimed our struggle was for "Black Power," it ignited a political cataclysmic storm of youthful energy for freedom. The Black Panther Party Ten Point Platform and Program manifested that declaration in the pragmatic development of programs on behalf of our people. It is this legacy of resistance and fightback that Jericho incorporates, as lessons learned from the BPP.

I was one of those thousands of young people who, at 16 years of age, first signed up to become a Panther; at 18 years old I was recruited into the Black underground. A little more than a month before my 20th birthday I was captured, and am now one of the longest held political prisoners in the world.

With 46 years in prison, I continue to seek ways to contribute to the overall struggle. The writing of my books, "We Are Our Own Liberators" and "Escaping the Prism – Fade to Black," is part of giving back to this generation of activists. It is necessary to ensure the continuum from one generation to the next, and it is incumbent on each generation to support political prisoners who paved the way, passing the torch of revolution.

In this regard, recently the Jericho Amnesty Movement embarked on a new national and international campaign to persuade the U.N. International Jurists to initiate a formal investigation into human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners and to demand the U.S. corporate government implement the U.N. Minimum Standards on the Treatment of Prisoners and immediately release our political prisoners.

This especially calls for the release of those with COINTELPRO convictions who have languished in prison for 30 to 50 years. These political prisoners were contemporaries of Nelson Mandela; when he was fighting against Apartheid in South Afrika, they were fighting against Jim Crow segregation and second-class citizenship in the U.S.

This Jericho campaign motto is "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela," and activists across the country are urged to join and support it in whatever way they are able in political solidarity toward the building of the National Coalition for the Human Rights of Political Prisoners. For more information on this campaign or on the existence of U. S. political prisoners, keep reading and visit thejerichomovement.com or email [JihadAbdulMumit@gmail.com](mailto: JihadAbdulMumit@gmail.com)

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela: Campaign for UN investigation into the human rights of US Political Prisoners

Proposal to campaign for UN international jurists to initiate a formal investigation

In the last couple of years, we've witnessed the release of a few political prisoners after long, hard-fought battles. We also know many more were denied release after winning court battles, like Sundiata Acoli, Veronza Bowers and Dr. Mutulu Shakur. Either the court decided they should be released and the Parole Departments appealed, preventing release, or the Parole Board granted release, and state apparatus appealed to annul those decisions. In either case, our comrades continue to languish in prison, as these decisions leave few, if any, avenues of recourse to remedy the situation.

On the other hand, we have witnessed and celebrate the tremendous victories like the release of the Cuban Five, and the recent release of Oscar Lopez Rivera. His being granted clemency is one in a long line of clemency successes for Puerto Rican Independentistas. The broad-based international support for the Puerto Rican independence movement speaks loudly to the lesson of a unified and uniform determination.

We must seek the wherewithal to replicate their organizational success in our continued struggle to win the release of our incarcerated comrades. As we congratulate and celebrate the release of Oscar, it is extremely important to encourage that body of activists to join in our fight in international solidarity. His victory is our victory, and our continued fight should be their continued fight!

In this regard, I have been reflecting on our past successes, particularly having the United Nations International Jurists tour and interview a number of our political prisoners. Following the visits, the International Jurists reported to the U.N. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that political prisoners exist in the United States.

Soon thereafter, the late and honored Fidel Castro, the president of Cuba, offered, on Dec. 24, 1977, to make an exchange of prisoners held in Cuba for our captured revolutionaries. Unfortunately, we did not have the fortitude or organizational capacity to demand this exchange be made – to force the issue with the U.S. corporate government.

Some of the comrades interviewed by the International Jurists 35 years ago still languish in prison today. Therefore, I would like to propose it is time to organize a new international campaign to persuade the U.N. International Jurists to initiate a formal investigation. This investigation would be based on discovering U.S. human rights violations as they pertain to our long-held political prisoners.

I am proposing this campaign be organized under the slogan of "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela," as it is believed this slogan will resonate with progressives around the world. It will inspire them in international solidarity to join our efforts to persuade the U.N. International Jurists to initiate this call for a needed investigation.

Some of you may be aware that recently departed U.N. Rapporteur Juan Mendez successfully had a report and recommendation accepted by the U.N. General Assembly condemning the U.S. policy and practice on punitive solitary confinement. The U.N. General Assembly now identifies this accepted condemnation and recommendation as the "Nelson Mandela Rules."

It would be politically and strategically advantageous for our campaign to build on Juan Mendez' success with our organizing slogan "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela." This is especially significant since many of our imprisoned comrades suffer the punitive conditions of solitary confinement.

When giving consideration to the New York Times Dec. 4 and 5, 2016, special report on the racial discrimination in disciplinary practices in the New York Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, we know the "Mandela Rules" have been violated. In fact, I am writing this proposal from NYS Southport premiere gulag – in solitary confinement for a bogus disciplinary Tier III hearing in stark violation of the "Nelson Mandela Rules."

Therefore, it is anticipated the organizing of this proposal will permit us to accomplish the following:

1. Build a national determination focused on petitioning the International Jurists to initiate a human rights violation investigation;
2. Create a political environment to build international solidarity among progressives around the world in support of our political prisoners;
3. Build a media propaganda campaign in support of this determination, giving greater recognition to our political prisoners and the conditions of their imprisonment;
4. Expose U.S. hypocrisy on the U.S. human rights record and its continued violation of the "Mandela Rules";
5. Strengthen our capacity to represent our political prisoners, broadening the base of unity and support among the New Afrikan/Black, Native American, Puerto Rican, Chicano/Mexicano, Euro-American etc. anti-racist and anti-imperialist trends in the overall struggle;
6. Have the U.N. International Jurists report to the U.N. General Assembly, hence to the world, the U.S. human rights violations as they specifically pertain to the existence of U.S. political prisoners;
7. The report by the International Jurists to be used for the development of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission with international observers to remedy the COINTELPRO persecutions and convictions.

The proposal tasks us to formulate and structure an organizational determination and action plan to possibly form a Coalition on Human Rights for Political Prisoners. Such coalition would be comprised of representatives of our political prisoners, human rights advocates, legal representatives, progressive organizations and faith-based groups.

In closing, after careful review, I ask this proposal be copied, widely distributed and posted for discussing toward implementation. Again, with the success of Oscar and the recent release of a few political prisoners, it is time to step up our fight for freedom "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela."

Fundraising and developing the UN International Jurists Campaign

It has been brought to my attention that there is a growing interest to build and support the national and international initiative to persuade the U.N. International Jurists to conduct a formal investigation of the treatment of our political prisoners.

A member of the National Lawyers Guild has made me aware a specific concern toward initiating this campaign will be cost. As is usual, when talking about building and sustaining an initiative and campaign of this magnitude, developing financial resources is an issue of contention. Here, I would like to briefly address this concern in hope of offering some practical and pragmatic approaches to alleviate this concern.

Obviously, for this campaign to be a success and hopefully evolve into a sustainable organizational determination, it is essential and necessary to forge specific functioning committees tasked with specific purposes. For lack of a better term, I'll call this the Financial Committee:

The FC will be tasked to build the economic foundation for this campaign. It will

1. Establish a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible account for fundraising;

2. Develop a grant proposal to attach to the proposal for the campaign to be presented to the following funding resources; Haymarket Fund, Rosenberg Fund, A.J. Muste Foundation, North Star Fund. Other foundations or funding sources should be investigated to potentially support this campaign. Grant proposals should be written tailored to the funding sources' criteria. However, our objective should not be to be complacent when it comes to testing the limits of those criteria – our innovative and creative structuring of the grant should be able to satisfy the demands of these funding sources.
3. Start crowdfunding by establishing a working relationship with a crowdfunding source such as Indiegogo and other online funding sources.
4. Make direct appeals with a specific bullet points funding pitch to be broadcast at intervals on progressive radio programs across the country, especially on Pacifica Radio.

In addition, create a short video pitch on the existence of U.S. political prisoners, our overall struggle and the specific objective of this campaign, appealing for people to make direct donations. This video pitch should be loaded on YouTube, Facebook, Snapchat, Google and other social media platforms. The video pitch is both an educational tool and fundraising application further broadening the base of support, not only for this campaign, but for all of our political prisoners.

5. Organize other fundraising committee events, including reaching out to the entertainment community to do benefits in support of the campaign.

The five specific initiatives present how the overall campaign can be adequately financed to ensure its success. It will further serve to secure the organizational development of the campaign to potentially evolve into a sustainable organizational determinant to project political-ideological direction for the future of struggle.

The importance of this (R)evolutionary prospect is we anticipate our long-term need to represent political prisoners. Other specific committees that will need to be organized are the Propaganda Committee, Legal Committee and the Committee for Organizational Development.

I am confident the initial organizing committee will have both the vision and courage to forge a non-sectarian political approach with the goal to eventually organize a broad-based Coalition on Human Rights for Political Prisoners. There are many voices that must be heard, and this vehicle will serve to ensure these voices are both recognized and heard subject to our initial, uniform and common interest on behalf of all political prisoners.

Ultimately, the task is to secure the International Jurists to conduct this investigation on human rights of political prisoners and to build international solidarity in support of this determination in anti-imperialist solidarity with progressive forces around the world.

If you desire me to present my thinking to the above-mentioned committees, please let me know. I hope these ideas are found both helpful and doable. Of course, it is extremely important to have the right committed people assigned to the task to be accomplished. It is my sincere hope there are more than enough activists who are interested in this objective and campaign and prepared to employ their talents to ensure our success.

7 Nov - Weathering Jail & Prison: Tips from Dane Powell & Joseph Buddenburg

Dane Powell, the first of the J20 defendants to be sentenced, teamed up with Joseph Buddenburg, another political prisoner serving two years for Conspiracy to Violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, to compose the following guide to surviving jail, prison, and transportation between holding facilities.

MORE:

For perspective on how to weather the process leading up to the verdict, read “How to Survive a Felony Trial: Keeping Your Head up through the Worst of It,” available at crimethinc.com/2017/02/08/how-to-survive-a-felony-trial-a-guide-to-keeping-your-head-up-through-the-worst

Dane Powell:

When you’re facing a possible prison sentence, the anxiety can be overbearing. No person who is in prison knows what lies ahead from one day to the next. It is quite literally a step into the unknown.

When I first got to jail, I kept notes on experiences that might help ease some confusion for my codefendants. I had no idea I would be transported hundreds of miles to the sunshine state over a three-week period.

Roughly a month at Coleman Federal Correctional Institution, I was introduced to Joseph Buddenburg, another political prisoner, who is serving a 24-month sentence. Joseph was originally serving time in California and was sent to the east coast, away from his support, as a form of punishment. I shared this writing project with him and we decided to combine our energy and experiences. Our goal is to give tips and tricks we had to learn the hard way. These are things we agree that we should have known before we heard the first door lock behind us.

I. Washington DC Jail**Presentencing**

Prior to being sentenced, if found guilty, you will go through presentencing. This office will interview you and send a report to your sentencing judge. This report recommends a sentence. Be careful with how you word things during this interview, as everything you say can and will be used against you. I recommend your lawyers be present for this interview. For example, certain substances are legal in Washington DC, but if you’re found guilty of a felony you’ll be doing federal time / federal probation.

Once you’re in the DC jail, it can be hard to reach anyone for a very long time. It took me almost three weeks to get in touch with support because I didn’t have numbers. Prior to the day of sentencing, I recommend making a list of ten people including their phone numbers and addresses. You get one free five-minute call after you’re processed in and see medical. You can acquire a pen and paper prior to this call and call the one person with that list. You should also have someone lined up to pick up your clothes and other personal belongings as they’re only kept for 14 days. Unless you want your support to be the ones making your wish list for reading material, you should already have this done as well.

DC Jail Schedule

Food comes about every eight hours to your cell. Breakfast comes at the odd hour of around three am. When you’re in intake you get about one hour of rec Monday through Friday. The rest of the time you’re locked down. This changes when you get into general population (genpop). I was in this lockdown of intake for three weeks and I only managed to get put into genpop by going on a hunger strike. Once you’re in genpop you’ll be out of your cell for about 8 hours a day. You also get two video visits a week and your support will need to sign up for this.

Random Jail Tips

If you're having an issue on the inside, it will almost never be resolved the way you would like. The #1 thing to do is tell your support and have them put outside pressure on the jail. This works 99% of the time.

The mailroom was shit in DC. My support was calling daily as my mail wasn't getting through. The mailroom kept telling them they were backed up by two weeks. You can get books but they need to come from a publisher and can only be softcover (this has varied at different locations but this is specific to DC). Legal mail can only be opened and looked through in front of the prisoner and shouldn't be read.

There are no lines (in the sense of queues) in jail or prison for things like computers or phones. For a turn on the phone, you ask who the last person is and let them know you're after them.

If you require a special diet, tell the chaplain it's for religious purposes. This still took me a month to get, though.

To check your canteen account and order commissary, they have touch screen computers installed in the units. Don't order any commissary until you get to genpop [general population]. If you order it in Intake, they'll take your money and not give you anything. You can get it back, it's just a pain in the ass. When you first log into this computer, you'll need to use your DCDC number (your number as a prisoner) for your username and password. You'll be asked to set your password at this point.

The clothing exchange is the worst! You only get your clothes washed once monthly, so every day you have to wash your clothes with you in the shower.

Your toilet is in your cell and offers no privacy between you and your celly. There are places in the wall that you can shove a spork into; then you can hang a blanket from the spork in order to build a temporary wall for a bit of privacy. You should save about 8 sporks for this purpose and to hang clothes-drying lines.

You should really be saving everything you can get ahold of like salt, sugar, pepper, and other things like that. You can make an air freshener with a bottle of nose spray and the green cleaner they use on the floor. Chaplains give out free holiday cards and sometimes free phone calls.

When you write a complaint, sometimes the officer whose behavior you are addressing in the complaint will be the one to take the complaint out of the box. When this happens, there's a good chance that that complaint will get "lost." There is a workaround for this: you go to the law library or the chaplain's office and put your complaint in their box.

The sole of your shoe can serve as a pencil eraser. Treat the detail crew on each block with respect and they'll treat you right. They're the ones who bring bathroom supplies, food to the door, and other things like this.

Tips for LGBTQ

My celly for a week of my time in Intake was an amazing person. When I told him that I was writing this, he wanted to give tips for any gay comrades who might be coming to DC jail. So these tips are coming from a gay man. He told me the gay community sticks together almost like a gang. If you have any issues, you go talk to other gay prisoners before anyone else, and they will help you faster than anyone else. You can ask to be housed with other gay men / trans women if you identify as such. Trans peeps should see the chaplain for hormones (if needed), magic shave, and bras. If a celly is making you uncomfortable, you need to speak up ASAP.

In part two I'm teaming up with Joseph Buddenburg to talk about our experiences with being transferred all around the United States. He has experience from California to Florida and I have been all over the east coast.

II. In Transportation

Joseph Buddenburg:

Other than the time I've spent in the SHU (Solitary), being transported is the most stressful part of my experience while incarcerated. I've been held at six different federal prisons / holdover jails over the last seventeen months. That's a bit of an anomaly; if you're a "short-terminer," you should spend the majority of your time at one facility, with a short stint in transit at holdover facilities.

For folks designated to a federal prison on the East Coast, you'll be bussed or fly ConAir to USP Atlanta's holdover facility before transport to your designated facility. For folks designated to the West Coast, you'll pass through Oklahoma City Federal Transfer Center, or Pahrump, NV—a privatized Corrections Corporation of America facility that functions as another Western Region Processing Center for federal prisoners.

In my experience, these holdover facilities freak out when a political prisoner arrives. I was held in max custody at Pahrump, and at Oklahoma City I was thrown in solitary for the duration of my time. If this happens to you, it's important to keep in mind that this is only temporary; once you get to your designated prison, you'll have more "freedom," access to the outside, and more contact with your supporters. I was held at Pahrump for three days and Oklahoma City for two weeks.

If you're thrown into solitary, there is very little stimulation. Use the time to work out, write, and engage with the prisoners on the housing block, who are just as bored and frustrated as you are.

During transport itself, I found it important to fast and not drink water. You'll be cuffed and shackled, and access to the bathroom is nearly impossible. On ConAir flights, the US Marshals allow you one chance to use the bathroom on a several hour flight. They go row to row at a time chosen by them. They'll yell and threaten you if you try to stand up or walk to the bathroom. The meals are disgusting and you're only given an eight-ounce bottle of water anyway. You may be "black boxed" during transports, which is especially uncomfortable. Because I was convicted of a "domestic terrorism" statute, this happens to me. You'll be cuffed and shackled, and if black boxed, a black plastic contraption will be locked to the handcuffs, creating wrist discomfort and near immobility of your hands. Make sure the handcuffs are somewhat loose. Cops are assholes, but they can be reasoned with, sometimes.

I found that bus rides are generally much longer, with no air conditioning, and less space. If you manage to get a window seat, try to sleep throughout the ride. Other things that helped were attempts at meditation, deep breathing, and just talking to other prisoners. Keep in mind that your designated facility will be nothing like these shitty county jails and holdover facilities, and that the misery of transfer is temporary. Most likely, you'll be designated to a low security prison, with access to recreation, "programs," college classes, and the like.

If you're vegan or have other dietary considerations, be prepared with a number to call your support person to pressure the jail, and perhaps to go on hunger strike. At Oklahoma City, they threw me in the SHU; they don't allow prisoners in the SHU use of the phone until 30 days have passed. They also (illegally) don't allow prisoners to have stamps—you can send out three letters a week, only on Wednesdays. This resulted in my being unable to contact friends or supporters, so I had to refuse meals until they finally put me on a

“no flesh” diet. This was not always vegan, but there’s enough vegan sustenance to survive on. Ask for a celly when you first arrive, so you’ll be able to trade food.

Dane Powell:

I was awoken around 4 am in my cell in DC. The cop told me “pack your shit, you’re heading to the Feds.” I was so new to everything, I thought I was already with the Feds. After all, I was put into the custody of the US Federal Marshals after sentencing. I was excited when my celly told me the Feds are “easy time.” On the other hand, I had just got settled in and had a nice collection of books. You can’t bring anything with you except for legal papers (put your contact list on your legal papers). So I left my books and letters as property that was to be picked up, and I stepped off again into the unknown.

From the morning I left DC, it took me three weeks to get to Coleman, FL. The process of waking you up at 4 am was repeated each time we would be transported. In my three weeks, I saw one jail and two prisons before getting to Coleman. The first morning, after leaving DC, we were brought to Warsaw, VA. We were put into a large, dormitory-style housing unit with TVs, phones, and video calling. We were at this holdover area only for a few days until we were moved once again.

This time, we were moved to Petersburg, VA. At holdover here, we were all put into solitary (SHU), and we didn’t come out from there once. We even had showers in our cells and were denied our daily recreation time due to our transportation status. We could yell to each other, but that was it. We had no books or anything to keep our minds busy.

This was the hardest week of my life, and I’ve been through a lot. I hear about people doing months or years in solitary; they have my highest respect. Only those who have been separated from human contact like this know the barbarism it takes for a human being to do this to another and the pain and suffering this torture causes. I hope I’m not affected from this time long term, but only time will tell.

After climbing out of the bowels of hell, I was brought to Atlanta Federal Institution. My experience in Atlanta was like a combination of the two previous locations, as we were mostly locked down due to two stabbings on the compound.

When you’re being transported, you should try to be first in line if you are trying to get a window seat. I think I got a window seat once; the three other times, when I didn’t, the only thing I could think of, the whole trip, was to tell others to get a window seat. I would fall asleep and with every bump I would smash my face on the seat in front of me. You’re chained up with cuffs on your hands and ankles and the cuffs are attached to a chain around your stomach. When the guards are putting on the abdomen chains, you should protrude your stomach as much as possible. That way when you’re sitting normally, it won’t be too tight.

Normally, your support will get instructions on how to setup a prepaid account when you call them the first time. Every single prison and jail I’ve been to has had a different phone system. At all the places except for Petersburg, I was told that the next place would have the same system and support could load up on their prepaid accounts, but this was never the case. Once you get into the federal system, those systems are all the same; but your support won’t need to set up anything at that point.

Some of the best advice I can give about being thrown into new environments so frequently is just to be observant. You shouldn’t really be asking too many questions unless you absolutely have to. You should ask your fellow prisoners if that situation occurs. At the same time, don’t bombard other prisoners with questions. Don’t come off as someone who’s new to the system, even if you are. You can learn everything

you need to know by just sitting back and watching what others do. This takes time but it's the safest way to approach this unknown. If you follow this, you'll be a step ahead of most others.

III. Federal Custody

Joseph Buddenburg:

I did most of my time at medium facilities, in terms of the levels of violence, the programs, the “freedoms” afforded to me, and general demeanor, politics, and culture of prisoners.

There's a rating system for prisoners: 0-11 points means you go to camp, 12-15 to a low security facility, 16-23 to a medium, and 24+ high security. The following factors determine federal custody levels:

- detainers / pending charges
- severity of current offense (mine was moderate, 3 points)
- criminal history score / past convictions (0-1 past convictions is 0 points, 2-3 is 2 points)
- history of escape attempts (should be 0, unless you've been found guilty of past failures to appear)
- history of violence
- voluntary surrender status (0 for no voluntary surrender, -3 for receiving a self-surrender)
- age (8 points if 24 or younger at the date of sentencing, 4 points if 25-35 years old)
- education level (0 points if you have a copy of your high school diploma/GED in your presentencing report, 2 points for “non-verified HSD/GED”)
- drug or alcohol abuse / convictions (0 for never or more than 5 years previous, 1 point for any drug use or convictions in the last 5 years).

If your charge is political, the BOP (Bureau of Prisons) will likely place a “management variable” of greater security or a “public safety factor” on you. This will make you ineligible for “Club Fed”: federal prison camps, in which there is no fence and you have more freedom of movement. Political prisoners will go to low security or higher.

A “management variable” will bump you up one level, so if you're at camp level, you'll go to a low; low points go to mediums; and so on. Only long-term prisoners or those with a serious criminal background will be sent to a penitentiary.

Make sure to clean up any pending charges or warrants before resolving your case—I ended up getting 7 points added for a pending misdemeanor, which bumped me from camp points to low so the BOP sent me to medium security facilities. Also, be sure to have a copy of your high school diploma or GED included in your “pre-sentence report” prior to sentencing. The pre-sentencing officer won't track this down, it's on you to track down a copy—this will subtract two points from your custody scoring and could mean the difference between a low and medium security facility.

Ask your attorney to request a “self surrender” from the judge. This typically allows you to turn yourself in to the US Marshals / prison to begin your sentence. That will subtract 3 points from your score and gives you around 60 days to clear your affairs before turning yourself in. My sentencing judge doesn't give self-surrender, but my attorney convinced him to give 24 hours to self-surrender, thus lowering my points.

Low security prisons are devoid of convict politics. Snitches and sex offenders are everywhere, but you'll find a few solid people—usually older guys who have worked their way down from penitentiaries. It will be rare to find anyone who shares your politics, but for the most part other prisoners will respect you for “being standup”: for standing up for what you believe in and not snitching.

The prison bureaucrats may fuck with you, pinpointing you for harsher treatment or fucking with your mail or outside support. If this happens, be prepared to have your support pressure the prison, BOP, and oversight bodies and seek assistance from radical attorneys.

The most difficult thing about prison for me has been the isolation and interference by the BOP, and I regret not fighting it from the beginning. Don't fear their retaliation and petty games: the nature of being a political prisoner will get you targeted from the beginning. Having support is your best weapon to fight back, so never hesitate to call your people and the movement in general for help.

Dane Powell:

Depending on how one looks at it, I got lucky for spending my federal time in a low. There's a lot less prison politics in a low, which is good for political prisoners who don't want to deal with racist prisoners, but it also has drawbacks. With prison politics low, prisoners are less likely to "check in" snitches and child molesters (i.e., to force them into protective custody). With a yard full of snitches, it's almost impossible to organize anything unless you start running with groups that check papers.

Ask your lawyer to send you your sentencing papers as soon as possible. These papers will prove you're not a snitch or a sex offender and you'll likely need them to prove your story.

One of my cellies told me over and over that they were in for gun charges but refused to show papers. He always had an excuse as to why he couldn't get them. Most prisoners see right through this, as I did. Turns out, this celly is in prison for trying to have sex with a fake 9 and 11 year old. I judge good jail praxis by whether the act of retribution gets the person who administers it caught or if they can pull it off without the recipient knowing. Someone had great praxis.

During my time at Coleman, I was welcomed into the native community. Some facilities' native groups allow white people to sweat with them and some do not. If you've done a sweat before, the ones done in prison will likely be different. We would have a pipe ceremony every Saturday and this is where new natives or invites would bring their papers and introduce themselves. The papers would be checked by all to ensure that no sex offenders or snitches would sweat with us. It was nice knowing those guys could be trusted.

When coming from a jail, you might be told your mail will be forwarded. It's very unlikely that any jail will forward your mail; you should just assume it won't be. Your funds will be forwarded. For me, it took about 20 days once I got to Coleman to receive my funds from DC.

If where you're sentenced and where you'll be released are different, and you're going to have probation, you'll need to get a transfer. If your probation isn't transferred before you get out, you will have to report to probation in the district you were sentenced, even if you have no place to go. To get the transfer, you'll need to see your case manager and have an address to live at which there are no felons or guns, among other things. It takes about a month to properly transfer your probation.

I had issues with the email system that was offered to us. You'll need to add your friend's email address as a contact on the computer system. When you add it, that email address will receive an email for them to set up an account through TRULINCS (the system the BOP uses). From what I've seen and heard, this process can be confusing. If they get past this and they have an account, they can email you. They need to understand that when a prisoner emails them, they will not get an email notification to their actual email

address alerting them of your message. They will have to sign into TRULINCS to see your emails every time. For some reason, a lot of people didn't understand this.

There are also private secondary services out there through which you'll be assigned a phone number and friends can text this number. The company then sends you an email with the text message and you can respond to that email and they text your message to your correspondent. This service costs about \$15 a month and you'll likely need someone on the outside to set it up for you.

Most of the clothing you'll need (like gym shorts, sweats, and shoes) can be bought in your housing unit. The most common forms of currency are stamp books (flats) and packages of mackerels (macks). Prisoners make a job out of fixing up shoes and clothing that was trashed and repurposing them. You can pick up items for a fraction of what the commissary sells them for; the ones available from commissary are normally made by prisoners at sweatshops in the numerous other facilities the BOP runs.

I saved the best tip for last. To bring hot sauce into the chow hall, put it in a medicine bottle and your food will be more bearable.

7 Nov - #DefendJ20: DC's Police Chief Lied About Inauguration Day

In the days following the Inauguration Day protests, one of the most widely circulated scenes was that of a limo on fire. The photo continues to be a frequent accompaniment to any article on the ongoing prosecution of protesters, however the limo burning has no factual relevance to the case.

MORE:

This incident was also referenced by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in the original charging document used to justify the mass arrest and to support the charging of 234 individuals with felony rioting on January 20. It stated that: "Members of the group also caused a limousine to be set alight, which destroyed the vehicle. The damage caused by the group was in excess of \$100,000."

More recently, USA Today wrote that the "anarchists and activists tore through the streets for 16 blocks, tossing bricks at police officers, setting trash cans and a limousine on fire," during the Anti-Capitalist/Anti-Fascist march. Aside from their print edition featuring the limo fire on the front page, USA Today also created a graphic stating that the limo was set alight as part of the march.

The limo fire makes for a dramatic image and appears to lend legitimacy to the government's claim that the Inauguration Day protests were a "riot" and that those mass-arrested are deserving of the charges they are currently facing. However, the fire happened nearly five hours after people were in custody.

While protesters were kettled at 12th and L streets in DC, protest actions continued all over the city. In the proximity of the kettle, protesters gathered to observe the police action and were soon pounded with pepper spray and pushed down the street by police. Flash bang grenades were used throughout the area. Police used these weapons aggressively against those both inside and outside of the kettle. While protesters were detained at the corner of 12th and L, unknown individuals set fire to the limo.

Six months later, after it was well-known the indicted protestors could not have conceivably started the fire, MPD Chief Peter Newsham appeared on the September 13, 2017 episode of the Kojo Nnamdi Show. Newsham stated that the J20 defendants were responsible for the limo. Newsham has made no effort to correct this error, as it captures the attention of the public in the way that his mass-arrest orders have not. Newsham's strategy is clear: he will use false information to justify the arrest and prosecution of the Inauguration Day protestors.

Police mass arrested 234 people on Inauguration Day amidst a situation exacerbated by police tactics. These tactics were inconsistent with MPD codes of conduct and targeted people indiscriminately. The District of Columbia Office of Police Complaints filed an initial report raising concern about police abuses on Inauguration Day and are now undertaking a formal investigation. According to FOIA requests by the NLG, DC police spent 300k dollars on different “less-lethal” weapons” “From an estimated security budget of \$200 million for the inauguration weekend, the DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) spent more than \$300,000 to militarize its police force. MPD purchased equipment such as 1,000 gas masks (\$171,610) and 500 batons (\$38,935), and spent more than \$42,000 on “less-lethal” munitions, including 140 Stinger Rubber Ball Grenades, 140 Rubber Baton Rounds, 140 Stinger Rounds, and 20 smoke bombs.”

Police Chief Newsham’s decision to misinform the public was an intentional effort to reinsert false information onto an unprecedented legal case. Similar to the style of the arrest he ordered, it was imprecise and unjustifiable. The statements on Kojo intended to create the appearance of victory on Inauguration Day, which helps to rationalize a war-zone atmosphere at protests and secure substantial budgets for the future.

November 13th - A Judge Just Ruled The Government Can Access Facebook Accounts In Inauguration Rioting Case

by Zoe Tillman (*BuzzFeed*)

Federal prosecutors involved in the Inauguration Day rioting cases will be allowed to access the Facebook accounts of anti-Trump activists who challenged search warrants for their information, a judge has ruled.

The three Facebook accountholders aren't among the nearly 200 people facing criminal charges in connection with the Jan. 20 arrests. The American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia had argued the warrants for their Facebook data were overbroad and that prosecutors shouldn't have broad access to account data that may include sensitive and personal information unrelated to the criminal investigation. The ACLU proposed having an outside, neutral party do the search instead.

Allowing the government to enforce the search warrants would chill political activists from engaging in protected speech online in the future, the ACLU said.

In an order dated Nov. 9 but released on Monday, DC Superior Court Chief Judge Robert Morin ruled that the government could conduct the searches, but with limits on the information they could get from Facebook and how they could handle that data. Prosecutors had already agreed to narrow their request to exclude the identities of people who contacted the accountholders or liked or friended them.

At issue are two individual accounts and one group page used to coordinate anti-Trump protests on Jan. 20, called "Disrupt J20." Under Morin's order, information about people who communicated with the individual and group page accountholders will be redacted, and the government will have to get the court's permission to see that information. For the Disrupt J20 page, the government will have to tell the judge how it plans to search the data, and can't do any searches without the judge's approval.

"Given the potential breadth, the Warrants in their execution may intrude upon the lawful and otherwise innocuous online expression of innocent users," Morin wrote. "Therefore, the court deems it appropriate in this case to implement procedural safeguards to preserve the First Amendment and Fourth Amendment freedoms at stake and ensure that only data containing potential incriminating evidence is disclosed to the government."

Morin wrote that the government established probable cause to access information about the two individual account holders — Legba Carrefour and Lacy MacAuley — and if any personal information was "intermingled" with potential evidence, that was the consequence of their decision to store data with Facebook, a third-party company. However, the judge said the government hadn't established probable cause to see information about people who contacted the account holders, so those individuals had a right to remain anonymous.

ACLU attorney Scott Michelman said in a statement that although Morin ordered restrictions to shield third-party communications, the judge "was not equally careful to protect our clients' private and personal communications."

"Our clients, who have not been charged with any crime, expect that when they send private Facebook messages about, for instance, their medical history or traumatic events in their lives, those messages will remain private unless the government shows probable cause to search those particular messages, which it has not done," Michelman said.

The ACLU had also asked the judge to allow the account holders to formally intervene in the case, which would give them the right to appeal the judge's orders. The judge denied that request.

A spokesman for the US attorney's office in Washington declined to comment.

More than 200 people were arrested in downtown Washington on rioting charges on Inauguration Day, and criminal cases against 194 people are pending. The first jury trial is scheduled to begin later this week, and more trials — the defendants are being tried in small groups — are scheduled throughout 2018.

November 14th - Charges Reduced to Misdemeanors for 7 J20 Defendants But Resistance to This Repression Remains Strong

Yesterday, the government, represented by AUSA Jennifer Kerkhoff, reduced the charges of seven J20 defendants set to go to trial on December 11 in DC. Six felony and two misdemeanor counts are now only three misdemeanor charges: conspiracy to riot, engaging in a riot and one count of property destruction. Without explanation, Kerkhoff changed the charges for these defendants (and these defendants alone at the moment), reducing the total time they are facing from around 60 years to under 2.

This announcement indicates a positive development, but it is unclear how this will impact the case overall. It is welcome news that these seven defendants no longer face life-altering felonies, but the prosecution has not given any indication as to why these changes have come to this particular group. There has been no change in the charges of the 186 other defendants, particularly the group slated to begin trial this Wednesday, November 15th. They continue to face a maximum sentence of 60+ years in prison. As this blog entry is being posted, the N15 trial group is about to begin their final pre-trial hearing.

The three misdemeanors charged against these seven defendants does not change a chilling legal maneuver attempting to broadly define conspiracy and implement a problematic DC Riot Statute. The U.S. Attorney's Office not only seeks to put hundreds on the line for a few acts of vandalism—they are also attempting to criminalize political organizing and attending a protest as conspiracy. The majority of the prosecution's arguments in court for these first two trial blocks so far has been focused on developing a conspiracy theory based on clothing, texts and online activity. If they are successful in this effort, it will still set a legal basis for district courts nationwide to conduct similar dragnet prosecutions and target activists based on any perceived political affiliations or actions.

Most of the defendants continue to work in solidarity with each other and understand that this case is an act of political repression aimed at criminalizing resistance. From the overcharging to force plea agreements to the state's effort to redefine basic acts of political organizing as conspiracy, this case intends to send a message that resistance of any kind will be met with aggressive prosecution.

We will continue to support each other through these charges and will not stop until every single charge is dropped or every trial ends in acquittal. J20 defendants need your support now more than ever. Stay tuned for more updates and ways to be in solidarity, particularly about the N15 trial group after their court hearing today.

November 15th - How Prosecutors Turn a Protest Into a 'Riot'

By Elizabeth Ariadne Lagesse (*New York Times*)

A year ago, I was finalizing plans to leave a chemical engineering Ph.D. program and join the tech sector. But as Inauguration Day approached, I became so disgusted by President-elect Donald Trump's behavior that I felt it would have been negligent to remain a bystander. So I traveled from Baltimore to join hundreds of thousands of protesters at counterdemonstrations around Mr. Trump's swearing-in.

Little did I know that I would be swept up into a legal nightmare that demonstrates how prosecutors intimidate and manipulate defendants into giving up their rights.

Minutes after I got to downtown Washington on Jan. 20, police officers used pepper spray, "sting-ball" grenades and flailing batons to sweep up an entire city block in a mass-arrest tactic known as "kettling." I was among the more than 230 people confined at 12th and L Streets with no access to food, water or bathrooms for up to eight hours.

That much can be gleaned from public legal filings connected to our criminal prosecutions, as well as a lawsuit filed on behalf of me and three other plaintiffs by the American Civil Liberties Union. (One of this case's many paradoxes is that I've been advised not to talk publicly about what happened before my arrest.)

Next, prosecutors at the United States Attorney's Office in Washington took the highly unusual step of indicting more than 200 of those arrested. Most of the people in the group, which includes journalists, legal observers and volunteer medics, face charges of engaging in a riot, inciting a riot, conspiracy to riot and property damage. In addition to seizing the contents of at least 100 cellphones, prosecutors secured broad warrants for Facebook pages and records relating to a political organizing website.

Throughout this disruptive legal adventure, the government has failed to provide most defendants in the case with evidence of their alleged individual wrongdoing. For example, I was offered a plea deal (to a single misdemeanor charge) on the basis of virtually nothing more than being at the site of the protest. Many of my co-defendants report similar experiences. Yet we remain under indictment for multiple felonies, with all the disruption and fear that brings.

As these cases have progressed, I have been trapped in a liminal state — between careers, away from my home city, weighed down by constant uncertainty about the future — for nearly a year. I have to be present for the many hearings, which, for financial reasons, has required me to live in Washington.

And this serves to illustrate a critical problem in the American justice system: Prosecutors have the power to single-handedly destroy lives, and there are few consequences for abuse of that power. At the same time, their main measure of success is the ability to secure convictions, not the degree to which justice is served.

The trouble starts with the indictment process, in which prosecutors present their case to a grand jury in secret, without any opposing viewpoint, and get what they ask for a vast majority of the time. Most indictments end in a plea deal, bypassing the oversight of a judge and jury. Prosecutors also dictate the terms of these somewhat Faustian bargains, often pursuing excessive charges as a form of intimidation. If you're innocent, you are faced with the choice of a lifelong criminal record or the heavy social and financial burdens that come along with due process.

To further complicate the ethics of a plea-based justice system, prosecutors can use family members as tools to extract pleas. In my case, I was arrested along with my fiancé, and the "evidence" presented against us was similar. In hopes of securing two convictions rather than one, prosecutors told us that our plea deals were contingent on convincing the other to plead out.

Unlike more than 90 percent of criminal defendants in this country, my co-defendants and I have chosen to take our cases to trial. I can't speak to all of their motives, but I was unwilling to capitulate to a system dominated by petty tyrants willing to win at any cost.

But more important, this is no isolated injustice from an unusually malicious prosecutor. Similar stories play out across America, often in communities where people lack access to adequate legal assistance, or the personal resources to fight a protracted legal battle. It's time for us to confront the true implications of our society's promise that we are innocent until proven guilty.

8 Nov - Frackville Prison's Systemic Water Crisis

On September 19, 21, 24 and 27, 2017, prisoners at Pennsylvania's SCI-Frackville facility experienced four incidences with respect to the crisis of drinking toxic water.

MORE:

by Bryant Arroyo (*FightToxicPrisons.org*)

While this was not the first indication of chronic water problems at the prison, it seemed an indication that things were going from bad to worse. This round of tainted water was coupled with bouts of diarrhea, vomiting, sore throats, and dizziness by an overwhelming majority of the prisoner population exposed to this contamination. This cannot be construed as an isolated incident.

The SCI-Frackville staff passed out bottled spring water after the inmate population had been subjected to drinking the toxic contaminated water for hours without ever being notified via intercom or by memo to refrain from consuming the tap water. This is as insidious, as it gets!

SCI-Frackville's administration, is acutely aware of the toxic water contamination crisis and have adopted an in-house patterned practice of intentionally failing to notify the inmate population via announcements and or by posting memos to refrain from tap water, until prisoners discover it for themselves through the above-mentioned health effects.

In general, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) knows it has a water crisis on it hands. The top agencies like the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and EPA know about this open-secret and have conspired to deliberately ignore most, if not all, of the prisoners' official complaints. DEP has received four drinking water violations from the EPA. But the underlying problem is money, money, and more money.

Earlier this year, federal officials warned DEP that it lacked the staffing and resources to enforce safe drinking water standards. That could be grounds for taking away their role as the primary regulator of water standards, and would cost the state millions of dollars in federal funding.

In a letter dated December 30, 2016, EPA Water Protection Division Director Jon Capacasa stated, "Pennsylvania's drinking water program failed to meet the federal requirement for onsite review of water system operations and maintenance capability, also known as a sanitary survey." He added, "Not completing sanitary survey inspections in a timely manner can have serious public health implications."

One example in the City of Pittsburgh led to the closure of nearly two dozen schools and a boil-water order for 100,000 people. State environmental regulators had discovered low chlorine levels, after testing the city's water as part of an ongoing investigation into its water treatment system. The city has also been having issues with elevated lead levels. The EPA also told DEP that the department's lack of staff has caused the number of unaddressed Safe Drinking Water Act violations to go from 4,298 to 7,922, almost doubling in the past five years.

This leaves us with 43 inspectors employed, but, to meet the EPA mandates, we need at the least 85 full-time inspectors. That means Pennsylvania inspectors have double the workload, and this has resulted in some systems not being inspected. Logically, the larger systems get routine inspections, and systems that have chronic problems get inspected, but smaller and rural system like ours may not be because we are the minority that society doesn't care about. *Persona non grata!*

To top it off, Frackville is in Schuylkill County, near a cancer cluster of the rare disease known as Polycythemia Vera (PV). While there is not definitive research on PV, it is believed to be environmental in origin and could be water borne. There's no telling how many of us may have contracted the mysterious disease caused by drinking this toxic-contaminated water for years without being medically diagnosed and treated for this disease.

The DOC refuses to test the inmate population, in spite of the on-going water crisis. What would happen, if the inmate population would discover that they have contracted the disease PV?! Obviously, this wouldn't be economically feasible for the DOC medical department to pay the cost to treat all inmates who have been discovered to have ill-gotten the water borne disease.

Many Pennsylvania tax-payers would be surprised to know that our infrastructure is older than Flint, Michigan's toxic water crisis. Something is very wrong in our own backyard and the legislative body wants to keep a tight lid on it. But how long can this secret be contained before we experience an outbreak of the worst kind.

Silence, no more, it is time to speak. I could not stress the sense of urgency enough. We need to take action by notifying our Pennsylvania State Legislatures and make them accountable to the tax-paying citizens and highlight the necessary attention about Pennsylvania's water crisis to assist those of us who are cornered and forced to drink toxic, contaminated water across the State Prisons.

If you want to obtain a goal you've never obtained, you have to transcend by doing something you've never done before. Let's not procrastinate, unify in solidarity, take action before further contamination becomes inevitable. There's no logic to action afterwards, if we could have avoided the unnecessary catastrophe, in the first place.

Let's govern ourselves in the right direction by contacting and filing complaints to our legislative body, DEP, EPA, and their higher-ups, etc. In the mountains of rejection we have faced from these agencies as prisoners, your action could be our yes; our affirmation that, though we may be buried in these walls, we are still alive.

EDITOR'S NOTE: After initially receiving this article from Bryant, this update came in: On Oct 26, 2017, at or about 8 p.m., Frackville shut down the Schuylkill County Water Municipality's water source and switched over to this facilities water preserve tank. Staff here, indicated the Schuylkill Municipality was conducting a purge to the repaired pipelines, etc.

Then on Oct. 27, a or about 11 a.m., Frackville's staff passed out individual gallons of spring water due to the dirty, toxic, contaminated water flowing from our preserve tank water supply. Here we go again!

10 Nov - Jeremy Hammond has moved!

After a long and stressful week, we are very happy to report that Jeremy has arrived at his new prison – FCI Milan in Milan, Michigan!

MORE:

As you may have heard, Jeremy requested this relocation so he could participate in “RDAP” – or, the Residential Drug Abuse Program. RDAP is an intensive, nine-month long program offered to federal inmates who have a documented history of drug use prior to their arrest. Since Jeremy was an admitted marijuana smoker, he applied and was accepted into the program.

While the program is intensive, and Jeremy has described it as “hard time”, this will, in the end, be a positive step for Jeremy, as he will be eligible to receive up to twelve months off his sentence upon successful completion of the program.

Another exciting development with this move is that the rules for sending Jeremy books has changed! Paperback books (and zines) no longer have to come directly from a publisher or distributor – they can now come directly from private citizens. Please note this applies to paperback books only. Hardcover books must still come directly from a publisher or distributor, like Amazon or AK Press. This means that if you have old paperbacks on your shelves that you think Jeremy would like, you can mail them directly to him! Please, if you choose to send books directly to Jeremy, do not include anything other than books (no more than 3 per package) and a letter in your package. Jeremy still cannot receive any items other than paperback books, zines, letters, articles, or photos through the mail. Please see this page for complete information about writing or sending books to Jeremy.

Please also be aware that, with participation in RDAP, the amount of free time that Jeremy has to do things like write back to people may change. Please be patient if you do not hear back from him, and remember that even if he doesn't write back, he reads and deeply appreciates every letter that is sent to him. Please also remember that donations are still needed to ensure that Jeremy has the necessary funds to email, call, and write to friends, supporters, and loved one.

Thank you for all the solidarity shown to Jeremy over the years. We are so excited that Jeremy is finally making progress towards release, and, without a doubt, this progress could not have been made without the support of those of you who have written, sent books, donated, or spread awareness about Jeremy and his case. Thank you so much!

11 Nov - Update On and By Casey Brezik

We are happy to announce that anarchist political prisoner Casey Brezik has a brand new support site <supportcasey.org> and post-release fund. As he mentions in his updates below, Casey is trying to raise an additional \$1,000 over the next two years from his anarchist comrades so that he can buy a used car when he gets out of prison, hopefully sometime at the end of 2020.

MORE:

This seems like a goal that can certainly be met and almost certainly exceeded.

In case you aren't familiar with Casey, and you'd like to understand better Casey's motivations and the mental and emotional conditions that led to his action, you can check out his article "The Short Story of How I Got Here" published by the Kansas City Anarchist Black Cross. As in all of his writings, Casey reflects on his action with a rare degree of humility and honesty that we appreciated quite a bit.

Over the course of Casey's time in prison, he has not gotten the degree of support that our comrades deserve from one another. We're not going to get into brainstorming all the troubling reasons why that might be the case, instead we want to continue to encourage folks to get involved with him. He's a kind and humble person who is very open to and capable of friendship and his requests of us are always very modest. And for all you anarcho-scientists hiding out there, ashamed to admit that a post-revolutionary society that doesn't involve space exploration would make you just a little sad, Casey is the pen-pal for you!

Supporting our comrades can be complex at times, and just as they are when they're with us on the outside, our friends inside are not one-dimensional characters. But, when the state holds them captive it is imperative that we let them know in the most tangible ways possible that they are not forgotten and they are never alone. Prison is meant to break one's spirit. It is designed to break you in the most heinous ways physically, emotionally and spiritually. We don't always have the greatest tools to combat that kind of violence, but the ones we do hold we can never stop utilizing. Like our dear friends from the June 11th crew reminded us this past Summer, communication is a weapon. It is one of our strongest weapons. Let's use it together. For Casey, for all our other comrades, and for the comrades we have yet to get to know.

From Casey:

Hello! How are you doing?! It's been a long time since I've posted anything. Partially I feel bad for that but partially I consider you could probably care less. Lol. I've been doing alright. I've seen some bad times but some good times too. Most importantly, I got married March 14th, 2017. That's been a blessing. I've been fairly depressed otherwise though. I've had a few issues in here but a big cause has been my hopeless outlook for my Anarchists in Space aspirations. Finding funds seems impossible. But recently, I've come across something.

I'm not recalling exactly what all was said in my last post, but I know my plans for college have changed. My family wasn't able to pay for any correspondence courses, although I was able to get ahold of a calculus textbook and have had support with studies from another comrade. So, I am still making progress. For a while that was slow though because of a bad situation I was in for 6 months due to having a terrible celly. Anyway, my intentions, as of now, are to get out and attend St. Charles Community College. They do a lot of work with the prison here. I figure they'll allow me to attend. I'll go there to take care of my basics before transferring to Missouri University of Science and Technology to pursue a doctorate's in aerospace engineering. If I'm going to build a rocket, it only makes sense that I study rocket science.

That brings me to the idea I have to generate funding for the project. I still figure building a fueling station for a new generation of fusion-powered rockets is a good idea. But, it'd be better if we could build a fusion-powered rocket to get there. Really a two option rocket. Something we could use conventional means to get there with. Then, carry a small payload that could convert the lunar soil (regolith) into fuel to power an even further expedition. If we can start mining our solar system we're bound to attract wealthier investors to fund our expeditions.

I realize this poses a problem because we'd be adopting capitalist tactics by taking on investors, but with a good business plan I think the effects could be kept to a minimum. There's still plenty of time to work out the details, though. I'm not eligible for parole until November 2020 and it'll take another 8 years to complete my Ph.D. That's long enough to work out the details. Right now, it's just important that we have something to work towards.

That brings me to something else though. I need some help. I've been saving back money that people have been sending me. I have \$1,300 now. However, I don't think that'll be enough for when I'm released. The few sources I was relying on for funding have ceased due to complications. My goal is to have about \$3,500 once I'm released. The plan is to buy a cheap vehicle to help me get to work and school in St. Louis. Plus, I'd use some money for rent. Hopefully, I can find someone to room with. We'll see. It's still too far off to figure that out yet. Currently, I'm receiving \$50 a month from family. Of that I'm saving \$30/month. That should put me close to \$2,500 by the time I get out. My hope is that I can solicit about \$1,000 from my comrades in order to get the rest. If you can help, I'd be greatly appreciative.

If you're interested in sending funds there are three ways you can do it:
The best way is to donate to the PayPal account that is collecting money for my post-release fund.

You can also go to AccessCorrections.com and use my inmate information (Casey M. Brezik/ #1154765/ Missouri Department of Corrections) to send money online or find instructions to do so by phone, or...

You can write me a letter stating that you'd like to send funds and I can send you a deposit slip that you can send in with a money order.

If you create an account at AccessCorrections.com, you can send me free emails. Just beware I can't email you back. I'd have to write you. So don't forget to include your address.

In other news, there won't be a book coming out any time soon. I may have an idea for what to write but the actual process is difficult and beyond me right now. Mad respect to all the authors out there.

I hope everyone is doing alright. Thanks for taking the time to listen.

11 Nov - What it looks like to be antifascist in prison

Below is a statement written by Eric King in October.

MORE:

What does it look like to be antifascist in federal prison in 2017? It may not be what you think.

If you picture coming into the feds with your fist swinging, taking on every racist, swastika wearing trash you see, that is not a reality. That line of thinking will get us nowhere. Racism at the federal level is very real and played out in a very archaic way. At CCA Leavenworth I pictured going into ANY spot guns blazing, taking on bigots in a very macho, aggressive, violent way. At CCA that was actually somewhat doable, even at Englewood-FCI (low security) it was somewhat a reality because you could dog them out and clown them for their ridiculousness... the reality is though, that the higher up in custody you go and the further west coast you end up, the more serious the game gets and the less likely you are to be able to express your own antifascist ideas without facing some serious backlash.

Everything is racially divided here. Where you eat, when you work out, where you sit, what TV you watch, who cuts your hair, who you live with, who you play games with. For me this was super difficult at first

because it felt like a betrayal of who I was. There isn't any bucking this, it's shitty and gross but it's real and VERY serious. No one is going to make an exception and disrupt prison order for the one anti-racist. Having good politics doesn't make you exceptional or above the others. Being antifascist doesn't make you a teacher, a preacher, a savior, this horrendous system will not make room for our differing beliefs. You will hear all day long people bashing every race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and nationality, everything that isn't white-American-straight-male. I had to learn very quickly how to bite my tongue. Calling people out will get you nowhere but hurt. If your beliefs and views are known, that provides more weapons for the maggots to use against you, and some will without a doubt use them. I got called up for this MANY times. I have the word ANTIFA tattooed on my face. I've had to learn how to NEVER take the bait, to keep your ideas to yourself and those you are close with. At the end of the day bro-ing out does less than taking conscious action. I've been very lucky that early on some old heads took a liking to me. It's a very thin line between being tolerated and being battered. Screaming, "kill whitey!" and flipping off Trump, expressing yourself, these small things and big things will catch you some wreck, meaning these bigots will beat you off the yard. The other non-racist whites will NOT risk helping you, the other races won't want to start a race war that gets hundreds hurt to help this one person. Then the folks that get hurt are the folks you are trying to support. There have been times where my ideas got me in a lot of trouble; very many confrontations and disciplining. We must learn how to walk that line of being true to yourself without putting yourself or others in a situation where you're getting transferred, getting put in the hospital, put in the secure housing unit, or SHU. We will never end the fascism of and within the prison walls and system without dancing in the ashes of the prisons. You must keep yourself alive and safe, it is crucial to return to your loved ones and your community.

With all that said, there are always ways to be you, even if they are more coy or low key than you are used to or prefer. Sometimes just not laughing along to some racist bullshit or agreeing with a horrible comment can say more than any argument or fist could. I have through time found my own way to fight against the racist PSYOP system masterminded by the prison itself. I have found it is important to constantly be conscious and consider the consequences for others when taking actions. In prison with minimal effort your actions can start a race war. And your actions hurt the folks that you are trying to support. Being anti-fascist for me often looks like respectfully removing myself from any political conversation. Socializing and taking classes taught by folks of other races and allowing that to be a moment to connect and engage in dialogue. For me standing up can mean teaching yoga that includes all people. Sometimes offering a jacket or sweater or raising commissary funds for someone who is openly gay and being cast out and harassed is a stand that effects the entire dynamic of the unit. Sometimes it means having the ability to give basic supplies to non-racist white guys coming in so that they don't have to take them from the white supremacists. Sometimes it is playing games with other races. Or putting my ego and politics away and letting people of other races vent around me without trying to explain their anger or emotions to them. Being political and antifa does not give me space to try to be their teacher. I sit with Muslims in the library and have my political conversations there (a lot of whites do not like this). My partner drives up to visits with people of other races, forming that unity and solidarity. I recognize a lot of these things may not even be allowed at other spots, or may not even be a big deal at all, but here they allow me to make a big stand against the white race politics. I still read radical books and zines, but I do it in my room, where I do MY time, away from people who live on confrontations, who are addicted to static.

If you put yourself out there verbally, be prepared to stand on it (fight) because you will be challenged and if you're lucky it'll be one on one. Small things that happen instinctively can get you in a jam, so it's smart to always be mindful. I've been in jams for laughing at sunken Navy ships, for watching soccer with the Mexicans, for letting a Gay-Black cat in my yoga class... the things that you do by nature may ruffle a lot of feathers, so we need to be prepared to get called into the cell and defend your actions.

The problems that society faces are magnified in prison. Racism, homophobia, violence, are all very accepted and normalized. Being antifascist in prison means putting yourself in a disruptive position. It can mean some lonely times, limited friendships and being isolated and disrespected. How you carry it is up to every individual person and situation. Keeping yourself self-safe is the number one priority. Doing your time and being true to yourself.

November 14th - "J. Saunders" a poem by Eric King

Visit freehermanbell.org to learn more about how you can support Herman Bell

J. Saunders beats elderly, defenseless men
There isn't any need or reason to sugar coat it
Or spruce it up with bureaucratic jargon
"Used proper force in direction of duty"
He took his bigoted fist and smashed them
into the face, ribs and head of an elderly revolutionary
out of spite and fear and rage
Saunders exploited a horrifying power dynamic
Just like countless others in his position have done
And mauled his insecurities and lack of self-worth
into Herman, knowing there would be no fight back
Lest Herman had a death wish
3 or 4 on one, just like the white gang members
these pigs wish they could openly be, get yer licks in
Decades in and still having to deal with this..
Centuries past and the same old violence
Saunders kept his job so clearly the state of NY sees no problem with this
He kept his breathing and bodily functions, which is a certain shame
How many blows were needed, how much pepper spray dispensed
to quell his body and spirit?
How much jealousy rests in Saunders' insect heart
knowing that Herman is more loved and respected in an hour
than he will be in his entire life?
The racism is real, the hate is real, our enemies have names and addresses
And if you beat our fathers and grandfathers, then you'll have your name called
and you will have to answer for your actions
J Saunders is a fucking maggot coward
We see you bigot, we know you.
Until All are Free.

14 Nov - New from David Gilbert: Looking at the U.S. White Working Class Historically

A new greatly expanded edition of political prisoner David Gilbert's Looking at the U.S. White Working Class Historically has just been released by Kersplebedeb Publishing.

MORE:

Looking at the U.S. White Working Class Historically tackles one of the supreme issues for our movement: the contradiction embodied in the term "white working class." On the one hand there is the class designation that should imply, along with all other workers of the world, a fundamental role in the overthrow of capitalism. On the other hand, there is the identification of being part of a ("white") oppressor

nation. Gilbert seeks to understand the origins of this contradiction, its historical development, as well as possibilities to weaken and ultimately transform the situation. In other words, how can people organize a break with white supremacy and foster solidarity with the struggles of people of color, both within the United States and around the world?

David Gilbert began this project in the early 1980s, while in jail facing charges stemming from his activities in the revolutionary underground. It started as a pamphlet reflecting on writings about race and class by Ted Allen, W.E.B. DuBois, and J. Sakai. In the 1990s, he added a retrospective essay, reviewing lessons from the 1960s and the New Left he had been active in at the time. Over the years, *Looking at the White Working Class Historically* (as it was known in previous editions) has been widely circulated across multiple waves and generations of activists. As Gilbert writes in the introduction to this 2017 edition, this text remains the most popular of his writings for younger radicals seeking to build movements against racism.

This new edition contains all the material from previous versions (including an essay by J. Sakai), along with a new introduction, Gilbert's take on the election of Donald Trump, and an extensive new text surveying changes in the global political order since the 1960s. More than ever, *Looking at the U.S. White Working Class Historically* explores and illuminates perspectives for radical change and resistance to racism in the United States today.

16 Nov - Hunger Strike: Statement from Walter Bond

Since his transfer to FCI Greenville, animal liberation prisoner Walter Bond has been consistently abused and targeted for punishment.

MORE:

Since my arrival in Greenville two-and-a-half years ago, my communications with the world have been made incredibly difficult and at times impossible. I have been repeatedly denied books, magazines, letters and pictures. It's standard operating procedure that my mail – be it my email or snail mail — is habitually days, weeks and even months late. It is not at all uncommon for my mail, both incoming and outgoing, to simply never arrive.

I've even been denied copies of my own book, *Always Looking Forward*, which I wrote in prison and is approved for me to have.

It has also become impossible for me to adhere to my Vegan diet, because none of the so-called “meat options” offered at Greenville, Illinois are even close to Vegan. Because of this, I have been forced at great cost to my friends, family and supporters to pay outrageously for foods from the commissary that continue to be an inadequate version...

I have tried now for over a year to obtain a transfer from FCI Greenville, Illinois closer to New York City where I intend to live upon my release, but I have been denied this as well through petty and irrelevant disciplinary reports.

Despite all of this, I have maintained years of patience, quietly awaiting my freedom. But, my cooperation has got me nothing. So in the tradition of A.L.F. activists before me, such as Barry Horne, I am going on hunger strike. I will not eat anything and will starve until these issues are remedied.

I'm asking everybody in the Animal Rights and Anarchist communities to stand with me with your protests and actions of solidarity.

You can reach the institution concerning my health and my well-being at area code 618.664.6200.

Current information about Walter Bond (posted on Nov 16, 2017, revised on Nov 17)

We believe Walter is being held in solitary confinement and will be there for up to 3 months.

Walter stated on Wednesday, November 16 that he is starting a hunger strike to protest:

- 1) Lack of Vegan meals at the prison, causing him to have to buy supplemental foods from the expensive prison store.
- 2) Routinely lengthy (weeks or months) delays in getting mail and Corrlinks email messages out, as well as receiving his mail and incoming Corrlinks email messages.
- 3) Being prevented (due to minor rules infractions) from transferring to another prison.

In a message broadcast on November 15th, Walter asked supporters to take actions in solidarity of his hunger strike and call FCI Greenville to express concern about his health and well-being. The phone number of the prison is 618.664.6200.

Here is a little of what to expect when you call the prison:

1-Dial 618.664.6200

2-When the line engages, the recorded greeting asks you to enter an extension. If you stay on the line or if you press "0", after many many rings, an operator will answer.

3-Tell her or him that you are calling in reference to prisoner Walter Bond, number 37096-013. You can then say you are concerned because Walter is currently on hunger strike and being held in solitary. The operator may then transfer you to Walter's case manager. Or you can ask to be transferred to the case manager, the unit manager or the warden.

4-The warden of the prison is Tom Werlich. Walter's case manager is Sarah Mickelson (pronounced "Michael-son")

5-Don't expect the staff to be helpful. They haven't been rude, but they will treat you like a speck of dust.

6-They may say, "we cannot give you any information." You can answer that with we are not seeking information about Walter. We are calling to let the prison know that we know he is being held in solitary confinement and is on a hunger strike because the prison is violating his rights to a Vegan diet and to getting his mail and Corrlinks emails without days, weeks and months of delay. We are calling in support of Walter and will continue to do so, along with many others, until Walter lets us know he is ok.

7- It will be extremely helpful if you call the prison everyday, possibly twice a day. Best to call once in the morning and once in the early or mid afternoon.

If you want to write to the warden of the prison, here is the address:

Thomas Werlich, Warden
FCI Greenville
Post Office Box 4000
Greenville, Illinois 62246

Walter DOES receive mail, but both incoming and outgoing mail is UNUSUALLY slow and not very reliable. Probably it will be hard or impossible for Walter to answer mail right now. Walter cannot now use Corrlinks to send or receive email.

Sending books to Walter:

At this time, it is unknown if he can receive books. You can try ordering a book for him from amazon or another book dealer or publisher. Books sent directly from an individual will be returned by the prison. Right now, there are no books on Walter's amazon wish list.

Sending funds to Walter:

Via PayPal: fundsforwalterbond@gmail.com

Via US Postal Mail:

Elizabeth Tobier

Post Office Box 1240

New York, New York 10159-1240

If you are sending a check or money order, make it out to Elizabeth Tobier. She will send you an acknowledgement and will send the funds, once they accumulate (to avoid multiple payments of the fee Western Union charges), to Walter Bond's prison account via Western Union.

Via Western Union:

Either visit a western union office, telephone them or go online to westernunion.com. You will need his prison ID number, which is 37096-013.

Sending a money order directly to the prison, see the BOP website:

bop.gov/inmates/communications.jsp You'll need his prison ID # (37096-013).

30 Nov - Anti-Rape & Police Abolition March

WHAT: Demonstration

WHEN: 6:30pm, Thursday, November 30th

WHERE: Washington Square Park

COST: FREE!

MORE:

On September 15, undercover Brooklyn South narcotics detectives Richard Hall and Edward Martins kidnapped and raped 18 y/o Anna Chambers while she was in handcuffs. The NYPD are trying to avoid blame by claiming the rape was "consensual," although we know that's impossible.

This is not a problem to be solved and it is not a mistake that can be fixed by this or that reform. These attacks on our communities and our peoples will not end until we end them ourselves. Justice will not be served by a court verdict, justice will be achieved when monsters like Richard Hall and Edward Martins are forced to face the consequences of their actions. Justice can be spoken of when the police are abolished in their entirety, when the state's hired goons no longer kill our people with impunity and when Washington itself lies in ruins. As such, we call for nothing less.

This is not an isolated incident, it must be understood as the latest attack in a history of colonial warfare. Since the colonization of the Americas sexual violence has been a key technology in the genocide and exploitation of Black and Indigenous peoples. Police and military apparatuses have time and again enacted and permitted sexual violence towards women in the service of the nation building project. In the so-called United States, domestic violence is four times more common in police families than the general population.

Just last year, Daniel Holtzclaw (Oklahoma City Police Department) was sentenced to 263 years in prison for raping 12 Black girls. However, most rapist cops never see justice. In fact, sexual abuse is the second most reported form of police misconduct, and the perpetrators often repeat offenders. Most reports of

sexual violence against police are made by women of color. 15% of all trans individuals and 32% of black trans individuals have been sexually assaulted while in police custody.

As long as cops defend rapists on their force, all cops are complicit in sexual violence. The pigs won't protect us from rapists because the pigs are rapists.

On November 30th at 6:30 PM we mobilize in Washington Square Park in NYC to confront the same pigs that perpetrate atrocities like this on a daily basis. Join us to demand an end to patriarchal police terror.

3 Dec – Send Love Through the Walls 2017

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

WHEN: 2:00-6:00pm, Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

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

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

MORE:

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

Directions:

Getting to 263 Eastern Parkway is simple:

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

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

For more information, contact:

Resistance in Brooklyn– resistanceinbrooklyn07@gmail.com

NYC Anarchist Black Cross– nycabc@riseup.net