



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for December 5th

28 Sept - An Abolitionist Life

We don't regularly receive written transcripts of Mumia's commentaries, so if we get one a little late, we include it as quickly as we can. Such is the case with the below.

MORE:

What does it mean to call oneself an abolitionist?

The word doesn't mean today what it meant 150 years ago. Then, it meant an end to what some have called 'America's Original Sin'--Slavery.

Today? Well, it's not a common term today, but it should be. It was the nation's first bi-racial Movement, built by both Blacks and white, to oppose the evils of Slavery.

But it's important for us today to recognize that when they were active, during the 1830s, '40s and '50s, they were portrayed in the press, and spoken about by prominent and powerful men as madmen and crazy women, who dared to oppose something so fundamental to American wealth like Slavery.

Abraham Lincoln, speaking at New York's Cooper Union before his election, depicted the radical abolitionist, John Brown as a madman, and not a member of the Republican Party.

It was only after the US Civil War that abolitionists were regarded as sane people -- not before.

There is a lesson here for you all; people at the Abolitionist Forum. That is, don't worry about what people in power or media say about you.

Ask yourself if what you're doing is right -- then roll with it.

It's right to oppose mass incarceration.

It's right to seek to abolish the racist death penalty.

It's right to fight against state repression.

And the right time to do that -- is Now!

14 Nov - Parole Support for Herman Bell

We've made similar requests for support in the recent past. Time is drawing near, and support letters for Herman Bell's parole are due December 15th. Details for how to help are below.

MORE:

Herman has been to the New York State Parole Board seven times and has been denied seven times. Read more to learn why supporters think Herman's eighth parole attempt, coming up in February, might be different, and what you can do to support this effort to bring Herman home at last.

When Herman Bell appears before the parole board for the eighth time in February 2018, he will be 70 years old.

At this next appearance, we hope that Herman will have a better chance of being seriously considered and therefore released.

New regulations governing parole hearings mandate that an applicant's risk of recidivism be considered as a "guiding principle" of the hearing. Herman has the very lowest risk score, based on the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's measures.

In addition, six new parole commissioners were added to the Board and several, though not all, of the older, law-enforcement connected ones have been retired. The new commissioners are mostly from social service and reentry backgrounds. Personal letters of recommendation and community support can play an important role in Herman's next hearing.

On September 5th, Herman was brutally assaulted by a group of correctional officers at Great Meadow Correctional Facility. As is most often the case in these incidents, Herman was initially charged with assault on a guard. In fact, Herman had done nothing to provoke this attack – and, furthermore, showed restraint, non-violence, and discipline in the face of brutality.

In 95% of the cases in New York where a prisoner is charged with assaulting a guard, the prisoner is convicted and sentenced to box (Security Housing Unit) time. However, the charges against Herman were dropped within a few weeks, as letters of support poured in from all over the world. This is a stark reminder that, while Herman poses no danger to society, his continued imprisonment as an elder subjects him to extreme danger. He needs to come home.

How you can help:

Herman has accepted full responsibility for his part in the Black Liberation Movement. His years of excellent accomplishments in prison show that he has taken deep responsibility to the broad community and to creating a better, more peaceful society. He has paid a great price – 44 years of imprisonment, thus far. He is going to the New York state parole board for the eighth time in February, 2018 and deserves to be paroled, to come home to his family and community.

1 - Your letter should "accentuate the positive." Rather than pointing out the injustices of prior parole appearances, the letters should state that Herman Bell will be an asset to the community if released.

A - Those who have met/know Herman should speak about their impressions of him and why he will be an asset and lead a law abiding life after release. Those who have known him a long time should speak of how he has matured over the years of his imprisonment.

B - Those who have not met Herman should state how they have become aware of him (through writings, etc.) and also reiterate their belief that he will be an asset and lead a law abiding life.

C - Those who know Herman and/or only know of him should offer to make available whatever support they have in re-integrating him back into the community (jobs, counseling, medical, educational).

2 - Please write your letter to the attention of the New York State Parole Commissioners -- on professional letterhead, if possible.

3 - Please indicate how you know Herman, or if you don't know him personally, how you know of him. The "Re:" line of your letter should be "Herman Bell, 79-C-0262."

Please sign your letter and mail to:

Tyler Morse & KB White

Parole Preparation Project

c/o Law Office of Michelle L. Lewin

168 Canal Street, 6th Floor

New York, New York 10013

Some facts about Herman's parole efforts:

- When Herman Bell goes again to the NY parole board in February 2018, he will have been imprisoned over 44 years.
- Herman has appeared before the NY parole board 7 times and been denied each time.
- The parole board cites the nature of Herman's charge of conviction for their denials - a fact which will never change - instead of Herman's impressive, 38+ years prison record.
- Herman has earned both his Bachelors and Masters degrees while in prison.
- Herman has earned his paralegal certificate in prison.
- Herman has devoted his time to mentoring, educating, inspiring others he's in with, encouraging them to educate themselves and learn skills so that they may live successful, recidivist-free lives when they get out.

- Herman is renowned for his football coaching skills throughout the NY state prison system.
- Herman has taught English grammar and writing skills as well as Black History, and has organized countless Black History month celebrations through the years.
- With activist farmers in Maine, Herman organized the Victory Gardens Project, where for eight years diverse urban and rural communities came together to learn to grow organic produce which they harvested and distributed, free, back into their communities.
- Herman has devoted his adult life to uplifting and protecting Black people, and to the betterment of all people in our society.
- After more than four decades of imprisonment, Herman deserves to come home!

Go to freehermanbell.org for more information on his case, to see his writing, or to learn more about projects he has worked on.

22 Nov - Walter Bond Update

Walter Bond has ended his hunger strike. We have a more complete timeline below.

MORE:

November 22nd - Current Information about Walter Bond who has been placed in the SHU (solitary confinement) — hunger strike ended

Walter was placed in the SHU (solitary confinement) on Nov 15 or 16. While held in the SHU he is only allowed 15 minutes of phone time per month. He was on a hunger strike which ended on Day 6. He met with the Assistant Warden on Monday, November 20 to discuss the problems he was having at the prison that caused him to go on hunger strike. Walter now will be given Vegan trays at all meals and was assured of a more timely postal mail delivery.

Walter was told that he will probably be transferred back to a CMU (Communications Management Unit) within the next 3 – 5 months. Until that time he will be held in the SHU.

Walter cannot now use Corrlinks to send or receive email.

November 22nd - Breaking News! (good and bad)

Walter Bond called tonight with the following update:

- 1) He spoke with the Assistant Warden of FCI Greenville and going forward he will get a Vegan tray at all meals. Walter also got assurance on this from the Regional Food Supervisor of the BOP.
- 2) The AW resolved the issues with delays in postal mail reaching Walter caused by SIS (Special Investigative Services) staff. The AW told Walter to contact him if problems reoccur.
- 3) Walter ended his hunger strike at day 6.

4) Walter will probably be transferred back to a CMU (Communication Management Unit) and will be held in the SHU at Greenville until that occurs in 3 to 5 months. CMUs are prisons set up for who the federal government considers a terrorist. From January 2012 to September 2015, Walter was confined in the CMU at USP Marion. As can be guessed from the phrase “Communications Management” CMUs attempt to all but completely shut off the prisoners’ communications with the outside. Prisoners are allowed very little phone time and all calls are live-monitored by an office in Virginia. Visiting a CMU prisoner is especially difficult: prisoners receive a much smaller visit time allowance and these monitored visits occur inside a non-contact booth where the parties have to speak to one another using phones. All incoming and outgoing mail to CMU prisoners are first sent to an office in Virginia to be read.

Walter is glad for the assurances about his meals and mail delivery. His not at all glad that he will likely be send back to the CMU. In the meantime he is in the SHU. He will be very isolated, being locked up by himself and only allowed 15 minutes per month of phone call time.

For all the people that phoned the prison... thank you very, very much! You will be happy to know you can stop calling!

You can pick out a paperback book or magazine (no hardcovers) for Walter and order it to be sent directly to his address (don’t forget his prison number) from amazon, another book dealer or a publisher.

22 Nov - Anti-Trump protesters risk 60 years in jail. Is dissent a crime?

More than 200 people who were arrested on Trump’s inauguration day risk up to 60 years of jail. Meanwhile, the white supremacists in Charlottesville walk free. We are also including the first day of Defendant’s Diaries.

MORE:

by Yael Bromberg and Eirik Cheverud (*The Guardian*)

On the morning of President Trump’s inauguration, police trapped and arrested more than 230 people. Some were anti-Trump demonstrators; some were not. The next day, federal prosecutors charged them all with “felony rioting”, a nonexistent crime in Washington DC. The prosecution then launched a sweeping investigation into the defendants’ lives, demanding vast amounts of online information through secret warrants.

Prosecutors eventually dropped a few defendants, like journalists and legal observers, but simultaneously increased the charges against everyone else. The most recent indictment collectively charged more than 200 people with felony rioting, felony incitement to riot, conspiracy to riot, and five property-damage crimes – all from broken windows.

Each defendant is facing over 60 years in prison.

The prosecution next obtained warrants focused on anti-Trump organizers. One sought a list of all visitors to a website that organizers used to promote Inauguration Day protests. A second sought information on all Facebook friends and related communications of two organizers, the host of a coalition Facebook page, and those who simply “liked” that page.

Despite legal challenges, a court recently decided to enforce the warrants, requiring only that personally identifiable information be redacted for “irrelevant” material. This unprecedented prosecution follows a drastic change in local law enforcement’s response to protest.

The DC Office of Police Complaints issued a report critical of the mass arrest, noting the departure from standard operating procedure and the likelihood that police lacked individualized probable cause to arrest everyone. This is exactly the type of action new policies and statutes enacted in DC were meant to avoid, following a 2002 mass arrest that caused the District to pay over \$10m in settlements.

Compare this crackdown with the government's response to the pre-planned, armed violence and rioting by white supremacists and private militia groups in Charlottesville, Virginia.

There was no sweeping online dragnet to identify organizers who conspired to plan, promote, and carry out violence in Charlottesville – violence against people, not property.

Nor were all the participants in Charlottesville rounded up and charged with felony conspiracy to commit rioting – or charged as accessories to Heather Heyer's murder. Instead, federal prosecutors have done little to nothing.

Online activists exposed the identities of a few white supremacists, leading to charges from local law enforcement due to public pressure. But there have been no felony rioting charges, no charges of guilt-by-association, no police raids, no sweeping investigation.

Other riots have gone unchallenged by law enforcement. In 2006, Steelers fans rioted after their team won the Super Bowl, causing over \$150,000 in damage (by comparison, prosecutors allege the inauguration defendants caused an estimated \$100,000 of damage on 20 January – most of which was attributable to a limousine fire that occurred after the mass arrest.)

Police charged some Steelers fans with individualized offenses, but no riot charges. In 2015, University of Kentucky basketball fans rioted after their team lost to Wisconsin; once again, some arrests, but no riot charges.

How do prosecutors decide when to dust off the rioting statutes and whom to charge? Apparently, the reasons for the alleged rioting are important.

Sports riots are “people letting off steam”. Riots by white supremacists evidently occur with no criminal consequences. And why should law enforcement behave differently? Neither scenario threatens the state itself.

When people stand in opposition to the government, like the demonstrators did on 20 January, the analysis changes; suddenly conduct becomes “rioting”, deserving of a lifetime in prison.

This is classic content-based discrimination of freedom of speech and assembly, and selective prosecution. The state cracks down when it disapproves of the reasons why a riot occurs, but holds back when rioters are not responding to state violence and oppression. Notably, the first time prosecutors used the riot statutes in DC was to punish protesters following Martin Luther King Jr's assassination.

All this raises the questions – who gets to define “violence”, and what of the permissibility of state-sanctioned violence? Does the state not commit violence when it brutally attacks anti-Trump protesters and arrests them without probable cause? Does the state not commit violence by trying to put hundreds of people behind bars for decades? Does the state not commit violence by failing to intervene against armed force exacted by white supremacists? Does the state not commit violence when it protects hate speech and punishes government critics?

Trials for the inauguration protesters begin mid-November and will continue for a year. As media ramps up coverage, do not forget what these trials are about – not rioting, not broken windows, but punishing dissent.

November 22nd - J20 Defendant's Diary: Day 1

by Elizabeth Lagesse (*The Real News*)

In DC Superior Court on Monday, the first trial began for six protesters facing multiple felony charges connected to Trump's inauguration. They are the first of 194 people, of whom I am one, set to stand trial on related charges throughout 2018.

These particular defendants asserted their right to a speedy trial against the protests of prosecutors, who face the challenge of building unprecedented felony riot charges out of digital evidence. Civil liberties groups have criticized the prosecution's case as an attempt to chill political speech using heavy-handed criminal charges (full disclosure: I am involved with the ACLU in a lawsuit against the MPD).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Kerkhoff presented the prosecution's opening statement, giving her dramatic interpretation of the alleged riot's effects on the surrounding neighborhood. Attorneys for each defendant followed, with statements focusing on free speech implications and the government's lack of evidence for these specific defendants. Several defense attorneys noted that the defendants in this trial are not alleged to have committed physical acts of violence or property destruction, but rather to have participated as part of a conspiracy.

In other words, both sides acknowledge no one on trial today broke anything at all.

Andrew Lapp, store manager of an Au Bon Pain restaurant at 13th Street, was the government's first witness. He described the experience of seeing protesters gather at Logan Circle, of spending "four or five minutes" searching for parking, and the "excited chatter" among customers as the restaurant's windows were broken. Lapp associated the protesters with the individuals who broke his windows, citing their "dark clothes." The defense pressed him on his inability to identify specific defendants in the crowd, as well as the visible protesters wearing brighter colors.

Officer Ashley Anderson of the Metropolitan Police Department, 7th District concluded the day's testimony with her account of patrolling the scene of the protest with her bicycle squad. She described police without "enough manpower to go after anyone" individually, despite witnessing property destruction "almost within arm's reach." Like Lapp, Anderson described the protesters as "all dressed alike," with some wearing masks. Time ran out near the end of the prosecution's questions, but the defense will have its turn to question Anderson when the trial resumes on Tuesday.

The prosecution seems to be basing its case largely on the protesters' clothes, and on loose associations among all present nearby property destruction. It remains to be seen how the defense will counter this narrative, but there are hints of arguments based on freedoms of speech and association.

November 28th - US government uses Project Veritas video in trial of anti-Trump protesters

by Sam Levin (*The Guardian*)

Federal prosecutors targeting anti-Trump protesters are relying on video evidence from Project Veritas, a far-right group under fire this week for allegedly trying to dupe the Washington Post with a false story of sexual misconduct.

The US attorney's office submitted the footage in court on Tuesday as part of an ongoing trial against activists who protested Donald Trump's inauguration and now face conspiracy and rioting charges that could lead to decades in prison.

Prosecutors played the video – which reportedly showed undercover footage from a meeting of activists – one day after the Washington Post reported that Project Veritas had sent a woman undercover pretending to be a victim of Roy Moore, the US Senate candidate accused of sexual misconduct.

The decision to use video from a discredited ultra-conservative group known for ethically questionable tactics has drawn criticisms from civil liberties groups, who have argued that the federal government under Trump is aggressively prosecuting activists who oppose the president.

"It's absolutely shocking that the prosecutors went on record today saying they are relying on a Project Veritas video," said Jude Ortiz, a member of the organizing crew of Defend J20 Resistance, a group

supporting the nearly 200 people facing charges related to the Washington DC protests of Trump on 20 January.

“It’s a dubious piece of evidence at best, and it’s appalling that it’s coming from the far right,” said Ortiz, who attended the hearing.

Hundreds were arrested during inauguration day demonstrations – including journalists, legal observers and medics – drawing criticisms that law enforcement was issuing overly broad charges against people caught up in the chaos, without specific evidence tying them to alleged crimes. Though some charges were later dropped, many are still on trial for conspiracy, rioting and property destruction allegations, and some could face 60-year prison sentences.

The video comes from Project Veritas’ infiltration of a meeting where activists discussed plans to disrupt inauguration activities.

The use of Project Veritas footage is the latest example of prosecutors relying on evidence linked to controversial far-right sources. The US attorney’s office has also submitted video from the Oath Keepers, a rightwing militia group that has been present at “alt-right” rallies.

Project Veritas founder James O’Keefe has also faced scrutiny for past undercover efforts and was convicted in 2010 for his role in a scheme to make illegal recordings at the office of a Democratic senator. The group’s apparent effort to embarrass the Washington Post, however, backfired this week after the newspaper exposed the alleged sting operation.

“The government is untroubled by their collaboration with authoritarian rightwingers,” said Sam Menefee-Libey, a member of the Dead City Legal Posse, an activist group supporting the protesters on trial.

Menefee-Libey, who was in court on Tuesday, said he believed the judge should not have allowed the video to be presented in the first place, given Project Veritas’ history.

“Fundamentally, this shows that the state doesn’t have very much to go on,” said James Anderson, a member of It’s Going Down, an anti-fascist collective that has promoted protests against Trump and the “alt-right”. Prosecutors have also used comments an activist made on an It’s Going Down podcast as evidence in the ongoing trial.

“The fact that they have to fall back on using these far-right trolls, which are widely discredited, not only speaks to the illegitimacy of their case, but also a fundamental relationship between the Trump administration and the alt-right,” Anderson said.

Erin Lemkey, a Washington DC protester who is facing charges for J20 activities, said the Project Veritas video revealed weaknesses in the prosecution’s case.

“They’re using whatever stuff they can drag up,” said Lemkey, who has not yet gone to trial. “It’s doubly strange that they would be taking such a discredited source.”

A spokesman for Project Veritas defended the use of the video as “entirely appropriate”. A spokesman for the US attorney’s office for DC declined to comment.

The J20 demonstrators are not the only progressive activists who have faced harsh prosecutions for protest activities this year. In May, a leftwing activist was convicted after she was arrested for laughing during a confirmation hearing for attorney general Jeff Sessions. Anti-fascist demonstrators in California have also faced serious felony charges.

The link to Project Veritas also raises broader concerns about the US government's willingness to investigate and prosecute violence committed by white supremacists and neo-Nazis, activists said. Trump faced heated backlash after he failed to condemn neo-Nazis in Virginia in the wake of deadly violence involving white supremacists earlier this year.

"Why are there no conspiracy charges for the far right?" said Anderson. "That's a huge question."

24 Nov - Leonard Peltier Thanksgiving Statement

Every year, Leonard Peltier writes a statement for the National Day of Mourning, Please read this year's statement below.

MORE:

Greetings my friends, relatives and supporters.

Once again, I can't tell you how much i am so honored that you would want to hear my words, or should i say read my words. You can't imagine the thoughts that go through my head at times whenever everything is still and quiet in the night, when i lay there staring into the dark with day dreams of how things could possibly be better.

I know I've said this once before in some past statement years back. However, it comes to my thoughts how the term "day of mourning" makes me think of a reverse as in the morning of a new day, and how one term refers to those caught up in a deep sorrow and how the other term is a promise of a new beginning with the rising of the sun. In our traditions and culture most tribal nations historically did a mourning period of one year for the deceased.

However, for us during this point in time we are continually losing our people, and especially our young people, and our women who continually disappear with no trace. Ours lands are constantly violated. The air, the water, the soil, all of nature is screaming against the injustice that is continually perpetrated by those who worship money.

So in essence i want to say in the loudest voice and the most sincere voice i possibly speak, we don't have a day of mourning. We have generations of mourning year after year. I don't know what I can do further from where I'm at but in whatever way possible i want to add my scream to the scream of the earth and the scream of our people for justice.

These ecological disasters caused by the wealthy must stop. Those people who are destroying the earth must realize that they ultimately will destroy themselves also. I know many of you have taken part in the prayer vigils and stood strong in the face of wrongful beatings and shootings and various other forms of violence and i commend you for your bravery. Having said that, i want to encourage you to move forward to a new day. With each new day we need to rise to the occasion to defend what is right and do what we can to right what is wrong.

Our enemy is not any person of particular color. Our enemy is those who are ignorant of the reality that we are all an intricate part of the circle of life. We must arm ourselves with the knowledge it takes to bring attention to the wrongness of their thinking, the wrongness of their exploitation of our mother earth, and the wrongness of their mistreatment of the indigenous peoples throughout our lands. I would encourage you to mourn if that is your way and do whatever length of time that is required by your teachings.

However, i sincerely encourage each one of you to take it upon yourself to become a warrior of one. Educate yourself. Find the knowledge it takes to survive and thrive in a good way. And to confront the ignorance of those who are destroying the natural. Confront them in such a way that they will come to know that to destroy the earth, to destroy our people, to continually ignore a philosophy and teachings that

allowed this land to exist since the beginning of time in a beautiful natural existence, they will ultimately destroy themselves and all life.

Perhaps I've said too much. I don't know your agenda. Obviously i have more time than you. I want to say in closing, i love you, i love that you're here, i love that you want to make a difference and i will pray for you always. I further want to say you are making a difference. You have made a difference, power to the people and the earth.

27 Nov - Two Standing Rock Protestors Were Sentenced to Jail

It's still unclear as to why they and 22 other protestors were apparently singled out.

MORE:

by Yvette Montoya (*Teen Vogue*)

On October 19 — nearly a year to the date since they were arrested at Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota — Mary Redway, 65, was sentenced to six days in jail on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct, and Alexander Simon, 27, was sentenced to 18 days in jail on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and physical obstruction of a government function by Surrogate Judge Thomas Merrick.

Mary is a retired film editor and environmental biologist from Rhode Island; Alexander is a teacher living in New Mexico. Both were arrested for their participation in a demonstration on October 22, 2016, when Water Protectors gathered at Standing Rock Reservation to resist the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline, which threatens to contaminate water supplies and destroy sacred sites. Mary and Alexander were arrested along with 140 other people, but charges against those individuals were all dropped — until the state decided to recharge 24 people from that day with misdemeanor charges of physical obstruction of a government function, disorderly conduct, and failure to obey law enforcement during riot conditions. Mary and Alexander were the first Water Protectors to receive a jail sentence and were tried in court together, and it's still unclear as to why they and the other 22 protestors were apparently singled out.

Water Protectors cite erratic treatment from North Dakota's police, judges, and state attorney since last year, and the way its courts have tried Water Protectors has been unusual. Morton County Assistant State's attorney Brian Grosinger recharged and filed an arrest warrant for Mary on May 24 without notifying her or her lawyer, she tells *Teen Vogue*. This sent her scrambling back across the country to get it sorted out.

Erica Shively, Mary's lawyer, tells *Teen Vogue* that Mary has been given four different trial dates, only to have the charges dropped the day before the actual trial was supposed to take place — long after her client paid legal fees and traveled from Rhode Island to North Dakota.

Over half of the roughly 830 DAPL criminal cases have now closed, and many defendants have had their charges dismissed. Sara Lafleur-Vetter was the first journalist to go to trial for the protests and was arrested along with Mary and Alexander in 2016. She was acquitted on October 18.

According to Mary, by drawing out trials, the state attorney is pushing Water Protectors toward pretrial diversion, or as she calls it, "legalized bribery." Pretrial diversion has defendants enter a guilty plea and then requires them to follow specific conditions set by the court, which is through a supervision and services program administered by the U.S. Probation Service. "I would be furious if I were a taxpaying citizen in [North Dakota] seeing how the prosecution is dragging it out [and] spending [so much money]," she says. "It's very obvious what they're doing."

It seems that the only pattern that has emerged in these court proceedings is the overall aggression directed at Water Protectors. North Dakota attorney Bruce Nestor has been sponsoring several pro hac vice attorneys in local cases since January and has taken note of the unfair treatment. In September, he told *The Bismarck Tribune*, "From law enforcement to the prosecutors to potential jurors, a deep bias and prejudice against anyone who opposed the Dakota Access Pipeline has been evident."

On September 11, the judges of the South Central Judicial District filed a petition requesting the termination of the January 18 order that temporarily allowed out-of-state attorneys to represent defendants in DAPL cases. The petition would have created limited access to legal counsel for Water Protectors like Mary and Alexander — it failed, but Mary saw the move as an intimidation tactic. She views her sentence as retaliation for speaking out to news outlets about her experiences.

Alexander was found guilty of both disorderly conduct and physical obstruction of a government function because, according to Mary and her lawyer, the prosecution provided a photograph of him locking arms with other protesters. “If you really want to stretch your imagination and stretch the law, here he was, obstructing the law enforcement from arresting other people, but he wasn’t obstructing his own arrest,” Mary explains.

Water Protectors were well within their First Amendment right to peacefully assemble, Mary says. “The police like to talk about us in military terms. They treated us like an invading army. We were not marching, we’re water protectors; it was clearly a peaceful walk,” she explains. Andrea Carter, attorney and defense council coordinator of the Water Protector Legal Collective, describes the sentencing to *Teen Vogue* as a “miscarriage of justice,” and that Mary and Alexander received jail time “for petty, misdemeanor convictions.”

The WPLC told the Associated Press last month that the sentences show the judge’s bias because similar protest-related cases tried by other judges have resulted in suspended jail sentences or jail time offset by time served. The judge disputes that claim, according to the report.

Andrea and the WPLC are all working to prevent similar convictions, but the odds are stacked against them. Both she and Mary emphasized the importance of these decisions as well as the need for the involvement of everyday citizens in the protection of democracy. “Standing Rock is the most recent example of how our police, military, FBI, political forces, private security, and mercenaries are working together to curtail and discourage free speech or any disagreement with ‘business as usual,’” Andrea explains to *Teen Vogue*. “It shows how political action can be penalized and given disparate treatment in our criminal justice system.”

Mary was released on October 23 after serving four days, with the two days she was in jail from her initial 2016 arrest added as time served. Alexander was released roughly one week later, on October 31, after serving 12 days with credit for time previously served.

Teen Vogue reached out to North Dakota’s State’s Attorneys’ Office for comment on November 15 but has not yet received a response.

28 Nov - Ramsey Orta is Catching Hell

On October 21, 2017, we received information that Ramsey was in “The Box”, a term used for being put in disciplinary solitary confinement without contact to the outside world.

MORE:

We immediately reached out to his lawyer to begin the process of getting Ramsey the support he needed. On October 22, 2017, we received this letter from Ramsey outlining an incident involving threats and physical abuse.

The letter reads as follows ...

10/16/2017 On the above date at around 5:30pm C.O D. Mortiz called someone on the phone, next thing I know 5 to 7 officers came into the dorm walking towards my cube. C.O M. Titus grabbed me by my neck and walked me in between the doors that allow you to exit the dorm. During this time C.O M. Titus shoved my face into the wall very hard and started to pull my hair from behind and began to slap me on the right side of my face a few times. When CO. M Titus stop and starting securing me down all over. When he got to the groin area, my dick, he grabbed it and pulled

We send this call in solidarity with those defying state repression of large scale dissent: from the J20 defendants in Washington, DC to those in Hamburg facing trial following the G20, as well as those in the spaces between.

We want a world without walls and borders.

We will fight together until everyone is free!

6 Dec - RAM Benefit for Boricua: Autonomous Disaster Relief

WHAT: Benefit Concert

WHEN: 8:00pm-12:00am, Wednesday, December 6th

WHERE: The Silent Barn - 603 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206

COST: \$5-15, sliding scale

MORE:

Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement - NYC presents Party for Puerto Rico: Hurricane Relief

This September, 2017, Puerto Rico was rocked by Hurricane Maria, flooding the island, leading to hundreds of deaths, and destroying infrastructure and communication. Months later people are still struggling to get running water, meet food needs, and restore their homes.

While Trump mocks the needs of people in Puerto Rico, the US government offers paltry help, predatory companies like Whitefish Energy scoop up disaster relief money without providing services, and resources shipped from grassroots groups disappear en route to the island, anarchists and grassroots groups have stepped up to bring food, labor and longterm solutions to people who have dire needs.

From preparing community meals to helping people sort through wreckage to building gardens for sustainable food production, these folks are helping people meet immediate needs and building towards self-reliance that challenges a hundred years of colonial subjugation. Unlike NGOs who pay themselves for their 'work' and set up infrastructure that will ultimately benefit companies back in the US, anarchist groups voluntarily build DIY infrastructure that economically meets the needs of neighbors while strengthening their communities.

Come out to fundraise for the anarchist groups who are putting down work for the long and short term!!

All donations go to this group:

itsgoingdown.org/puerto-rico-punk-rock-hurricane-relief

Music by:

Ava Mendoza avamendozamusical.bandcamp.com/releases

Brandon Lopez nevernotagravedigger.bandcamp.com

Devin Hoff devinhoff.bandcamp.com

Kalonji Law\$ thamightymix.com/2017/05/12/new-kids-on-the-block-kalonji-law-of-nyc-law

7 Dec - Mass Arrests in the Age of Trump

WHAT: Discussion

WHEN: 7:00-9:00pm, Thursday, December 7th

WHERE: Unitarian Church of All Souls - 1157 Lexington Avenue, New York 10075

COST: FREE!

MORE:

Please join us to discuss the implications of mass arrests and outsized charges for liberty and dissent in the U.S. We will hear from a recent Barnard graduate who was arrested while peacefully protesting at Trump's

inauguration. We will also hear from social justice attorneys Bina Ahmad, Rick Foard, and Eirik Cheverud, as well as Dr. Margaret Stevens, director of the Urban Issues Institute at Essex County College.

13 Dec - Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?

WHAT: Book Release Party

WHEN: 7:00-10:00pm, Wednesday, December 13th

WHERE: Raw Space, 2301 Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, NYC

COST: \$5, suggested donation

MORE:

Mumia's book party, curated by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Gerald Horne - author of 30 books on radical Black history

Ash Williams - Activist/Charlotte's Uprising organizer; confronted Hillary Clinton on her use of the term "super predator" to describe young Black men

Pam Africa - MOVE organization and International Concerned Friends & Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Lorenzo "Cat" Johnson - Released July 2017 after 23 years of wrongful imprisonment

Tag - Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee; Campaign to Bring Mumia Home

Jeffrey Deskovic - Exonerated in 2006 after 26 years of wrongful imprisonment

Music by *DJ Christy Love*

No one turned away. Give liberally. Dress purposefully (color scheme: black and white)

For more information, email bringmumiahome@gmail.com or call 347.709.2264.

15 Dec - American Carnage Ends Here

WHAT: J20 Legal Fund Benefit

WHEN: 12:00pm-12:00am, Friday, December 15th

WHERE: Club Anarchy (Ask around for directions)

COST: \$5-15, sliding scale

MORE:

BANDS

Mad Diesel KRIMEWATCH Junta Rubber Bleedside

FREETHOUGHT Tricky Youth #SADNIGGA

20 Silkscreen prints from 20 artists

Live printing workshops!

Vendors (including NYC ABC)

Zine!

More (Yes, MORE!!!)

17 Dec - Holiday Spectacular, a Very Merry Heartwarming Holiday Special

WHAT: A Benefit for NYC Books Through Bars

WHEN: 5:30pm, Sunday, December 17th

WHERE: The Mockingbird - 25 Avenue B, New York, New York 10009

COST: \$20-50, suggested donation

MORE:

Tickets now on sale for this one-hour Holiday Special, jam-packed with song, dance and Heartwarming Holiday Fun! Starring me, Kraigery Kehrer, Tom Gleeson, Russell Boyle, Russell Michael Schramm, Fred Riccardi, Karissa Krenz, Kristine Pregot, Jordan Noël Hawkes, Kendra Butler Lacroix, Florent Lacroix, Chris Kissel, Don Nienas and more talented cast to be announced!

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR: A VERY MERRY HEARTWARMING HOLIDAY SPECIAL, (with a Living Nativity!)

To purchase tickets, simply:

- 1/ Make a \$20 or \$50 donation (or any amount you choose) to NYC Books through Bars.
- 2/ Under "Add special instructions to the seller" please note: "HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR 2017"
- 3/ DONATE HERE: booksthroughbarsnyc.org/wp/index.php/donate/funds/
- 4/ Bring your receipt to the show. Its your ticket! (Or cash at the door.) Let David Engelman know you bought a ticket so we make sure we have a seat for you!
- 5/ TICKET PRICING:
Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 cash at the door
VIP Santa Circle Tickets**: \$50 in advance, \$55 cash at the door

With Special Guest Appearances by The Osmond Family*, and Academy Award-winner Miss Joan Crawford and Family!*

*These people won't really be there. These parts will be played by me and my friends.

**VIP Santa Circle Tickets include:

- =>VIP Premiere Santa Circle Seating
- =>One Complimentary Santa Circle Drink Ticket
- =>Homemade Santa Cookie, yummy
- =>A Holiday Spectacular One of a Kind Ornament
- =>Post-Show VIP Holiday Spectacular Living Nativity Cast Photo
- =>Meet & Greet with Holiday Spectacular Cast

100% of the proceeds will go to NYC Books through Bars, an all-volunteer-run group that sends free, donated books to incarcerated people across the nation.