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Updates for October 15<sup>th</sup>

### **3 Oct - Facing Trial, Plowshares Activists Tell Their Stories**

*Here are some updates, and a press release, from about plowshares folks facing prison time for non-violent direct action.*

#### **MORE:**

More than 250 people, a multicultural crowd, joined five of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 in person at a Festival of Hope celebration in New York City last Sunday. Four of the activists wearing monitors strapped around their ankles told their stories of how they came to enter Naval Base Kings Bay to nonviolently disarm Trident's nuclear weapons on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and how they intend to transform the courtroom and jury at their trial starting October 21.

Mark Colville called in by telephone from the southern Georgia jail he has been in for most of the past 18 months.

“All of the machinations that have gone on in the court in this case right up to now have had to do with the government trying to exclude two things from the deliberations in this court,” Mark told the crowd. “One would be conscience, and the other could be common sense. So, if we could get the jury actually to apply either one of those things in full measure at this trial there's really no way we could be found guilty. So, even a little bit of conscience along with a little common sense would lead anybody to understand that this situation that we are in, that these weapons are illegal.”

Mark was released on Tuesday and returned to his home in Connecticut. (An earlier press release announcing Elizabeth McAlister's release from jail in mid-September incorrectly mentioned bond as a condition for her release. She was released without a bond and without a requirement to wear an ankle monitor.)

Nuclear weapons are not just deadly when they are launched, Clare Grady told the crowd. “But they kill every day by their mining, refining, testing, and dumping on indigenous land. They are used like that cocked gun. Even when you never pull that trigger you are using that gun. And, to be clear, that is the enforcement mechanism for all those systems that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King identifies in the triplets of white supremacy, and global capitalism, and global domination.... I'll call it the biggest bully stick. It's connected to every form of state-sponsored violence down to the police. Be clear that that's the connection.”

*Democracy Now!* Co-Host Amy Goodman asked the five Plowshares activists how they came to take this Plowshares action.

Martha Hennessy spoke of the privilege of her life and the challenges of this action. “I still don't know if I am prepared to continue on this effort. But here I am, and I put one foot in front of the other, and I rely on the love and the stability of my community and the grace of God to continue to go through with this.... It has not been an easy path at all for me.”

Carmen Trotta said that he had been interested in Plowshares actions over the years. He attended a preliminary meeting to “give it a shot and see what the dialogue was like.” He didn't know who exactly would be there. “When I walked into the room it was pretty clear to me that I was not really going to be able to walk out of this. In part because they were old friends.”

Elizabeth McAlister, who turns 80 next month, said she wants her life to have some sense of meaning. “I want to witness to justice and peace and I want that to be a gift to my offspring, but also to all our offspring. They deserve to grow up in a world where they can breathe and drink water and enjoy sunlight and not work with the constant poisoning of the world that we are engaging in with these weapons.”

Bud Courtney read a letter from his friend, Fr. Steve Kelly, S.J., the only one of the Plowshares 7 remaining in jail now. “I am among the wilderness of the incarcerated two and a quarter million folks comprising the human warehouses in the empire,” the letter reads. “It is resistance jailed, a price extracted by an empire. And I echo the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: An empire in its death throes as it clings to and mouths obscene threats with its lethal arsenal, a fire that is a direct theft of trillions from the poor.... Your presence today clearly demonstrates that while you can jail the resisters you cannot destroy the resistance.... I am encouraged by your presence to ask that this small effort of ours not be the last word in nuclear abolition.”

Special guest journalist Jeremy Scahill challenged the storyline presented by mainstream media and Democrats today. “The greatest danger that we’re facing in this society right now is not Donald Trump’s corruption. It’s not something involving Ukraine or servers or the DNC. We have one of the most unstable individuals in this country with his finger on the nuclear button. The gravest threat that humanity faces right now has nothing to do with how sleazy and crooked and criminal Donald Trump is. It has to do with the fact that in an instant a man with the thinnest of skin could launch a nuclear strike that could destroy the world many times over. That – that – is the crisis in this country right now,” he said.

“We can’t be distracted by the Democrats and MSNBC calling themselves the resistance. What resistance looks like is to go into the dead of night onto a base that houses weapons that could destroy all of humanity and not know what the next day will bring but that you know the only place you could be to be human at that moment is to be where these seven stood... Those that resist, who see the darkness for what it is, are the prophets of our time.”

The multicultural crowd at Manhattan’s Iglesia Santa Cruz/Holyrood Church included Puerto Rican human rights activist attorney Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, former president of the National Lawyers Guild, Puerto Rican and Dominican human rights activists, members of the International Action Committee, parish members, other church leaders, other Plowshares activists, Nueva Canción musicians Umigrante and Irish traditional musicians the Grady Girls, Catholic Workers, many KBP7 supporters and family members.

In his welcoming remarks, Holyrood Pastor Luis Barrios described the KBP7’s action as being in line with the resistance to the colonialism of his native Puerto Rico.

“These are people following God’s mandate,” he told the crowd. “You’re supposed to protect God’s creation. You have to look at this (action) in this context. We’ve got the commitment, the responsibility, that we are supposed to protect creation. So, what do you think they were doing? They were protecting creation!” he said. “By the way, this is the correct manifest destiny. They are just following the mandate from God to protect creation. So, they are just being obedient.”

He then led the crowd in cheers to the Plowshares activists, “Thank you for your courage! Thank you for the example! Thank you for taking sides, breaking the silence! This is very important.... The action that they did is not a waste of time. It is an inspiration for all of us.... We are with the seven. We are! We are! We are!”

Patrick O’Neill used his time to speak to honor Fr. Steve, who turned 70 in jail this year. Patrick described Fr. Steve spending more than 10 years of his life in jail or prison for acts of nonviolent direct action against nuclear weapons.

“Steve has spent more than half of those 10 years in the... a segregated housing unit,” he said. “Because Steve refuses to work in jail and prison — and as you know, prison labor is what maintains jails and prisons — he will not as a matter of conscience contribute any labor to that unjust system. So, he goes into solitary confinement instead. Imagine what it would be like to spend five years in your bathroom because that’s the kind of solitary confinement Steve has spent five or six years of his life in. When we stand up in our jail cells most of the time, you spread your two arms, you touch both walls of the cell you’re in.... Steve is a theologian, a brilliant theologian. He has really been the spiritual leader of this community and he has been somebody who has helped us stay rooted. Carmen referred to Steve using the terms community and cross. Community is what Steve meant (by) us being together, the seven of us together. But cross speaks to something else about Steve. Steve is willing to pick up his cross and follow Jesus. When we walked into Kings Bay with Father Stephen Kelly we knew without a doubt that he was ready to die that night, that that was the depth of his faith. So, I just want to give a tribute to this man who is absolutely stunning in his devotion to God and to nonviolence.”

Amy Goodman told the crowd she appreciated “being in this holy place, in this sanctuary of dissent.... People around the world care deeply about these actions.”

Before playing music with his daughters, musician Tom Chapin said he is a second cousin to Dorothy Day’s granddaughter, Martha Hennessy. “If Dorothy Day were still alive... she would be here. Somewhere she is so proud of her granddaughter and all of these folks here.”

### **October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sub base break-in trial to reprise pretrial arguments**

by Wes Wolfe (*The Brunswick News*)

As the days tick down to the trial of the seven anti-nuclear protestors who broke into Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in April, opposing counsel are gearing up for jury selection and other pretrial maneuvers. Saturday, the U.S. Attorney’s Office filed its voir dire questions — what it wants to know from and about prospective jurors in order to aid in the jury selection process.

If the motions and notices filed by the defense are of any indication, arguments made at hours-length before the court in several pretrial hearings are going to get a second run. The first run proved unsuccessful, as both U.S. Magistrate Judge Benjamin Cheesbro and U.S. District Judge Lisa Godbey Wood ruled against their claims of selective prosecution, duplicitous counts, failure to state an offense and general defense of their actions under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

With some defendants going pro se and others represented by counsel, there is a fair amount of identical filings on behalf of the defendants.

Father Stephen Kelly, in his memorandum in support of notice of intent to raise defenses, states, “Defendants are raising defenses of 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, necessity, international law and war crimes. Over the years, some courts have refused to allow defenses similar to some of these being raised. Importantly, none of the prior cases have addressed the issue of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in any way. Indeed, many were decided before RFRA was even enacted. None of these cases should reflect in any way at all on the RFRA defenses raised by defendants.

“In terms of those cases which have addressed defenses raised in this case, in addition to the specific arguments defendants raise to support each defense, defendants believe these prior adverse decisions are no longer appropriate and should not apply to the matter for several reasons.”

Among the reasons cited were allegations that President Donald Trump is trigger-happy as it pertains to nuclear weapons, and that what would be called a “political solution” — the defendants working through Congress to achieve their goals — is impossible because of Capitol Hill gridlock.

In further arguments that failed to find a receptive audience with the judges, the defendants argue the United States is committing a war crime as defined by American and international law simply by possessing nuclear weapons.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office is trying to prohibit the defendants from using the necessity, or justification defense, unless each defendant can meet the four prongs, which it cites in a motion as, “(1) that [he] was under unlawful and present, imminent, and impending threat of death or serious bodily injury; (2) that [he] did not negligently or recklessly place himself in a situation where he would be forced to engage in criminal conduct; (3) that [he] had no reasonable legal alternative to violating the law; and (4) that there was a direct causal relationship between the criminal action and the avoidance of the threatened harm.”

Meanwhile, the defendants argue in their notice of intent to raise this defense that they “sincerely believe that (they were) faced with a choice of evils and (they) chose the lesser of the two evils,” the “(defendants) sincerely believed and acted reasonably to prevent imminent harm,” the “(defendants) reasonably believed that (their) action could have an impact on the harm (they) wished to avoid,” and “(defendants) reasonably believed that there were no other legal alternatives to violating the law.”

The court has yet to rule on the numerous outstanding motions. Jury selection is scheduled for the morning of Oct. 21.

#### **October 7<sup>th</sup> - Mark Colville’s Statement on Returning Home**

It is so good to be home. Deep thanks to all of you who have been wishing and praying and hoping me here all this time, and for the great outpouring of affection that has accompanied me back to New Haven.

The court’s granting our motion for release without ankle monitor or bail was a pleasant surprise. I suspect it’s part of a new government strategy, designed to confuse and disorient me by doing the right thing! Actually, this sudden transition from maximum security to freedom does have my head spinning; the physical adjustment, too, has been a bit tougher than expected. After 15 months of managing relationships by way of surveilled phone calls and postcards, the internet and Facebook feel daunting indeed. And my body seems to hardly know when to sleep or wake up anymore!

With the trial less than three weeks away, reuniting with family and neighborhood (and, yes, my dog!) will remain the imperatives of the next several days. But please know that none of your gestures of friendship, support and solidarity have gone unnoticed. I’m blessed and grateful, and will soon be ready to rumble.

#### **4 Oct - Philadelphia Running Down the Walls Report Back**

*Philly ABC is happy to report the success of their second annual Running Down The Walls in support of political prisoners, held on September 7<sup>th</sup>, roughly 2 years from the date that the group formed.*

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We again chose a late summer date for the event, but we hope to align our 2020 RDTW with other ABC chapters. We also joined the ABCF earlier this year to more closely work with our long-term comrades in the LA and former Philly ABC chapters.

We gathered at 10 am in FDR park for a yoga warm-up led by Sheena Sood. It was a beautiful morning, warm and sunny with a nice breeze coming off the lake. Two laps around the park loop is conveniently almost exactly 5K. Like last year, we split into 3 groups: walkers, joggers and runners. Walkers left the starting line around 11 am, followed by the joggers at 11:10 and the runners at 11:20. Afterward, we gathered for a group photo, speeches by Mike Africa Jr. (son of Debbie and Mike Africa who were also participating in the event), Janet and Janine Africa, and refreshments provided by Food Not Bombs Solidarity.

Together we raised a total of \$1940 to split between the ABCF Warchest, and the Never Give Up! project started by Mike Africa Jr. to provide long-term support for released members of the MOVE 9. We chose royal blue as the color for this year's shirt to support and raise awareness for Chuck Africa's fight against colon cancer from within prison. Chuck Africa is up for parole later this year, and along with Delbert Africa is one of the remaining members of the MOVE 9 not yet paroled. Another long-term comrade behind bars in PA, Russell Maroon Shoatz, is also battling colo-rectal cancer so we ran in royal blue in solidarity with him as well. Maroon's support team is collecting funds to help secure him holistic health options.

At the time of last year's RDTW, in commemoration of 40 years since the arrest of the MOVE 9, only Debbie had been paroled. This year we were grateful for not only the release of Mike and his reunification with Debbie and family, but the release of Janet, Janine and Eddie as well, all of whom participated for the first time outside of prison walls! We look forward to more successes in the next year!

#### **4 Oct - Dakota Access Pipeline Activists Face 110 Years in Prison, Two Years After Confessing Sabotage**

*Two women who vandalized the Dakota Access pipeline in an effort to halt construction have been indicted on charges that carry up to 110 years in prison and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.*

##### **MORE:**

by Alleen Brown (*The Intercept*)

They are among the harshest penalties environmental activists have faced in the last decade.

Civil liberties lawyers say the charges are in line with industry-inspired scare tactics meant to deter citizens from participating in direct-action protests or acts of sabotage against oil and gas companies. As the deadly impacts of carbon emissions grow ever clearer, the fossil fuel industry has increased pressure on lawmakers and government officials to penalize those who would inhibit their projects' operations.

At the same time, a growing number of activists have demonstrated willingness to break laws in order to highlight the urgency of the climate emergency and other ecological crises. Ruby Montoya and Jessica Reznicek, who stand accused of damaging pipeline valve sites using a welding torch, "tires ignited by fire, and gasoline-soaked rags," are part of that trend.

The arrests come more than two years after Montoya, 29, and Reznicek, 38, publicly took responsibility for a series of acts of sabotage that they said was necessary to protect the rivers and waterways under which the Dakota Access pipeline passes. Both women had been involved in the Indigenous-led struggle to stop the

pipeline, which attracted thousands of people to opposition camps in North Dakota and Iowa in 2016 and 2017.

“We are speaking publicly to empower others to act boldly, with purity of heart, to dismantle the infrastructures which deny us our rights to water, land, and liberty,” Montoya and Reznicek stated at a press conference in July 2017.

They told *The Intercept* at the time that they planned to use a necessity defense to argue that they had no choice but to act. Civil liberties attorneys said they are not aware of such a defense being accepted in a federal case related to climate change or environmental issues. It has, however, begun to gain traction in lower courts, where a handful of pipeline protesters have successfully argued that they acted out of necessity.

Lauren Regan, executive director of the Civil Liberties Defense Center, who is representing Montoya, said it’s too early to say whether the activists will follow through with their plan to mount a necessity defense. “It was a couple years ago when those conversations were happening, and now they’re facing 10-year mandatory minimums,” she said. The charges include one count of conspiracy to damage an energy facility, four counts of use of fire in the commission of a felony, and four counts of malicious use of fire.

“I wish the government would use the same resources to go after the oil companies and pipeline companies, but clearly they’re not interested in that,” said Bill Quigley, an attorney who previously represented Montoya and Reznicek. “They shouldn’t be prosecuted; they should be praised. They’re trying to stop the destruction of the human race.”

### **At All Personal Cost**

Three years ago, attempts to stand in the way of the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota were met with water cannons, tear gas, and rubber bullets in a massive police response carried out in collaboration with the pipeline company Energy Transfer Partners. Pipeline opponents, led by members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, were concerned about the project’s potential to contaminate the drinking water of the nearby reservation, while exacerbating the impacts of climate change.

A smaller resistance was established in Iowa. Reznicek, who had long been an active member of the Des Moines chapter of the Catholic Worker, co-founded an organization called Mississippi Stand along with Montoya. The group carried out protests at construction sites along the Iowa leg of the pipeline.

By the spring of 2017, however, the pipeline company had overcome the water protectors; construction was all but complete and the camps mostly cleared. It was then that a series of above-ground valves along the pipeline route were pierced by welding tools.

In response, the mercenary security company TigerSwan launched a multi-state dragnet in search of the saboteurs, who they referred to as eco-terrorists. Montoya and Reznicek were their primary suspects, but internal reports TigerSwan filed to Energy Transfer Partners also described how security personnel cast suspicion on an array of other activists. They reached out to pipeline opponents’ neighbors and local businesses for help in their search. They surveilled one Native couple’s private home and photographed their property. A TigerSwan contractor posing as a water protector sought information about Montoya and Reznicek from pipeline opponents who believed him to be a friend. The documents show repeated instances of the company attempting to feed information to local and federal investigators.

That July, after *The Intercept* contacted them for comment about the TigerSwan documents, Montoya and Reznicek called members of the press to the Iowa Utilities Board office. They described traveling from county to county to burn holes in pipeline valves and in some cases set fire to equipment — acts that they claimed stalled completion of the pipeline. They said they turned to sabotage only after all other avenues had been exhausted and stopped when oil started flowing.

In front of press cameras, they used a crowbar to dismantle the Iowa Utilities sign and were arrested on site. They were charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief for damaging the sign.

“I guess this was one last opportunity for me to put my case forward in a system that I have no faith in. This created some sense of a platform at least to continue this conversation,” Reznicek said in an interview with *The Intercept* at the time. “This really is about getting this pipeline stopped. Apparently at all personal cost.”

“Incarceration does not matter if we do not have clean water,” Montoya added.

To their surprise, no charges were filed in connection with their confession, and life moved on. Montoya began teaching at a Waldorf School in Arizona, and Reznicek spent time at a monastery.

### **Remove Them From the Gene Pool**

At an energy industry conference in 2018, Kelcy Warren, CEO and board chair of Energy Transfer, mentioned Reznicek and Montoya’s actions. “I think you’re talking about somebody who needs to be removed from the gene pool,” he said.

The oil industry used the acts of sabotage to push for a crackdown on pipeline opponents. In 2017, the American Legislative Exchange Council introduced model legislation that would increase penalties for anyone who interfered with oil industry operations. Iowa and at least seven other states have passed related anti-protest laws. More recently, industry lobbyists, as well as members of the Trump administration, have proposed federal legislation to make it a felony to inhibit pipeline operations. Most of the legislative proposals are broad enough to net individuals who commit no acts of property destruction.

Meanwhile, since it started operating, the Dakota Access pipeline has had at least 10 spills, and this past June, Energy Transfer announced plans to nearly double the pipeline’s capacity. A recent study indicated that current fossil fuel infrastructure leaves humanity with less than a 50 percent chance of avoiding unmanageable climate crises.

“During the commissioning of DAPL, there were a small number of releases that were reported,” said Energy Transfer spokesperson Vicki Granada. “However, those occurred either inside our own buildings or in areas that had protective covering due to the work that was being performed.”

Asked about the arrests of Montoya and Reznicek, she added, “We respect the rights we all have as Americans to lawfully express our individual opinions. However, when those opinions involve actions that cross the line and become unlawful that becomes an issue for law enforcement and our legal system.”

In parallel to industry lobbying, fossil fuel opponents have advanced their own efforts to set legal precedents that protect dissent. “The state of the necessity defense in climate cases is emerging, and it is gaining acceptance in state courts across the country,” said Quigley.

Pipeline protesters in Massachusetts have had the most significant success in mounting the climate necessity defense. In March 2018, a judge found 13 opponents of a Spectra gas pipeline not responsible for civil charges related to their attempts to block construction, because the environmental risk posed by the pipeline made their actions necessary.

The defense has not yet been deployed in a criminal case, but that will soon change. In Washington, Ken Ward was convicted of burglary for his participation in an attempt to turn off valves on five oil sands pipelines across the U.S. Ward appealed, arguing that his constitutional right to present a defense had been violated because the judge rejected evidence of the climate crisis he had submitted to prove the necessity of his action. An appeals court agreed, and in September, the Washington Supreme Court declined to review the decision. A new trial is expected this winter.

Meanwhile, the most severe penalties for participants in the movement against the Dakota Access pipeline have been borne by Indigenous opponents. Red Fawn Fallis, for example, faced a potential life sentence after a gun in her possession went off as she was tackled to the ground by police. The Oglala Lakota Sioux water protector is serving a five-year sentence.

### **Gifts to the Fossil Fuel Industry**

Montoya's lawyers requested that the U.S. Attorney's Office allow her to turn herself in if charges were filed. Instead, she was arrested at her home in Arizona on September 27. Reznicek was able to negotiate a surrender via a public defender after learning of Montoya's arrest.

It's unclear why the investigation took more than two years, but a possible historical parallel can be found in a string of arrests in the mid-2000s, during a period known as the Green Scare. Law enforcement officers arrested environmental activists accused of involvement in arsons, years after they committed the alleged crimes. The FBI had used that time to build cases against an array of actors. "Based on past experience and based on some of the other clues that I'm seeing, I certainly have a concern that there may be more than two defendants, but that is real speculation," said Regan, who represented many Green Scare defendants.

The indictment against Reznicek and Montoya claims that the acts were carried out "with other persons known and unknown by the Grand Jury." In an interview shortly after their confession, Reznicek told *The Intercept*, "At no point was anyone else involved in these activities. Not even in consultation. Not in anything."

A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Iowa declined to comment.

Regan called the charges against Reznicek and Montoya evidence that the industry's legislative initiatives are a public relations stunt. "What these charges indicate to me is that the state does not need any of these gifts to the fossil fuel industry. The existing crimes are more than adequate, because obviously 'malicious use of fire' is not a crime that was drafted by ALEC," Regan said.

Montoya remains in jail in Arizona, awaiting a hearing, while Reznicek was released on bail Tuesday, on house arrest with an ankle monitor. Her trial is scheduled for December 2.

### **4 Oct - WPLC and IPLP Submit Report to UN on Human Rights and Indigenous Environment Protectors**

*In a searing report submitted to the United Nations on October 3, 2019, Water Protector Legal Collective (WPLC) and the University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program (IPLP) document: 1)*

*disproportionate punishment of indigenous environmental activism in the United States; 2) state and private collaboration to violate the civil rights of water protectors; 3) legislation intended to suppress resistance to the fossil fuel industry; and 4) the US' failure to comply with its treaty obligations to indigenous peoples.*

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Through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, the UN Human Rights Council will be reviewing the United States in May 2020 to assess its human rights records, address any human rights violations and make recommendations for redress. The report to the UN builds on WPLC and IPLP's ongoing work to bring the voices of indigenous environmental and human rights defenders to the international community and bring international scrutiny to the criminalization and repression of indigenous resistance to extractive industries in the United States.

Diné (Navajo) human rights lawyer Michelle Cook said, "The United States should be protecting Indigenous peoples from all forms of violence; including the use of excessive force by police and private security. Without accountability for the harms which have occurred in Standing Rock the US sets a dangerous standard where colonial legacies of violent resource extraction continue."

WPLC board member and tribal judge Holly Bird added, "We hope that entering the evidence of the violations of the human rights of water and land protectors into the international record will provide protectors, activists, indigenous nations, scholars, diplomats, and policy makers with another tool to combat extraction and the ongoing process of settler-colonialism."

WPLC facilitated defense for 841 people who were arrested in pipeline protests at Standing Rock in North Dakota, resulting in only 28 convictions, with more than half the state criminal cases dismissed or acquitted at trial. WPLC is a Native led organization that provides criminal and civil legal representation to Indigenous and other people engaged in Native led environmental actions affecting Native land.

**4 Oct - 40 years of incarceration – let's tell the world about Anarchist Political Prisoner, Bill Dunne**

*This October 14<sup>th</sup> marks 40 years that Bill Dunne has been locked up.*

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It was on that day in 1979 that he and two other comrades of his were arrested outside of the King county jail in downtown Seattle during an escape. Bill was sentenced to 90 years for aiding in that escape and since then he has seen some of the harshest prisons in the Washington state prison system as well as the federal system. In 1982 he was sent from the Washington state system to the federal system and landed in the United States Penitentiary (U.S.P) in Lewisburg, PA. The following year he tried to escape from that particular U.S.P and for that he was given an additional 15 years onto his sentence and 7 and a half were to be spent in the control units at U.S.P Marion, IL. After he did his time at U.S.P Marion and up until recently he has been in quite a few maximum security penitentiaries in the federal prison system.

Since 2014 he has been in three different medium security federal institutions here in California. The transition from maximum security institutions to medium security ones in 2014 also was the same year that his first parole hearing took place. In December of 2014 Bill was denied parole and received a 15 year hit. During those 15 years he still has what is referred to as "interim parole hearings" but he has been denied at both of those he has been to since 2014 as well. The reason they've provided each time he has been denied is that he is still in communication with anarchist groups and individuals. We published his statement on the last time he was denied here and the first time he was denied here . Not only are maintaining

relationships with like minded individuals inside and outside of prison important to Bill, but he has found great joy in teaching GED classes at almost every prison he has been at so far, and he has helped many prisoners get their GED.

Thankfully over the years Bill has not had any serious health scares until recently. Over the last two years he has needed surgeries in both eyes and finally got them , so his vision is much better and that is much less of a concern now. What the world needs to know though is that Bill Dunne remains in a federal prison today after 40 years of incarceration. His politics and principles are unwavering and his perseverance and will to survive in the face of repression is inspiring. With the help of friends we have created a new support poster for you to put up at your local social center, coffee shop, college campus or wherever you think would be an effective spot to post it and help get the word out about Bill Dunne.

Here is where you can download the poster and if you go to the Support Bill Dunne page on our site you can find a tri-fold flyer that the Anarchist Black Cross Federation has put together as well as a half sheet flyer we put together. There you can find links to other groups that have been supporting Bill over the years as well like the Jericho Movement and 4strugglemag. As October 14<sup>th</sup> approaches and on that very day let's recognize who Bill Dunne is , his plight and let's continue our commitment to raise awareness about him. Let's tell the world about anarchist political prisoner Bill Dunne! As Bill always says – The future holds promise!

## **6 Oct - The New Green Scare**

*Lawmakers are ramping up penalties for protesters who take the kind of drastic action needed to save the planet.*

### **MORE:**

by Elizabeth King (*The Progressive*)

It was May of this year, and Alex (a pseudonym) was physically attached to cement-filled tires inside a section of the Mountain Valley Pipeline in West Virginia. The project, an under-construction natural gas pipeline owned by Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC, will span the Virginias and poses a major threat to the local ecology, including many endangered species.

After police arrived at the scene, a state trooper used a rope to drag Alex from the pipe, feet first. “What was going through my mind was, ‘Try not to say anything that will be considered a threat of terrorism, because they’ve been charging people with that,’ ” Alex tells *The Progressive*.

Just a month before, twenty-two-year-old activist Holden Dometrius became the first Mountain Valley Pipeline protester to be charged with a terrorism crime, after he chained himself to construction equipment. Two more protesters were charged soon afterward for similar offenses, and dozens of people have been arrested since. Activists have now been using direct action to block construction of the pipeline in West Virginia for more than a year.

After being removed from the pipeline, Alex was brought to the police station, facing two felonies and a terrorism charge—exactly what Alex had feared.

Such charges are part of a wave of penalties faced by eco-activists in recent years, spurred in part by new laws passed in the wake of the massive protests near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. For Michael Loadenthal, visiting assistant professor of sociology and social justice at Miami University in Ohio and an expert on the repression of social movements, these penalties indicate a resurgence of the Green Scare.

“I do believe we are re-entering a phase when there is greater and more obvious cooperation between corporate interests, especially energy and extractive industries, and the state,” Loadenthal says.

The original Green Scare was a period in the 1990s and early 2000s when the U.S. government, in the interest of companies who profit from damaging the Earth, sought to squash animal rights and environmental activism.

The new crackdown comes amid urgent warnings from climate scientists about the dangerous impacts of climate change. In October 2018, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report confirming that there is very little time for world governments to avert irreversible climate catastrophe. The IPCC said, at the time the report was released, just twelve years remain for political leaders to take action.

Yet the dire effects of climate change have been apparent for some time already. Not only have a number of animal species become extinct, but extreme weather events from hurricanes to droughts are causing hardship around the globe. Nearly a quarter of the world’s people are now contending with water scarcity, according to *The New York Times*. Meanwhile, the administration of President Donald Trump appears to be doing everything it can to make the problem worse, from eliminating fuel efficiency standards to letting private mining and fossil fuel companies lease public lands.

Political leaders in Washington, D.C., refuse to enact the changes that scientists and environmentalists insist are needed to prevent catastrophic and permanent harm as officials at all levels of government continue to mount increasingly hostile campaigns to eliminate the most effective modes of environmental activism.

During the Green Scare, law enforcement agencies cracked down not only on eco-activists who used direct action tactics including sabotage, but also on such standard political activity as canvassing.

In the early 2000s, when the administration of President George W. Bush had garnered significant public support for the “War on Terror” following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the government made use of terrorism charges to punish eco-activists. Meanwhile, environmental groups were surveilled by law enforcement, a pattern detailed in journalist Will Potter’s 2011 book, *Green Is the New Red*. In 2005, U.S. Senator James Inhofe, a Republican of Oklahoma and notorious climate change denier, declared that so-called eco-terrorism was the “number one domestic terror concern over the likes of white supremacists, militias, and anti-abortion groups.”

One famous Green Scare case is that of Daniel McGowan, a former member of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), a militant eco-activist group that carried out multiple acts of arson. Though McGowan was not found guilty of any terrorism crimes, the judge in his case used the “terrorism enhancement” provision of the sentencing guidelines which expanded McGowan’s sentence and permanently labeled him a “domestic terrorist.”

As recounted in the 2011 documentary “If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front,” McGowan participated in a number of direct actions in 2001. These included setting fire to the Superior Lumber Company in Oregon, resulting in \$400,000 worth of damage, and another arson at Jefferson Poplar Farms, also in Oregon, causing \$500,000 in damage. No people were harmed in these actions.

McGowan was sentenced to seven years in prison, some of which was spent in ultra-secretive Bush-era federal prison facilities known as Communications Management Units, used to incarcerate people,

primarily Muslims, accused of terrorism. Communications Management Units are sometimes compared to the Guantanamo Bay detention camp.

In more recent cases, terrorism charges have been filed against environmental activists for alleged crimes that entailed little or no property damage, much less injury to others.

Alex, for instance, was accused in a police affidavit of having “committed a threat of a terroristic act” by causing damage to a section of pipe worth \$2,500 (the estimated cost of the entire pipeline is \$4.6 billion). Alex is now awaiting indictment by a grand jury.

“Things that some people might call civil disobedience are being called terrorism,” Alex says.

State measures against environmental activists ratcheted up significantly during and after indigenous protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), a crude oil pipeline that spans approximately 1,200 miles through four states—North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. The tribes say the pipeline would contaminate their drinking water and thus violate tribal sovereignty rights.

In 2016, members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota launched the #NoDAPL campaign. Tribal members were joined by thousands of members of other indigenous tribes and allies in several encampments near the pipeline route. As the campaign against the DAPL grew, so did the aggression of law enforcement and the private security force TigerSwan, which DAPL owner Energy Transfer Partners hired to suppress the protest.

In February 2017, The Guardian obtained and published documents revealing that the FBI’s joint terrorism task force was investigating water protectors associated with Standing Rock, revealing that the government was treating an indigenous-led movement to protect their drinking water as a terrorist threat.

By the time police forcibly disbanded the encampments in February 2017, several hundred people, many of them indigenous, were arrested, resulting in 836 criminal cases, according to the Water Protector Legal Collective. Five protesters were sentenced to prison or jail time, and hundreds of demonstrators were badly injured by the police and TigerSwan agents. Images of police firing water cannons in winter temperatures and shooting rubber bullets at protesters went viral around the world.

One of the people charged for participating in #NoDAPL, Chase Iron Eyes, is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and lead counsel for the Lakota People’s Law Project. Iron Eyes was arrested in February 2017 for alleged criminal trespass and inciting a riot, charges that were dropped after he pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. There is a deep irony in charging an indigenous person with trespassing on land on which his ancestors resided for centuries.

“We’ve been here a long, long time,” Iron Eyes says, “and the only way we can assert our land titles is to take action that the prevailing legal system deems illegal.”

Only a few years after the FBI investigated anti-DAPL activists as terrorists, eco-activists are once again facing terrorism charges.

Holden Dometrius was charged in April of this year with threatening terrorist acts, trespassing, and obstructing and tampering with a vehicle after police arrested him while he was affixed to a welding sled in the pathway of Mountain Valley Pipeline. He tells *The Progressive* that two police officers scaled the mountain where he was staging his protest, one of whom was carrying what he describes as “a huge gun.” It was a “totally ridiculous response to a tree-hugger situation,” Dometrius says.

Corporations that stand to benefit from ecological destruction have also taken part in framing eco-activists and land defenders as terrorists. Energy Transfer Partners Executive Vice President Joey Mahmoud told Congress in early 2017 that the #NoDAPL campaign “induced individuals to break into and shut down pump stations on four operational pipelines. Had these actions been undertaken by foreign nationals, they could only be described as acts of terrorism.”

In September 2017, Jamie Bartlett, then-director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at Demos, a liberal public policy organization, warned that “environmental extremism” is a grave national security concern, invoking the name of Anders Behring Breivik, an avowed fascist who murdered seventy-seven people in Norway in July 2011.

Other eco-activists who have used direct action in recent years have been slapped with serious charges, though not all of them include crimes relating to terrorism. In October 2016, a group of activists nicknamed the “Valve Turners” coordinated an action that involved crossing the U.S. border into Canada and closing a valve on the Keystone Pipeline, which runs from Alberta, Canada, to Texas.

Closing pipeline valves is a reversible method used to temporarily halt the flow of oil or gas in a pipeline and, critically, call attention to the dangers posed by pipeline projects. The Keystone Pipeline transports crude oil from deposits of tar sands—a mix of sand, clay, water, and bitumen that is refined and used to make petroleum products—in Canada to a refinery facility in Texas.

Activist Ken Ward, who was involved with the valve-turning action on the Keystone Pipeline in 2016, was charged with sabotage and burglary. In response, he has sought to use what is known as the “climate necessity defense,” a legal defense premised on the idea that people should not be punished for taking illegal action to save the Earth when legal avenues have failed.

In fact, part of the impetus behind closing the valve in this case was to defend the use of direct action against pipeline activity in court. That the activists would be charged for their action was inevitable, and they were prepared to fight a legal battle in order to help set precedents that would be friendlier to environmental activists.

But legislatures in a growing number of states have introduced and passed reactionary bills criminalizing eco-activism.

Maggie Ellinger-Locke, a board member of the National Lawyers Guild, tells *The Progressive* that legislative restrictions on eco-activism have grown in recent years along with other anti-protest laws. These bills, she says, are often modeled on legislation drafted by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and in many cases are introduced by politicians with direct ties to the group.

The American Legislative Exchange Council is a conservative political organization that crafts corporate-friendly model legislation and provides it to rightwing elected officials. It is responsible for various harmful laws, including the so-called Stand Your Ground law in Florida that protected George Zimmerman after he fatally shot seventeen-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012.

The group has been a primary player behind new so-called critical infrastructure laws that enhance charges against people who protest pipelines. “Critical infrastructure” generally refers to entities without which society could not function, such as public transit and hospitals; expanding the definition of “critical infrastructure” to include environmentally harmful structures such as pipelines makes it easier for the state

to criminalize not only anti-pipeline activists, but also any organization that is actually—or even perceived to be—supportive of environmental activism.

When describing the supposed need for such laws, ALEC pointed to the Valve Turners and protests against the DAPL.

Critical infrastructure bills targeting anti-pipeline protests “are designed to increase legal penalties for already illegal activities,” Ellinger-Locke says. “We’ve seen these bills introduced all across the country.” According to the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law’s U.S. Protest Law Tracker tool, a total of seven anti-protest laws explicitly targeting environmental activists—anti-pipeline protesters in particular—have been passed since November 2016 across as many states: Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

A number of other laws have passed in states that do not explicitly discuss critical infrastructure or pipelines, but clearly target anti-pipeline protests. For example, in addition to new legislation criminalizing people who protest pipelines (which are considered critical infrastructure), North Dakota has also recently passed two laws that increase charges for rioting and expand the scope of criminal trespass—crimes with which some #NoDAPL activists, including Iron Eyes, were charged.

Daniel Sheehan, chief counsel of the Lakota People’s Law Project, cites racism and nationalism as two forces driving crackdowns on environmental and indigenous rights activists, as well as other social justice movements. The suppression of dissent, he says, is a “fundamental tenet of fascism.”

Loadenthal echoes this analysis, telling *The Progressive* that “the state has been relying on the residual fear of foreign terrorism for quite some time, and, as the memory of the 9/11 attacks fades, the current administration has relied on nativist, xenophobic, and ‘America first’ rhetoric to reinvigorate this fear of ‘others.’ ”

Indeed, the recent wave of anti-protest laws against environmentalists and indigenous groups comes amid new and renewed oppression of black rights and anti-fascist activists as well.

Black Lives Matter, launched in 2013 in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman, has popularized blocking highways and stopping traffic as a means of protesting police brutality, a tactic that several states have recently sought to criminalize. A number of states have even tried to pass laws to protect drivers who run over protesters blocking highway traffic. None of these particular bills have passed so far, but laws imposing new fines on people who obstruct traffic have passed in Tennessee and South Dakota since 2017.

Additionally, an FBI report produced in 2017 detailed the supposed threat of “Black Identity Extremists”; it was prepared by the bureau’s Domestic Terrorism Analysis Unit, which sits within the Counterterrorism Division.

Anti-fascists, many of whom are anarchists and communists, have also faced escalating crackdowns in the Trump era, a time when they have been more active due to a rise in white nationalist violence. Anti-fascists such as those who turned out for the deadly 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, are the target of bills that seek to criminalize the wearing of a mask or disguise during protests. Such laws were passed in North Dakota in 2017 and Arizona in 2018. Anti-fascists have also been repeatedly described by conservative legislators and federal law enforcement agencies as “terrorists.”

Though activists who use direct action and civil disobedience have so far borne the brunt of anti-protest crackdowns, the insidious nature of Green Scare-type repression means that it spreads to others who use methods widely considered more socially and politically acceptable.

For example, Energy Transfer Partners filed a lawsuit in August 2017 against multiple arms of the nonprofit environmental advocacy organization Greenpeace as well as the radical environmental group Earth First!, claiming they had facilitated “crimes and acts of terrorism” by supporting the #NoDAPL campaign. Two years later, a U.S. district court judge dismissed the lawsuit.

“What [rightwing legislators] are doing is targeting specific social justice movements and the most successful tactics of those movements,” Ellinger-Locke says, speculating that it may just be a matter of time before campaigns such as School Strike 4 Climate are also criminalized.

Yet, ultimately, state and corporate repression are not total deterrents for people who are committed to thwarting climate catastrophe.

“When that type of legislative repression is bought and paid for by the industries, that tells the movement that they are being effective and they are winning,” says Lauren Regan, executive director and senior attorney for the Civil Liberties Defense Center. “In some ways, it only encourages more and further action.”

Regan adds that when the state increases the legal risk of activism, such as turning crimes that were previously considered misdemeanors into felonies, “activists basically think to themselves, ‘If I’m going to risk [a greater] level of punishment for this little act, we might as well take it up a notch.’ ”

The escalating crackdowns on movements to protect the Earth have brought real and troubling consequences—injury, trials, incarceration. But none of these are as dangerous as a planet ravaged to the point that it is uninhabitable. The choices facing people who care to see plant life, animals, and people survive are risky yet necessary.

“This is an emergency situation,” says Sheehan of the Lakota People’s Law Project. “If people need to get radicalized, good, then do it.”

## **9 Oct - News on Leonard Peltier**

*A comrade from the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (ILPDC) recently received a legal mail letter from Leonard and we’ve included updates about him below.*

### **MORE:**

The lockdown at USP Coleman, where Leonard is imprisoned, is hard on his health—to have no exercise and lighting that is so weak that reading and writing are hard on his eyes. He also said it looks like the lockdown won't be lifted until sometime in December. This lockdown is so intense that even prisoners in the Elder unit are confined to their cells 24/7 and allowed only thirty minutes every three days to shower. Leonard would like you to write to the warden of Coleman I and ask why Leonard & the Elder unit is under such a strict lockdown. Send your letters to:

**Warden Cheatham**  
**USPColeman I**  
**Post Office Box 1023**  
**Coleman, Florida 33521**

Remember white paper and no stickers/address labels on a plain white envelope.

ILPDC has been busy during this time and want to share with you the new Trial-Transcript Search tool on our website. Thanks to our supporter Jim in Albuquerque who made this possible. Leonard has wanted this tool for all his supporters who have wanted to read the trial and find specific areas of interest. We will be putting up the Extradition papers within the next few weeks as we need to get them scanned for our webmaster. The transcripts are located at [whoisleonardpeltier.info/trial-transcripts](http://whoisleonardpeltier.info/trial-transcripts)

Please let us know if you have any problems using this new feature

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#### ART SHOW

Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm in Choi --To all our supports in the Los Angeles area 3 of Leonard's paintings will be included in an art show called "Carceral Liberation?" which refers to the paradox that many Indigenous people are introduced to Native cultural practices, such as ceremonies, powwows, language acquisition and beadwork classes, while in prison. Following the panel, an art show featuring the work and words of Indigenous artists and people who are incarcerated will open on October 12 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Avenue 50 Studio. Featuring: Jimi Castillo (Tongva/Acjachemem) Leta Wise Spirit (Hunkpapa) Chase Iron Eyes, J.D. (Oglala) Randall Murphy, J.D. (Choctaw/Lakota) Makha Blu Wakpa, Ph.D. (Itazipcho) Moderated by Tria Blu Wakpa, UCLA Assistant Professor in Dance Studies. We hope you can attend both the discussion and the art show and then write Leonard and tell him about your experience. It will be uplifting for him to know you how you enjoyed his art.

And Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 the Chicago Indian Center 3401 West Ainslie Street, Chicago will hold a show of Leonard's work call Visions of Home, which will include almost all of Leonard's art work that is on our website. This art will be for sale and make a wonderful holiday gift and help replenish our legal fund which is sad at this time. We will have a wonderful opening on Friday night with the Drum and a few speakers including Chase Ironeyes. I am looking forward to greeting Leonard's supporters and my old friends in the Chicago area!

The legal front is still a work in progress and the legal team is researching legal documents for the lawyers to use to complete a brief that we hope to file by mid-November, early December. I will be able to share more information once it has been completed and filed but I can say it has the possibility of getting Leonard back into court. I want to thank the 2 new researchers from Clearwater who have joined the team which has helped with the division of labor.

I want to thank all of you that have helped us through your donations on Facebook and used Amazon Smile, and PayPal to bring in financial help for Leonard's legal fund. I have let Leonard know of your support and this kindness has helped keep his spirits up during this long lock down when he is feeling so isolated.

#### **10 Oct - Imam Jamil Al-Amin targeted by the FBI**

*A two-day conference, "Re-Learning H. Rap Brown," was held in Atlanta Oct. 4 and 5. Those dates mark the globally known Black freedom fighter's 76<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication of his ground-shaking book, "Die Nigger Die," a searing account of white supremacy and racist violence.*

#### **MORE:**

by Dianne Mathiowetz

Multiple panels composed of movement veterans, scholars, family members and former political prisoners provided historical information, personal stories and insights into H. Rap Brown's leadership, first as a SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) chairperson and then as the esteemed Muslim cleric, Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin.

The program highlighted the decades of U.S. government surveillance and efforts to undermine, distort and derail Brown's organizing Black resistance to Jim Crow segregation in the South and racist oppression everywhere.

The illegal acts committed against Brown, others like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and organizations as varied as the Southern Christian Leadership Council and Students for a Democratic Society were part of the FBI's COINTELPRO plan to "neutralize" dissent. Every measure — from infiltration and disinformation to assassination and framed-up charges — was employed under this secret program instituted by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Rap Brown was considered so dangerous to the status quo that in 1968 the U.S. Congress passed the "Rap Brown" Federal Anti-Riot Act, making it illegal to travel from one state to another, write a letter, make a phone call or speak on radio or television with the "intent" to encourage a person to riot.

Following his conversion to Islam while in New York state prison from 1971 to 1976, Imam Jamil Al-Amin moved to Atlanta, established a mosque in the city's historically Black West End neighborhood and began creating programs to serve youth, women and senior residents being harmed by the presence of drug dealers.

An illegal traffic stop in suburban Cobb County in May 1999 provided the pretext for the repressive state apparatus to try to curtail and destroy Al-Amin's influence.

Two Fulton County sheriff's deputies showed up at Al-Amin's neighborhood store on March 16, 2000, with a warrant related to the traffic stop. A firefight ensued with an unknown person who, according to the surviving deputy, was 5-feet, 10-inches tall with "cold grey eyes" and wounded by the deputies.

Despite Jamil Al-Amin being 6-feet, 5-inches tall with brown eyes, a national manhunt was called for the former H. Rap Brown — who when captured had no evidence of wounds.

Imam Jamil was charged with 13 criminal counts, including the murder of one deputy and the wounding of the other. Much evidence was not allowed at his trial, including a confession by Otis Jackson that he was the shooter.

Imam Jamil Al-Amin was convicted and sentenced to life without parole. A judicial gag order forbidding any media interviews exists to this day.

Until August 2007, Al-Amin was held in 23-hour involuntary lockdown at Reidsville State Prison. Then Georgia Corrections officials, fearful of his influence among Muslim prisoners, requested the Federal Bureau of Prisons take him into custody. For the next seven years, he was held in solitary confinement in the underground cells of a Colorado supermax prison where his health suffered. After several other moves, he is currently incarcerated in Tucson, Ariz.

Current political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and Sekou Odinga, a recently released Black Liberation Army member, have urged the building of a mass movement to demand Al-Amin's freedom from the vengeful hands of the government.

The conference, organized by the Imam Jamil Action Network, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, and others, successfully brought the work of H. Rap Brown in the 1960s and 70s and its continuation now by Imam Jamil Al-Amin to a new generation of students and activists.

### **10 Oct - Imprisoned Activist Jeremy Hammond found in Contempt for Failure to Testify Before Federal Grand Jury in the EDVA**

*Jeremy Hammond has been found in contempt for refusing to answer seven questions in front of a Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Virginia (EDVA). The following is a statement from the Jeremy Hammond Support Committee regarding these developments.*

#### **MORE:**

“Today, in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia, Jeremy Hammond was found in contempt for refusing to answer questions posed to him by a grand jury. This grand jury is the same grand jury currently holding Chelsea Manning in contempt for bravely refusing to answer their questions.

“We do not know what questions the grand jury is investigating. Moreover, it is unclear whether or not the federal prison sentence he was serving for which he was due to be released from just two short months from now, will be suspended as the result of being found in civil contempt.

“By removing him from FCI Memphis before his time in RDAP was completed, the government has added a minimum of six months onto Jeremy’s sentence. Judge Trenga has the option of jailing him indefinitely for contempt. The decision to compel Jeremy to testify despite his outspoken, long-standing anarchist beliefs and support for myriad brave grand jury resisters, only to place him under contempt when he adheres to those same core beliefs should be seen as little more than cruel and punitive.

“Jeremy has held strong to his beliefs over the past seven years. In fact, being subjected to the horrors of the legal system over and over again has been one of the defining factors that has strengthened Jeremy’s beliefs. There is nothing a grand jury could do or say that could compel Jeremy to testify. Jeremy made it clear from the beginning of his case that he had no intention of cooperating with the government, and that hasn’t, and will never change. Any attempts to try to force him to testify through prolonged incarceration serves to do nothing but further punish Jeremy for his political beliefs. This highlights one of the many problems with grand juries, and one of the many reasons why they should not exist, and why it is the correct and moral stance to resist them.”

#### **October 11<sup>th</sup> - Jeremy Hammond Issues Statement Explaining Why He is Resisting the Grand Jury**

Jeremy Hammond, who was already serving his 7<sup>th</sup> year of a 10 year Federal Prison sentence after pleading guilty for releasing information about the Private Intelligence Firm Strategic Forecasting (Stratfor), has issued the following statement detailing his reasons for resisting the EDVA’s grand jury:

“As many of you know, I was just a few months from my scheduled release from federal prison when I was unexpectedly dragged in chains and planes to this raggedy detention center in Alexandria, Virginia. I am outraged that the government is threatening additional jail time if I do not cooperate with their grand jury investigation. Their draconian intimidation tactics could never coerce me into betraying my comrades or my principles. In the spirit of resistance and with great contempt for their system, I am choosing silence over freedom.

“I am fully prepared for the consequences of my decision just as I have been each and every time I was faced with similar choices before. Long ago when I realized that government and capitalism were too

hopelessly corrupt and unjust to be reformed through legal or electoral means, I chose to engage in civil disobedience and direct action. I knew then that my actions could land me behind bars, yet I fought on anyway; after a dozen arrests and even a prior federal prison sentence for hacking, I chose once again to use my computer skills to attack the systems of the rich and powerful as part of the Anonymous federal case I am doing time for today.

“When I pled guilty, I took responsibility for my actions and my actions alone. I never agreed to be debriefed or testify in any way, unlike the government’s informant Hector Monsegur, aka Sabu, whose reward was one year of probation while I received the maximum sentence allowable by law. It was a painful choice, but ten years in their dungeons was the price I was willing to pay so I could maintain my integrity. I have never regretted my choices the entire time I have been incarcerated, and having seen and experienced first-hand the abuses and inherent injustice of the prison industrial complex, my commitment to revolution and abolition has only become more deeply entrenched.

“Now, after seven and a half years of ‘paying my debt to society,’ the government seeks to punish me further with this vindictive, politically-motivated legal maneuver to delay my release, knowing full well that I would never cooperate with their witch hunt. I am opposed to all grand juries, but I am opposed to this one in particular because it is part of the government’s ongoing war on free speech, journalists, and whistleblowers. I am insulted that those in power claim that I have an “obligation that every citizen owes his government” to testify. As an anarchist, I am not part of their social contract, and do not recognize the legitimacy of their laws and courts. Instead, I believe in a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quote I had taped to the wall of my prison cell for years: ‘One has an obligation to disobey unjust laws.’

“It is difficult to view any of this governments’ laws as just when they are so selectively enforced, and when the government turns a blind eye to its own misconduct, misconduct that is on display every day that Trump is in the White House. In my case, the government, through its informant, Sabu, instigated numerous hacks, asking me to break into governments and companies all over the world. Nearly a decade later, this misconduct remains ignored. The NSA continues to surveil everyone and launch cyber attacks. Trump and his corrupt cronies continue to hold the world hostage to their megalomaniacal imperialist pig whims while simultaneously refusing to comply with subpoenas and inquiries into their vicious abuses of power. Meanwhile, Chelsea Manning and I are doing hard time in this dump for the “crime” of refusing to allow our spirits to break, after “serving” our sentences for exposing government and corporate corruption.

“This absurd hypocrisy and desperate ruthlessness reveals a crumbling legal system, a system that has robbed me of the majority of my adult life but could never take my humanity. I will continue to do the right thing, no matter how long it takes. I know how to do time, and I will never be intimidated by their threats. Ever!! I refuse!!”

## **19 Oct - Building for Us: Stories of Homesteading and Cooperative Housing**

**WHAT:** Exhibition Opening

**WHEN:** 7:00pm, Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Interference Archive—314 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn

**COST:** FREE!

### **MORE:**

On October 17, 2019, Interference Archive and the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB) open the exhibition Building for Us: Stories of Homesteading and Cooperative Housing. Building for Us begins in the 1970s, exploring the history of government disinvestment, widespread landlord neglect, abandonment in New York City and how this gave rise to squatting, urban homesteading, and other forms

of self-help housing. The ultimate goal is for tenant associations in this housing movement is to take their buildings out of the speculative housing market and own them collectively and democratically.

This exhibition, and the accompanying 34-page two-color catalog, chronicles the history of the movement and tells the stories of people who fought to turn vacant or neglected buildings into vibrant co-ops, as told through photographs, newsletters, training manuals and other materials found in UHAB's archive. More than just an exhibition catalog, this publication acts as a resource to illustrate the history and how-to of cooperative housing. With fully bilingual (English-Spanish) text and a glossary, this publication features sections on sweat equity and homesteading, UHAB, training and education, TIL (the tenant interim lease program), and community building in the homestead movement.

### **20 Oct - Anarchists Care About Books (ACAB): News From Nowhere**

**WHAT:** Book club

**WHEN:** 4:00pm, Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Bluestockings—172 Allen Street, New York 10002

**COST:** FREE

**MORE:**

Join us to discuss Communitas by Paul Goodman and Percival Goodman.

MACC events are open to all anarchists, antifascists, anti-authoritarians and those interested in anarchist ideas and organizing.

Bluestockings is wheelchair accessible, with no steps or platforms, and wide aisles between shelves. The bathroom is not wheelchair accessible. There is a Starbucks two short blocks down the street with an accessible bathroom (at Allen and Delancey). Metered street parking is available in the blocks surrounding Bluestockings. Bluestockings is not a scent-free space, but we encourage visitors to please refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes or other scented products (including essential oils) and smoke far away from the entrance to the space.

### **26 Oct - Freedom Dance**

**WHAT:** Dance Party

**WHEN:** 8:00pm to 1:00am, Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** National Black Theater, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 125<sup>th</sup> Street

**COST:** \$20

**MORE:**

Come dance, drink, eat, and have a good time. All funds raised go directly to political prisoners.