



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for November 17<sup>th</sup>

## **2 Nov - Eric King Update**

*The week before last Eric was “accidentally” escorted into a room before his disciplinary hearing where the captain who authorized his prolonged 4 point restraints, (who was involved in beating him while he was cuffed up) was just chilling waiting for him.*

### **MORE:**

This is the second time this month he has been walked into a room that an officer who will be called to testify against him in his case was sitting.

He wanted to share his disciplinary hearing report so folks understand what the BOP is attempting with any anarchist group. This isn't the first time the CTU or counter terrorism unit. If you look here they falsely added the counter terrorism unit to his last shot and mysteriously rewrote the shot to remove it: [supportericking.org/2020/06/26/a-tale-of-two-shots](http://supportericking.org/2020/06/26/a-tale-of-two-shots)

As of right now he has been found guilty of 26 disciplinary shots since arriving at FCI Englewood in August of 2019 (numerous others have been thrown out). Prior to being attacked in 2018 he had only received ONE disciplinary write-up since he entered the BOP.

It is a bit concerning that the BOP is sending staff from a prison with an active staff COVID outbreak into FCI Englewood to do his disciplinary hearing. Especially since the next week FCI Englewood went from 0 cases to 1 staff case.

This month Eric has been exposed to at least 3 staff from the Florence complex.

In addition to the usual bullshit at the prison the Colorado Federal Attorneys office has postponed the scheduling of jury trials until after January. This is unprecedented. This means that the federal holding facilities are just piling up pre-trial prisoners and no one has any idea when they will ever have the chance to have a trial. With mounting civil unrest and COVID federal prisoners ARE BEING HELD WITHOUT TRIALS. Until further notice. They are being held in facilities riddled with COVID with the death toll climbing.

He can receive books and magazines from publisher or clearly marked from some sort of books for prisoners group. There is a major risk in sending him books and whatnot and that is at any minute they can and will change the rules, stop giving them to him, reject. And you can lose the money spent sending them, or the book potentially could go missing. This is something to keep in mind when sending anything.

Eric should have a review regarding his mail block soon. We really have no idea how it will play out. Once a block is in place it is so easy to just keep it in place for the prison. His illegal phone block was implemented almost 2 years and he STILL has not had his first 6 month review.

## **2 Nov - Prison Break: “Our Passion For Freedom, Is Stronger Than Their Prisons”**

*Below is our condensed version of the monthly column by the Certain Days collective.*

### **MORE:**

by Certain Days (*It's Going Down*)

We're being told that the fate of democracy itself is at stake, that by casting our votes this week we can return to the cruel yet familiar U.S. hegemony we know so well. While some may hold their noses and cast

their votes against fascism, we all know that if voting changed anything it would be illegal. Abolitionists and freedom fighters will not stop until we have crafted something better upon the ashes of the old.

Flipping your *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar to November, you'll notice the vibrant artwork of Annie Banks, honoring the Sogorea Te' Land Trust, the first urban Indigenous women led land trust. The essay for the month is written by Aric McBay and discusses the intersection of food, farming, and justice. SALES ARE OPEN for the 2021 *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar, which is at the printer now!

It is being reported that the devastating impact of COVID-19 on those in jails and prisons is worse than expected, with more data here <[theappeal.org/coronavirus-in-jails-and-prisons-65](http://theappeal.org/coronavirus-in-jails-and-prisons-65)> and here <[www.themarshallproject.org/2020/10/07/thousands-of-sick-federal-prisoners-sought-compassionate-release-98-percent-were-denied](http://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/10/07/thousands-of-sick-federal-prisoners-sought-compassionate-release-98-percent-were-denied)>. Meanwhile, federal authorities are busy murdering antifa activist Michael Reinoehl on the street, with the president praising this extrajudicial killing at his rallies. In Philly, protests and arrests continue in the wake of the police murder of Walter Wallace, Jr. Here's a rundown of what went down in October, and a look ahead at November.

### **Releases**

- Jalil Muntaqim, who served 49 years in prison for his involvement with the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, was finally released on parole in mid-October, just before his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday. On Friday, October 30, Jalil was arrested and is facing re-imprisonment for voter registration! More info coming soon.
- Anti-fascist political prisoner David Campbell was released in mid-October, after serving an 18-month sentence from trumped up charges stemming from an alt-right counter-protest. You can learn more about David and offer some much-needed support here.
- Hacktivist political prisoner Jeremy Hammond is scheduled to be released to a halfway house in mid-November. Learn more about Jeremy, and check back here to see how you can help Jeremy upon his release.

### **Ongoing Cases**

Patrick O'Neill, of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7, was sentenced to 14 months in prison in mid-October, the second of the Catholic anti-nuclear defendants to be sentenced for nonviolent actions that occurred in April 2018 at the Kings Bay Naval Base in Georgia.

### **Fundraising**

It is the giving season, and you're more than likely being inundated with emails and requests to donate to worthy causes. With the world literally burning down around us, there is no end to those who need support and solidarity now. That said, what could be more worthwhile and meaningful than supporting those being targeted for fighting to create a better world?

Support sites for Urooj Rahman, Colinford Mattis, and Lore Elisabeth Blumenthal are still active, with each facing heavy charges from protests in response to the police murder of George Floyd. Also, be sure to check out The Prosecution Project's new spreadsheet of federal felony cases related to the Floyd Uprising here <[theprosecutionproject.org/2020/11/09/tracking-federal-cases-related-to-summer-protests-riots-uprisings](http://theprosecutionproject.org/2020/11/09/tracking-federal-cases-related-to-summer-protests-riots-uprisings)>.

Former political prisoner and Black Liberation Army soldier Zolo Azania needs some help now, as he is currently facing eviction. If you can help, now is the time to do so: [chuffed.org/project/help-prevent-zolos-eviction](http://chuffed.org/project/help-prevent-zolos-eviction)

In addition, we cannot forget those currently incarcerated and those recently released:

- Red Fawn Fallis (recently released to halfway house): [paypal.com/paypalme/RedFawn303](https://paypal.com/paypalme/RedFawn303)
- Eric King (fighting additional charges carrying 20 more years; donations go to Eric’s lawyer and should be noted as “for Eric King defense.”): [cldc.org/donate](https://cldc.org/donate)
- Chuck Africa (recently released and receiving medical care for cancer): [gofundme.com/f/help-chuck-africa-rebuild](https://gofundme.com/f/help-chuck-africa-rebuild)

### **Certain Days to Keep in Mind**

As you’ll notice in your Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar, November is chock full of radical dates through history and commemorations of those who fought back. In November we celebrate the liberation of Assata Shakur, the birth of the Zapatistas, and the ongoing freedom struggles in Puerto Rico, Haiti, and amongst the Indigenous on the mainland. We also honor fallen soldiers, Nat Turner, the Haymarket anarchists, Mujahid Farid, and Ricardo Flores Magon.

### **3 Nov - We Need to Know Who's Surveilling Protests—and Why**

*If it closes a loophole, the FAA can hold all drone operators accountable to transparency.*

#### **MORE:**

by Joel Carter & Samuel Woolley (*WIRED*)

Prepaid phones, encrypted messaging apps, unidentifiable long-sleeved clothing, and face masks. This anti-detection starter pack came recommended for those looking to shield themselves from government surveillance while protesting in support of Black Lives Matter. In the future, the Federal Aviation Agency might be a resource added to the list.

The gamut of surveillance tools used during protests runs wide. It's unlikely that your Twitter account was hacked, much like Donald Trump's was thought to be last month, to determine your location while protesting. But it may have been analyzed with a social media-scanning tool. Even worse, an unmanned aircraft system, aka drone, was used in Minneapolis on May 29. As the general election is now upon us and the threat of post-election unrest grows, it is reasonable to assume more drones will be used for surveillance.

Recent analyses by our Propaganda Research team at the University of Texas' Center for Media Engagement calls into question the legality and intent of domestic US drone usage. Transparency on all drone flights conducted in US airspace is necessary for research, governmental accountability, public safety, and, of course, future protests. In fact, the FAA may hold the key that unlocks information about drones used to surveil domestic protests.

Drones allow photographers and videographers to capture breathtaking snapshots with relative ease. They help natural disaster response teams to survey wreckage. Firms like Uber and Amazon even use them to deliver goods and services. They’re also used as tools of war and vehicles for mass surveillance. The anti-surveillance (sousveillance) community and even US congressmembers have spoken out against this legally dubious use of drones to monitor protests that erupted nationwide following the murder of George Floyd.

According to an official statement, the US Customs and Border Patrol drone that flew over Minneapolis provided “live video feed to ground law enforcement, giving them situational awareness, maximizing public safety, while minimizing the threat to personnel and assets.” In short, drones were used in what is suspected as a "preemptive" attempt to watch for violations of the law. But was CBP itself breaking the law by using a drone to watch US citizens?

The answer seems clear, given that CBP’s jurisdiction is restricted to operating within 100 miles of US borders. Minneapolis is a good 300-mile drive from Canada. Additionally, in 2015 the Department of

Homeland Security published recommendations against monitoring constitutionally protected activities “such as the First Amendment’s protections of religion, speech, press, assembly, and redress of grievances (e.g., protests, demonstrations).”

Despite demands for answers, limited information is known about the flight over Minneapolis. The drone is thought to have been an MQ-9 Reaper (“Predator B”). Its flight path was first reported by an investigative journalist on Twitter and later confirmed by Motherboard. Drones were also reported to have flown over protests elsewhere, some supposedly operated by private individuals. All told, demonstrations occurred in at least 1,700 locations across all 50 states, though this is likely an undercount as protests continue in response to the killing of Breonna Taylor and other police-violence-related circumstances.

Questions loom: Is use of these drones legal? How will data—data about US citizens—be used by organizations like CBP? How long will this data be retained? Is the data sold or permanently deleted? How is the government working to mitigate illegal use of drones during protests by private individuals? These will remain until researchers and journalists are given better access to information about how drones continue to be used surrounding US protests. Not all hope is lost, though: The FAA might just have answers.

### **Remote ID Would Benefit the Public**

In December 2019, the FAA published a notice for proposed rulemaking that would require drones to have Remote ID technology. This would give the agency the capability to gather in-flight location and identification information. The FAA argues this policy will help address “safety, national security, and law enforcement concerns regarding the further integration of these aircraft into the airspace of the United States.”

Without oversight, drones can be used by a range of state and non-state actors to collect information on bystanders and those otherwise not connected to an impending investigation. Our research team agrees with this assessment, but it should be pushed further—how might the data gathered ultimately be used for propaganda or punitive measures? If the operator of a drone knows you attended a BLM protest, will that data be sold to commercial enterprises? Will it be handed over to political campaigns hoping to individually advertise to particular types of voters? Could the information be given to your employer? Will it be admissible evidence in a court of law?

Per the new policy, in order for a drone to be operated it will need to have Remote ID, which acts as a digital license plate. The technology will be developed by a cohort of eight companies, which communicates information to other nearby users and UAS Service Suppliers, who will then share the data with the FAA. That information includes the identity of the drone via serial number or flight session ID, control station latitude and longitude, control station barometric pressure altitude, a time mark, emergency status (which would prove helpful if a drone loses connections or crashes), drone latitude and longitude, the unmanned aircraft’s barometric pressure altitude. The data will be recorded and made publicly accessible by the agency.

To be clear, this data will not answer the most burning questions about drone surveillance operations, but it will provide important, streamlined information that can be used for investigations. Any exception to this rule, and there are some, will stymie the flow of information when it is most needed.

### **There’s More at Stake**

Drones operated within US airspace must comply with Remote ID regulations whether operated for recreational or commercial purposes, but there are some exceptions for those: weighing less than 0.55 pounds; built for special research purposes; owned by the military; or otherwise owned by the federal government “but only if granted special permission from the FAA,” for which a request must be made.

State, county, or local governments cannot apply for special permission, but the FAA should amend the policy so the federal government cannot either.

A loophole provided to the federal government can be used to evade transparency, which undermines the reason Remote ID was proposed in the first place: to hold all operators accountable. Even if this rule was implemented before this summer's protests, special permission granted to requesting agencies could have been used to mask critical information needed by researchers, journalists, activists, and the public. This is unacceptable.

The official period for public comment on the FAA Remote ID policy closed in March 2020. It is difficult to gauge whether any significant amendments to the document will be made, but if the intent of the FAA is to increase accountability of all drones operated in US airspace, it will close the loophole that exempts federally-owned drones from being equipped with Remote ID technology.

This policy is about much more than simple technological advancement or new drone regulations. Remote ID will provide basic flight information in a way that can be reasonably obtained; and during this pivotal moment in national history, the FAA should consider itself a gatekeeper to holding individuals and institutions—both public and private—accountable in future protests. Without information on who is watching them and how, Americans cannot be sure of their democratic rights.

### **9 Nov - Jay Chase is free!!!**

*We are happy to report that Jared (Jay) Chase has finally been released from prison after eight+ hard years. Jay was one of the NATO 3, arrested in 2012 in Chicago, Illinois in an entrapment scheme organized by the Chicago police department.*

#### **MORE:**

**[gofundme.com/f/jay-chase-of-the-nato3-is-free](https://www.gofundme.com/f/jay-chase-of-the-nato3-is-free)**

This was the first time the state of Illinois charged people with conspiracy to commit terrorism, and it was simply for protesting NATO. Thanks to many awesome people on their legal team, and broader community support, they were found not guilty on all terrorism related charges Jay and his two codefendants were convicted on one felony. Jay was sentenced to the longest time, 8 years.

This sentence was beyond terrible but especially awful because Jay Chase has Huntington's disease. He was diagnosed with it back in 2013 and the disease has been progressing since then. Huntington's is a terminal disease that affects his motor skills and cognitive ability.

Jay is out, but he has a long fight ahead of him with this disease. There is no cure for Huntington's but there is treatment that can slow symptoms and prolong life. Jay did not receive proper health care in Illinois state prisons but we want to get him proper care now that he is free.

Donations will be used to:

- get Jay set up with basic necessities people need,
- medical care, and
- housing.

### **10 Nov - Kings Bay Plowshares 7 Update**

*With the nation's attention being drawn to Georgia and the pending runoffs to determine the majority in the US Senate, three of the Kings Bay Plowshares defendants have arranged with the federal court in Brunswick, Georgia to appear virtually for sentencing.*

#### **MORE:**

The disarmament activists have received little national attention since their action against the Trident submarine base more than two years ago while the stakes are much higher, our future existence and the very survival of our world as we know it.

Since Judge Wood would not grant them any further extensions they had to waive their right to appear in person to be sentenced. This was their preference but they had to subordinate it in order to avoid the health risks of traveling to Georgia during a spiking pandemic.

- Carmen Trotta will be sentenced at 10 am EST on Thursday, Nov. 12.
- Clare Grady will be sentenced at 1 pm that same day.
- Martha Hennessy will be sentenced on Friday, Nov. 13, at 1 pm

Mark Colville opposed a virtual sentencing and after appeal has now been given a December 18 date.

The number and access code to call in to listen to the proceedings will be the same as in the previous sentencing. If one number isn't working well, try calling with the other access code.

And please remember to MUTE as sometimes the court has trouble with that.

There was a virtual "Festival of Hope" with the defendants and their supporters on Sunday, Nov. 8. We understand that a number of people were unable to get on the Zoom webinar because the limits were less than what we expected. However, you can watch the recording on Youtube; [youtube.com/watch?v=e6EMJOZPYD8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=e6EMJOZPYD8)

On Oct. 24 the historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was ratified by the 50<sup>th</sup> nation necessary for this international law to enter into force. This law now takes effect on Jan. 22, 2021, a little more than 75 years after the US dropped atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Read about the treaty here: [icanw.org/the\\_treaty](http://icanw.org/the_treaty)

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), Nukewatch, the Nuclear Resister and the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) invite people across the U.S. and beyond to be part of a major media event, holding signs and banners at nuclear weapons related sites and other places on this important day to call for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. For more information, please contact [nuclearbantreatyEiF@gmx.com](mailto:nuclearbantreatyEiF@gmx.com). You can also keep updated by joining the Nuclear Ban Treaty EIF Facebook group.

### **November 12<sup>th</sup> – Carmen and Clare Sentenced Lighter Than Expected**

Today two more of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 were sentenced by video conferencing with Judge Wood in the court in Brunswick, GA. They both received less time than was expected according to the sentencing guidelines prepared by the probation department.

Carmen Trotta was sentenced to 14 months in the morning session. This was a downward departure based on the judge granting his objection that the seriousness of his criminal history was overstated by the probation report. He only has four misdemeanor convictions for demonstration related arrests. However the judge overruled numerous other objections from the defense, particularly to the increases for risk of death and lack of acceptance of responsibility. Carmen vigorously disputed these issues to no avail.

Three character witnesses testified to Carmen's devotion to peace and the works of mercy. Bud Courtney who lives and works with Carmen at the St. Joseph Catholic Worker house spoke about how Carmen's example of selfless service to the poor prompted him to join in the work and move into the house. He said that "We look to (Carmen) for guidance and leadership. He is the elder. He is an inspiration."

Kathy Kelly, an international activist with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, who has known Carmen for 25 years spoke about many of the projects they have worked on together over the years, particularly with the

Afghan Youth and a weekly vigil for peace in Yemen. She also recounted a trial in Ireland for the Pitstop Plowshares action at Shannon airport. The defendants were not permitted to speak about their religious beliefs but one of their attorneys, Brendan Nix, known for his oratorical skill, managed to recite the “Sermon on the Mount”, the Beatitudes, which he called the greatest political speech of all time.

Carmen’s brother, Louis, a corporate lawyer, testified that while they didn’t agree about many things there was no doubt that he helped a lot of people through his life at the Worker and he was always trying to make the world a better place. He urged the judge to give Carmen consideration for a lighter sentence because of his work.

Carmen delivered a sentencing statement where he explained his journey of conscience began with an examination of the Vietnam war and reading Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Beyond Vietnam” speech. He was deeply troubled by what he found were US war crimes. His first arrest was to protest the Iowa national guard going to Honduras to “build roads” to expedite the invasion of Nicaragua by the contras. He also felt that he must dissent to what his country did to Iraq by destroying the advanced water facilities and then sanctioning chlorine imports to purify any remaining water. Now that country is destroyed. He noted that Yemen is being destroyed today with 45% of the children being malnourished and stunted for life.

Clare Grady was sentenced in the afternoon in a three hour session. She was sentenced by Judge Wood to one year and one day which is well below the guidelines. After more than an hour of legal argument by her attorney, Joe Cosgrove, the judge overruled all the defense objections to the sentencing recommendations. These were basically similar to what Carmen had argued earlier in the day.

Two character witnesses spoke on Clare’s behalf profoundly framing her spirituality and its impact in relation to her family, her community, and with creation. Pastor Bill Wylie-Kellerman, retired Methodist minister from Detroit, has known Clare since the early 1980’s, having met at a spiritual retreat after the Greensboro Massacre in NC, and counts her as his spiritual friend. He praised Clare, saying, “She leads a life of conscience.” He described her as a plumb-line for her faith communities and her family.

Clare’s eldest daughter Leah described growing up as an unschooler, ultimately graduating from Bryn Mawr College. She was raised in the Ithaca’s Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen serving both those monetarily poor and those in need of comradship. Leah had worked there for 7 years from the age of 18, following her mother’s 17 years of service. Generosity, joy, honesty, truth, and justice, and the principle of “do no harm” are principles she sees her mother trying to live by. Leah described her mom’s action as based on her faith, believing in the arc of the universe bending towards justice. When Judge Wood asked how would she feel if her mother were to go to jail, Leah responded, “I’d be worried for her physical health as I am for each of the 2.5 million incarcerated in US prisons.”

Clare then gave a sentencing statement with a litany of twelve points that illustrated what compelled her to symbolically disarm the Trident nuclear sub base. The first seven were her love and gratitude that flows from being a mother, to working for justice , breaking bread, and living the mission statement of Ithaca’s Loaves and Fishes from Matthew 25. “I especially hold the part that says, ‘whatsoever we do to the least, that we do to Jesus.’ The bible passage tells us a little about the least, that they are those without food, drink, clothes, those without health care, without welcome, and the imprisoned. I add to this list of the “least”, those who are being killed, **ESPECIALLY THOSE BEING KILLED IN OUR NAME**. Because when we kill others, and harm others, we do that to Jesus. I believe it is a Christian calling to withdraw consent, interrupt our consent, from killing in our name. To do so is an act of Love, an act of justice, a sacred act that brings us into right relationship with God and neighbor. This is what brings me before this court today for sentencing, it is the consequence of my choice to join friends to undertake an action of sacramental, non-violent, symbolic disarmament because the Trident (nuclear submarine) at Kings Bay, is killing and harming **IN MY NAME**. To be clear, these weapons are not private property, they belong to the people of the United States, they belong to me, to you, to us. These weapons kill and cause harm in our name, and with our money. This omniscidal weapon doesn’t just kill **IF** it is launched, it kills every day. Indigenous people are, and, continue to be some of the first victims of nuclear weapons, the mining,

refining, testing, and dumping of radioactive material for nuclear weapons all happens on Native Land. The trillions of dollars spent on nuclear weapons are resource STOLEN from the planet and her people.”

Clare’s attorney, Joe Cosgrove, spoke of Clare being a two-time cancer survivor and suffering from Lyme disease and he stated that Clare faces “the trifecta,” with her facing a COVID ridden prison sentence. Judge Wood was apparently moved by these health concerns and arguments for mitigation. With credit for time already served pre-trial Clare might only have to serve half a year.

Both defendants were also sentenced to three years supervised probation and ordered to “jointly and singly” pay restitution of \$33,501. Carmen informed Judge Wood that he did not intend to pay restitution to the Navy because the base is “a genocidal criminal conspiracy.” She told him that would be taken up after he didn’t pay. Carmen requested that he be able to self report to prison in 30 days and Judge Wood agreed to recommend that. Clare requested 90 days.

### **November 13<sup>th</sup> – Martha Hennessy Sentenced to 10 Months**

Martha Hennessy, the sixth of the Kings Bay Plowshares defendants to be sentenced, was ordered to serve 10 months incarceration as well as three years supervised probation and restitution. This was a downward departure from the guidelines of 18 to 24 months recommended by the probation department. Conducting the sentencing virtually from the Brunswick, GA court Judge Lisa Wood granted defense arguments that her criminal history was overstated. She reduced Martha from a category 2 to a category 1, similar to what she had done for Carmen Trotta the day before. Then she further reduced the sentence for mitigating factors such as the good work that Martha does with the Catholic Worker, her age and the minor amount of damage she had personally caused on the submarine base.

Four friends of Martha testified as to her good character and good works. Her long-time friend and co-worker Elizabeth Blum spoke about her deep respect and love for Martha. They met while both studied to be occupational therapists in 1982, have been employed together and even shared patients, are neighbors and friends in Vermont, have birthdays one day apart, attended each other’s weddings and share meals from home-grown produce. Elizabeth has watched and appreciated Martha’s growth in her Catholic faith and service to the most disadvantaged. Even though Elizabeth does not share Martha’s faith, she shares a deep concern “for peace and the planet and our families.” Elizabeth poignantly described growing up in the 1950’s during atmospheric nuclear testing, fearing milk contaminated with Strontium 90 fallout, the absurdity of imagining duck and cover drills in schools could save anyone. She expressed indebtedness to Martha for “exposing how vulnerable we all are to nuclear weapons” through the Kings Bay Plowshares action.

George Horton said he got to know Martha over his past two decades of involvement with the canonization process around her grandmother, Dorothy Day, and through Martha’s work at the Catholic Worker. His work at Catholic Charities in New York City over four decades involves teaching parishes about Catholic social teaching and the social action of the church. A Vietnam-era Army vet with a law degree, he described first seeing Martha at Maryhouse as she was bent over, meticulously cleaning a large pot that fed many people. “She’s a worker,” he said, “She’s always working... for people who needed help and were welcomed into the community of the Catholic Worker.” He said that Catholic Charities of New York has a budget of \$80 million. “We can become separate from the people.... We are not able to advocate for justice and peace because we have a government contract.” In contrast, Martha’s life involves charity as well as advocacy for justice and peace like her grandmother. “Martha challenges you. But I want you to know that I have never been challenged by Martha where I have never felt the love that she has.... Martha is a critical part of the Catholic Worker community.... She cooks, cleans...” He described how Martha has important relationships with homeless people that keep them from feeling isolated and alone. She engages them in conversation. “That’s what the Catholic Worker community is about.... There’s something special going on here.... Martha’s heart breaks when she sees someone hurting. To take her out of the Catholic Worker right now would be terrible.” He told the story of standing with Martha and others in St. Patrick’s cathedral noticing a Blue Lives Matter flag hanging the day after a police officer’s funeral. Someone objected to the pastor. “I thought the complaint should have been made in private. I remember she said, ‘George,

sometimes people have to be made uncomfortable.’... My faith has grown through this experience of attending the trial and going to the base. It’s had an enormous impact on my faith.”

Mary Yelenick is a retired attorney and friend of Martha’s. She serves as the NGO Representative at the United Nations for Pax Christi International, a global Catholic movement for peace and nonviolence. As an attorney, Mary addressed Judge Wood on how “the adherence to law provides predictability and stability to society.” She spoke of the global community challenging the legality of “diabolical weapons of mass destruction that glide ominously through the waters of Kings Bay,” as was done to end what was once deemed “legal,” such as slavery. On Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will enter into force, making all nuclear weapons illegal under international law.

Mary spoke of the principles from which Martha’s life and actions flow. “Her biological and spiritual heritage” comes directly from her Christian faith, handed down by her grandmother, Dorothy Day. Following her faith, “In a deeply symbolic, sacramental action,” Martha poured her blood at the Kings Bay nuclear weapons base hoping “that blood would be a wake-up call...”

Here’s part of Mary’s moving statement to the court. “The final questions that dying children everywhere – not only here in Brunswick, but all across the planet – will be asking their parents – as they and their parents scream in agony, consumed by raging fire; or withering away from radiation; or inexorably reduced to skeletal remains from global starvation, with nuclear dust clouds blocking the sun’s rays – is ‘why didn’t somebody stop this, while we still had a chance to stop it?’ And the response – the final agonized whispers of parents dying horrific deaths in Brunswick, Georgia, and all across the globe – the last human sounds before the extinction of all life on this small, fragile, beloved planet – will be: “Some people DID try to stop this. But we prosecuted them. And we locked them away.”

Martha’s spiritual director Sister Marylin Gramas had accompanied Martha in her discernment process, saying, “I helped Martha be free to sense God’s promptings.” She noted Martha’s shyness and low key nature and that a Plowshares action was not easy. She praised Martha’s helping to offer food, shelter and especially welcome to the poorest at Maryhouse, and described Martha’s deep appreciation of her grandmother, Dorothy Day, giving her life’s convictions which led her to the action. She asked the judge for leniency so Martha could continue her good work.

The prosecutor, Greg Gilully, then said that despite the good that Martha does, she broke the law and committed a serious crime. While she might not deserve the maximum of 20 years, a term of imprisonment was justified and needed as a deterrence.

Martha began her sentencing statement with, “I stand here as a result of my conviction that calls me to point out that nuclear weapons are illegal.” Then she quoted the U.S. Constitution that all treaties are to be the supreme law of the land. “I am attempting to help transform the fundamental values of public life. I am willing to suffer for the common good and for our sin of not loving our brothers and sisters, a condition that leads to war.” She added, “I have no criminal intent; I want to help prevent another nuclear holocaust. The spirit of the law contained in international treaties for disarmament is very clear, to prevent mass murder on an incomprehensible scale. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientist’s Doomsday clock is set at 100 seconds to midnight. I see my grandchildren’s faces in that clock.” Martha’s full statement will be on the website. Martha was ordered to report to prison in 30 days.

Fr. Steve Kelly, in the Glynn Co. jail still awaiting transfer to Tacoma, WA, to appear in court for a probation violation, let supporters know he was able to call in to hear the sentencing of his codefendants. The final defendant to be sentenced, Mark Colville, has been granted a delay of sentencing as he does not want to waive his right to appear before the judge in open court. Mark explained in motions filed with the court that Connecticut’s rules pertaining to COVID-19 are that upon returning from travel out of state, one has to quarantine. Mark is the sole driver for his nephew undergoing dialysis 3 times a week. The doctors have stated that there must be one designated driver to reduce the possibility of COVID infection. The

judge granted a sentencing delay until Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. If it is done virtually or during continued COVID travel restrictions, the court will provide the same call-in numbers to the public.

### **November 16<sup>th</sup> - Anti-Nuclear Pacifists Get Federal Prison Terms for Nonviolent Protest**

by Elise Swain (*The Intercept*)

Each weekend, while New York City's East Village packs into sidewalk tables for brunch, activist Carmen Trotta leads a vigil for ending the U.S.-backed war in Yemen in Tompkins Square Park.

He only has a few more Saturday mornings before he must report to federal prison, along with fellow activists from Plowshares, the anti-nuclear, Christian pacifist movement. Despite a lethal pandemic ravaging prison populations, Trotta, Martha Hennessy, Clare Grady, and Patrick O'Neill are due to report to prison within the next few months for activism against a suspected nuclear weapons depot.

More than two years ago, Trotta and Hennessy, two of seven activists known as the Kings Bay Plowshares Seven, peacefully broke into the naval base in Brunswick, Georgia — risking their own lives to protest the suspected nuclear arsenal housed within. Armed only with vials of their own blood, hammers, GoPro cameras, spray paint, protest banners, and whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg's book, the activists symbolically attempted to disarm the nuclear weapons located on the Trident submarines at the base.

The nonviolent direct action took place on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Far out of the spotlight of major media coverage, all but one of the activists have quietly been sentenced in their faith-based battle with the U.S. government over the "immoral" possession of nuclear weapons. The activists were charged with three felonies — conspiracy, destruction of government property, depredation — and misdemeanor trespassing.

The sentencing — sending aging activists to federal prisons amid the coronavirus pandemic — fits squarely within the long history of the U.S. government throwing the book at people of conscience who dare to dissent. President Donald Trump's acceleration of heavy-handed federal charges against protesters have drawn critical media attention.

Yet activists like those in the Plowshares community, whose protests garner less attention, are suffering at the hands of a bipartisan consensus on harsh crackdowns related to direct action against so-called defense policies. Under the rubric of national security, the persecutions of figures like Chelsea Manning, Daniel Everette Hale, or Reality Winner become polarized or fail to raise public ire, when they are noticed at all.

That was the case last week, when few took note of the latest Plowshares sentences. Trotta, 58; Hennessy, 65; along with Grady, 62, were sentenced by Judge Lisa Godbey Wood in individual virtual court sessions. Trotta got 14 months, Grady was given 12 months and one day, and Hennessy was sentenced to 10 months; all were ordered to pay restitution and were given years of supervised release. As cases of Covid-19 engulfed Georgia, the defendants reluctantly agreed to proceed with their sentencing without appearing in person. Only Mark Colville, 59, has yet to be sentenced. Colville refuses to travel to Georgia because of the coronavirus and will not give up his constitutional right to an in-person sentencing before the court.

### **Highlighting Others' Plights**

Prison is a barbaric punishment, and the possibility of death and major illness from Covid-19 has only made incarceration all the more brutal. The U.S. surpassed 11 million cases of coronavirus just last week, and officials continue to mishandle containing the pandemic in prisons across the country.

These activists, though, accepted the length of the sentences with grace and compassion for the less fortunate. "I'm hoping that with the amount of time that I've been given, that I will be there only briefly and then I hopefully will be sent either to a halfway house or home confinement," Hennessy told *The Intercept* — though halfway homes have also suffered deadly coronavirus outbreaks. "But there are millions of people who are trapped and contracting Covid-19 and dying in the prison system," she said. "Ninety

percent of prisoners are people dealing with violence, trauma, poverty, addiction, neglect, abuse in childhood — and this is how we're treating them?"

The sentencing statements allowed for the activists to address the court in a way they felt they were unable to do at their trial, which took place last year. "I feel like the sentencing contained a victory of some sort," Hennessy said. "The judge and the prosecutor had to hear some very significant things that we're not necessarily allowed in during trial."

On Thursday, during a fiery sentencing statement, Trotta laid out how each of his prior arrests had been "a reaction to an American war crime." In a powerful admonishment of the violence committed abroad by the U.S., Trotta told the court, "[I] deeply believe that what our country needs, desperately, is a great deal more resistance to its ongoing foreign policy, which is a threat to the globe, not merely for nuclear weapons, but even through, simply, the ongoing war."

"The trident at Kings Bay is killing and harming in my name," Grady told the judge. "To be clear, these weapons are not private property, they belong to the people of the United States. They belong to me, to you, to us."

Attorney Matthew Daloisio, a coordinator for the Kings Bay Plowshare Seven legal team, thinks that the defendants have been punished enough, and warns that some of the defendants have previous health conditions that make them more susceptible to serious harm from the pandemic. He also questions why prison would be applicable to the activists at all.

"It shouldn't be that the court is trying to deter people from acting according to their sincerely held religious beliefs," Daloisio told *The Intercept*. "In terms of rehabilitation, I think everyone agrees that there's no rehabilitating people from the position that human beings have the right to live, not under the threat of nuclear annihilation, not under the threat of the destruction of the whole planet."

## **10 Nov - Report on FBI Raids and Arrests Across Atlanta**

*Report on how the Atlanta area police are coordinating with federal authorities to conduct repressive operations against the George Floyd Rebellion.*

### **MORE:**

Atlanta area police are coordinating with federal authorities to conduct repressive operations against the George Floyd Rebellion. Last week, several inter-agency operations resulted in four arrests during multiple house raids. In order to situate these arrests within the context of nationwide crackdowns and repression, and to dispel half-truths and misunderstandings, we are observing the situation closely, and will document some of the initial facts below. As the scope and intent of this repression becomes more clear, we will continue to provide updates and analysis. We do not represent the perspectives of those accused, but we are invested in their freedom.

### **November 2<sup>nd</sup> Raids and Arrests**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the East Point Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigations raided the homes of three people and arrested them. The FBI, in conjunction with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office have charged the arrestees with arson, and claim the accused are connected to a number of fires in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Initial news coverage failed to reference that the vehicles which the accused are said to have burned were police cruisers. Furthermore, the Atlanta Journal Constitution describes a note left at the scene of the alleged vandalism, claiming the note "referenced political rhetoric". The Constitution failed to provide any details about that rhetoric, for reasons unknown. At least one of the arrestees has been repeatedly targeted by Atlanta law enforcement for their alleged presence at protests this summer.

## November 5<sup>th</sup> Raids and Arrest

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, three days after the raids in East Point, the FBI, along with local law enforcement agencies, raided the homes of two others — in Clarkston and Atlanta, respectively — arresting one and questioning the other. The November 5<sup>th</sup> arrestee is charged with crimes related to the alleged use of an incendiary device. During the raids, law enforcement confiscated a large number of books as well as electronic devices and seemed motivated to procure specific innocuous clothing items, such as shoes and jackets. Agents were in possession of a binder containing screen-shots of a Twitter account they believe belongs to the accused person, and asked about a protest that took place on July 25<sup>th</sup> outside of the Atlanta ICE Field Office. Both subjects of the November 5<sup>th</sup> raids refused to answer questions, invoking their right to remain silent and attain legal representation.

Current Status of Arrestees (11/10/2020)

All four arrestees have been denied bond and are being held at Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility in Lovejoy, Georgia, a privately-run facility owned by GEO Group. The facility is contracted to hold Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees as well as those facing federal and state charges. Five defendants from Gainesville, GA who were arrested on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for their alleged participation in protests have also been held in this facility, only one of them has been released on bond.

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While law enforcement agencies and district attorney's offices will likely pursue all of these cases separately, we recognize they are connected by the historic wave of protests this summer following the killing of George Floyd Jr. by the Minneapolis Police Department. The media has, regretfully, played their role as a mouthpiece for law enforcement and have contributed to repressive efforts by providing insufficient or depoliticized coverage of these and other instances of harassment and arrest. We are building a platform to track and analyze the repression of the movement and its participants, as we are now subjected to a range of political attacks and maneuvers designed to confuse and intimidate. From the perspective of the state, attacking and confusing the memory of the George Floyd Rebellion is an important factor in preventing future challenges to the racist, authoritarian, system of American politics. Our task, then, will be precisely the opposite: to provide clear political defense of the accused.

If the FBI or any law enforcement agent contacts you at your home, work, or elsewhere, be prepared. Do not answer any questions. Say, "I am going to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer. I do not consent to a search." Follow the guidance outlined in "When the Police Knock on Your Door," then alert your community so that others are aware.

### **10 Nov - Philly's Federal Prison has a COVID-19 outbreak**

*As of November 10<sup>th</sup>, no one has heard from Lore nor any other person incarcerated at FDC Philadelphia since Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **MORE:**

They are locked down for at least two weeks at the time of writing and cannot even communicate with their lawyers. This is happening because of a COVID-19 outbreak that the facility has yet to acknowledge publicly. I will do my best to keep this page updated as we learn more.

#### *What we know:*

An outbreak of COVID-19 among men incarcerated on the fourth floor of the facility was discovered at some point during the week of October 26.

All visits to the facility have been cancelled without explanation since November 1. There has been no communication out of the facility since November 5.

What we don't know:

- Who or how many people are infected.
- Lore's health status.
- What if any precautions staff are taking as they work in and commute to/from the facility.

This summer, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's prosecutors and judge brushed off the notion that Lore's family could keep her safer than the FDC could. Now here we are.

### **12 Nov - Clemency campaign for Ed Poindexter**

*#EdPoindexter is on a wait list of commutation applicants & high-risk for COVID.*

#### **MORE:**

Please write, email & call the Board of Pardons & request they expedite Ed's application, schedule his hearing, & immediately commute his sentence.

Visit [twitter.com/phillyabc](https://twitter.com/phillyabc) for a full list of ways to help Ed gain clemency.

### **15 Nov - Russell Maroon Shoatz has COVID-19 (and Stage 4 cancer)**

*Our beloved elder Russell Maroon Shoatz, suffering stage 4 cancer for the last year and a half, has now been diagnosed with COVID-19.*

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This infection is no doubt a result of the "full-blown resurgence" of the virus in Pennsylvania state prisons, and the callous disregard shown by prison authorities to elderly and infirm incarcerated people, including withheld testing and unhygienic isolation of those who report symptoms.

Maroon is asking that all supporters call the office of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and demand his immediate, unconditional release, as well as that of ALL elderly prisoners infected with COVID-19.

Please call 717.787.2500 beginning the morning of Monday, November 16, and keep the pressure on! More at [russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com](https://russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com)

### **16 Nov - Colin Kaepernick Throws Down For Mumia!**

*Colin Kaepernick demanded Mumia Abu Jamal's release and laments the 38 years of Mumia's life that he has been held behind bars.*

#### **MORE:**

Today's press conference, hosted by Dr. Johanna Fernandez and sponsored by a long list of organizations included many leading intellectuals and activists along with Angela Davis, Pam Africa, and Kaepernick who is an adamant supporter of abolitionists, and who published Mumia's essay "The Demand for Abolition" among others.

You can read the transcript and listen to the audio <[prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia-abu-jamal-sci-mahanoy/free-mumia-652-colin-kaepernick](https://prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia-abu-jamal-sci-mahanoy/free-mumia-652-colin-kaepernick)> and watch the video <[youtube.com/watch?v=pD0m-t-C4WU](https://youtube.com/watch?v=pD0m-t-C4WU)>.

*Today we're living through a moment where it's acceptable to paint "end racism now" in front of the Philadelphia Police Department's 26<sup>th</sup> district headquarters, and yet a political prisoner who has since the age of 14 dedicated his life to fighting against racism, continues to be caged and lives his life on a slow death row. We're in the midst of a movement that says Black Lives Matter. And if that's truly the case, then it means that Mumia's life and legacy must matter. And the causes that he sacrifices life and freedom for must matter as well. - Colin Kaepernick*

Other notable speakers at the event were Angela Davis, Pam Africa, and Kwame Ajamu.