



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for May 4th

19 Apr - He's 84 and battled COVID. Should he get out of prison?

As always, we advise reading all corporate media with a critical eye.

MORE:

by Dustin Racioppi (NorthJersey.com)

Sundiata Acoli is 84 and was hospitalized with COVID-19 last year. He's showing signs of early-onset dementia. He's kept a clean disciplinary record for more than half of the nearly 50 years he's been in prison.

He saw the prospect of freedom several years ago when a state panel of judges granted him parole, but a technicality kept him locked behind bars.

A team of advocates and lawyers have tried for months to convince Gov. Phil Murphy through a back channel to use his executive power to let him spend what may be his final days at home with one of his daughters, but they said the front office has stopped responding to their entreaties.

This is no ordinary inmate. He is Sundiata Acoli, a former Black Panther serving a life sentence in the 1973 killing of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster.

The murder has become an international cause célèbre case typically associated with Joanne Chesimard, also convicted in the midnight shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike but who fled prison and lives under political asylum in Cuba as Assata Shakur.

Advocates for Acoli, whose birth name is Clark Edward Squire, say the politics of the trooper's killing are keeping him locked up, and he is serving what amounts to a death sentence against established New Jersey law that presumes release on an individual's first parole eligibility.

They now fear that Murphy, who has released thousands of inmates in the pandemic as part of a "compassionate-release" program and asked for Acoli's request to go through his office, is currying favor with the influential police unions in his reelection year.

"There is no good reason, there is no logical reason, there is no justice reason, there is no recidivism reason — there's no reason for Sundiata Acoli to continue serving, going on 48 years in prison," said the Rev. Lukata Mjumbe, a friend and advocate of 30 years. "At this point it's vengeful, it's punitive, it's political. And it's not justice."

Mjumbe and other supporters, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the actor Danny Glover, have waged a campaign to convince Murphy to release Acoli. They argue he has served enough time, that the prison system is ill-equipped to care for him and that he poses no threat to society.

Law enforcement has strongly disagreed.

They have cited a 2019 Appellate Division decision affirming the parole board's denial, saying there was ample support in the board's determination that there is a "substantial likelihood that Acoli will commit another crime."

Murphy's Office 'Fell Silent'

Frustrated by the lack of communication with the governor's office, Mjumbe confronted Murphy last October while he was speaking at a Black Lives Matter ceremony.

The governor said "we have not ignored you" and "we want the same thing," though he may not have been specifically speaking about Acoli's release.

Murphy's senior adviser on faith and diversity, Derrick Green, told Mjumbe he should speak with him and "don't grandstand," according to a video.

Mjumbe said he followed up with Green but soon after that he "fell silent." Murphy's office did not explain why it has stopped communicating with Acoli's supporters.

In the meantime, lawyers are preparing to argue before the Supreme Court this fall that he should be granted parole, five years after it overturned an Appellate Division ruling that he should be released.

Murphy's office said his advocates have not, however, formally applied for clemency and it is a matter for the parole board. One of Acoli's lawyers, Bruce Afran, said in an interview last year that clemency applications go through the parole board, which has denied Acoli four times.

And he said Murphy told advocates last year to go through his office, so "we're following the governor's instruction."

Advocates for Acoli said a lack of a clemency application is no excuse for Murphy not to act.

"To say that it's out of their hands because they don't have a request for clemency says to me he's playing political football with a COVID survivor senior citizen, and that's disgusting," said Soffiyah Elijah, one of Acoli's attorneys.

Elijah visited Acoli earlier this month at the medium-security federal prison in Cumberland, Maryland, where he's being held. Although he was convicted of a state crime, Acoli has been in federal custody for 45 years under an agreement between the state and federal government.

It costs taxpayers about \$30,000 a year to house a federal inmate, but that is "a wash" if the state is holding the same number of federal inmates in its facilities as state inmates in federal facilities, according to the Department of Corrections.

Elijah described Acoli's appearance and acuity as markedly different from when she saw him a year and a half ago. He appeared smaller and walked with more measure than he had before.

Acoli could not be reached for comment.

A onetime math whiz who worked for NASA, Acoli had difficulty comprehending what she said and told Elijah he'd been feeling "foggy, like his head's just not wrapping around concepts and ideas and information," she said.

Bonnie Kerness, of the faith and justice organization American Friends Service Committee, said she has corresponded with Acoli through email, and he has complained of "long haul" COVID symptoms, such as "a profound difference in his energy."

Kerness said prisons are generally not suited to care for elderly inmates, and it "violates human rights" to keep Acoli locked up.

"He's got a place to go, he's got a caring family, he's got a caring community and revenge is no reason to keep any of our elders in prison, especially when the prisons don't have the capacity to care for them," she said.

Acoli's release would be 'devastating'

Police unions did not respond to messages seeking comment, but they have long said Acoli should remain in prison because he has not shown remorse for the killing.

Acoli has maintained he "blacked out" during the shooting that killed Foerster and does not recall whether he or Chesimard killed the trooper.

A three-judge appellate panel found in 2014 that Acoli no longer posed a risk to the public after reaching old age and ordered his release.

But the Supreme Court overturned that decision in 2016 because he did not complete an exhaustive final interview, saying the appellate court "acted prematurely" in ordering his release. Acoli remained in prison.

Three years later, in 2019, the appellate court affirmed the parole board's finding that Acoli "lacked insight into his criminal behavior" and denied key aspects of his crimes.

But the Supreme Court had noted in its 2016 decision that a doctor who evaluated him for a pre-parole hearing said Acoli "expressed regret and remorse about his involvement in the death of the state trooper and appeared to be answering honestly."

When he was up for parole last November, the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers told the parole board in a letter that it was "not moved" by his age. The board denied Acoli's release.

In a similarly worded letter to the parole board ahead of his hearing, state police Superintendent Col. Patrick Callahan noted that Foerster would have been 82 years old, around the same age as Acoli, "had he not been brutally executed by Acoli and his accomplices."

"His release would be devastating to not only the Foerster family, but also to the entire law enforcement community which expects the criminal justice system to adhere to the same high standards and requirements that we are held to," Callahan said.

Joseph J. Russo, a deputy public defender and co-chair of the Office of the Public Defender Parole Project, said Acoli has been a model prisoner who is "clearly rehabilitated" and deserves release.

According to court records, Acoli has not committed a disciplinary infraction since 1996 and has had "only minor infractions" since 1979. He also completed vocational training and at least 100 programs for self-improvement.

"Enough is enough," Russo said. "Sundiata is now an 84-year-old senior citizen who has served over 47 years in prison, well beyond the punitive portion of his sentence."

The Parole Act of 1979 contains a presumption of release at an individual's first parole eligibility, but Russo said data his office obtained shows Acoli is among the 91% of those serving life sentences who are denied parole their first time. Acoli's case, he said "is a glaring example of the need for parole reform."

Tony Ciavolella, a spokesman for the parole board, said initial denials do not translate to subsequent ones, and in many cases denials drop "significantly" in follow-up hearings.

"All New Jersey State Parole Board decisions are made in accordance with statutory laws and properly implemented through the Administrative Code of New Jersey," Ciavolella said in a statement. "Denials of parole are decided upon impartially, fairly, and again, in accordance with statutory and administrative regulations."

An Appellate Division judge who dissented in the 2019 decision affirming the parole board's denial, Garry S. Rothstadt, said the decision "contravenes the public policy" behind the parole act and "inflicts a blow to the integrity of our justice system."

Should Murphy take no action, Acoli's best chance of release could come later this year when his case goes before the Supreme Court.

His supporters may take a measure of comfort that a pair of new, liberal justices appointed by Murphy should rule in the case.

"If these judges follow the law," Elijah said, "there's no other ruling that they can make than to release him."

19 April - Steve Martinez is out of jail

On April 12th grand jury resister Steve Martinez was released from the custody of the Federal Government and has returned home to his partner and community, after over 60 days in custody.

MORE:

Early in Steve's case, those of us engaged in movement defense and providing support to Steve were in direct communication with his attorneys.

However, since the end of February, neither his attorneys nor Steve himself have been at liberty to speak with anyone about Steve's legal situation or the court proceedings.

Anti-repression efforts are a crucial tool for our movements and communities. The Federal government is hard at work to repress powerful social and political movements that are working towards the liberation of the earth and all of us who inhabit it.

As our movements become more effective or gain power, the government's tools of repression often become more divisive and cruel. We can look to the hard won lessons of movement elders and ancestors and see this to be true. The Grand Jury is one such divisive and cruel tool

Our power to combat such cruelty is rooted in a deep care for one another and the belief that a more liberatory future is within our collective reach.

We continue to stand in our solidarity with Steve and are working to ensure he can soon share his story with those who have shown their support over the past months of his resistance. We will share future updates through our social media accounts and on the website.

19 Apr - Updates on Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia recently underwent heart surgery and needs your support more now than ever.

MORE:

Share your love #Love4Mumia post sending Love and Light to Mumia as he prepares for and recovers from heart surgery. #FreeMumia

Email us your post @ bringmumiahome@gmail.com and/or tag us on Instagram & Twitter @bringmumiahome

April 20th - Mumia is now recovering from surgery

Tuesday April 20 9:34am: Mumia's medical attorneys have received word from the Open Heart ICU doctors. Mumia's surgery was successful. There were no complications. He is receiving minimal oxygen and has one IV.

Mumia's wife Wadiya was waiting all day yesterday, and all night for word and only heard this news this morning at 9:30 am.

Wadiya Jamal says "I won't know he is ok until I hear from him directly."

We are demanding that the hospital officials and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections do the following immediately:

- 1) Mumia must not be shackled to his hospital bed during his recovery.
- 2) Let Mumia speak with his Family.
- 2) Let Mumia speak directly with his physician Dr. Ricardo Alvarez
- 3) Let Mumia speak with his spiritual advisor Dr. Mark Taylor
- 4) Provide the appropriate rehabilitation plan for his recovery

The next days, weeks, and months will be critical in Mumia's recovery.

The conditions of his confinement contributed to his heart disease. He was held in isolation solitary for over a year, never able to exercise. Limited to walking in his very small cell. He was allowed off his block rarely. These were due to the covid restrictions.

As he recovers he MUST have access to his physician, exercise and a heart healthy diet.

Please continue to call and write to the PADOCC and let them know we are watching and that "Freedom is the only treatment."

April 20th - Shackling of aged inmate, Mumia Abu-Jamal, is deplorable - UN experts

UN human rights experts expressed serious concerns about the treatment and welfare of Mumia Abu-Jamal, an African-American man who has been in jail for 40 years in Pennsylvania, and is reportedly shackled to his hospital bed. Mr. Abu-Jamal had already been shackled to his bed during a four-day hospitalization in late February while being treated for heart failure.

Mr. Abu-Jamal has been denied visits from his family and access to his lawyers and spiritual advisor after being admitted to an undisclosed hospital around 10 April, where he will reportedly undergo surgery. "This

ongoing and continuing cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, including deliberate disregard of his dignity and inhumane conditions of confinement, is a clear violation of Mr. Abu-Jamal's most fundamental rights," the experts added. Neither his family nor lawyers have been informed of his medical condition and treatment.

"The use of shackles during his hospital stays is deplorable, and causes Mr. Abu-Jamal additional and unnecessary suffering," said the experts. "International standards on the treatment of prisoners clearly stipulate that instruments of restraint are to be imposed only when no lesser form of control would be effective to address the risks posed by unrestricted movement."

As well as a chronic heart condition, Mr. Abu-Jamal, now 67, suffers cirrhosis of the liver caused by Hepatitis C, hypertension and a severe skin condition. In late February, he was also diagnosed with COVID-19.

"We are concerned that the medical condition of Mr. Abu-Jamal could be linked to years of medical neglect by the Department of Corrections of the state of Pennsylvania," the experts said. "This situation may also be the result of racial discrimination against people of African descent by prison and state authorities."

"We call on the authorities to take all urgent measures to protect the physical integrity, life and dignity of Mr. Abu-Jamal, in line with international human rights obligations."

"Communication and access for Mr. Abu-Jamal's family and advisors should immediately be restored with Mr. Abu-Jamal and with all relevant personnel involved in his health and conditions of confinement. The state must also immediately cease withholding information and access relevant to monitoring the status of Mr. Abu-Jamal's human rights."

"We also call on the authorities to urgently address allegations of discrimination, including racial discrimination, in the medical treatment of prisoners in Pennsylvania, and to take all necessary measures to protect the physical integrity and life of all detainees, in particular older prisoners and prisoners with disabilities who seem to have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19," the experts added.

Mr. Abu-Jamal, a former activist and journalist, was charged with the murder of a police officer in 1981. He denies the charges.

The experts have written to the Government to express their concerns.

April 27th - Actions in Solidarity with Campaign to Free Mumia

This weekend beginning on Friday, April 23rd multiple actions were organized in so-called "Philadelphia" demanding the immediate release of political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is suffering from medical issues and an inhuman quality of life associated with being locked in a cage since the early 1980's. Mumia Abu-Jamal was born and raised in so-called "Philadelphia" and Saturday April 24th was his 67th birthday.

On Friday around 10pm a small group of anarchists carried out a spontaneous banner drop over the 22nd St. bridge, facing drivers going southbound on 676. Some comrades cop-watched while others climbed onto the fence overlooking the highway to secure the banner, which read "Free Mumia, Free Them All."

The drop was performed in under 10 minutes and occurred without any police presence. The black banner was repurposed from a previous march and admittedly left much to be desired. Consider it an invitation to "show us up" by throwing up a more carefully designed black sheet of your own.

Additional acts of solidarity that took place that night included:

- “Free Mumia” appearing in paint on the 22nd St. bridge
- Stickers being slapped in the surrounding area
- “Free Mumia Free Them All” spanning the Schuylkill River Banks structure
- A large display of anarchist sentiments appearing on a wall near the Spring Garden bridge including “No Prisons, No Police, No Presidents” & “USA” crossed out
- And “Free Mumia” and “ACAB” decorating barriers and walls near the 23rd St. armory.

No police interference occurred during the night’s art projects. These acts were carried out in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal’s freedom, regardless of if he is “guilty” or “innocent” — a debate we couldn’t care less about.

We hope our small and uncomplicated action will encourage others to conspire and act out, even during this time of steadily increasing surveillance, police presence and state repression.

May 1st - If Mumia Abu-Jamal’s Case Is a ‘Non-Issue,’ Why Have Media Gone to Such Lengths to Silence Him?

by Janine Jackson (*Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting*)

Philadelphia public broadcaster WHYY (4/24/21) was one of the few outlets to report on an April 24 rally seeking the release from prison of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The story included important information on Abu-Jamal, who is serving a life sentence for the 1981 killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

It noted that the case has “drawn scrutiny” over claims of police, prosecutorial and judicial bias and misconduct. It cited new evidence released as part of the appeal process, including a note from a key prosecution witness asking the prosecuting attorney for money—the sort of evidence that Johanna Fernandez, a history professor and part of Abu-Jamal’s legal team, notes has in other instances led to a defendant either being set free or getting an immediate new trial.

Along with Fernandez, the piece includes the voices of Abu-Jamal’s brother Keith Cook, and MOVE member Pam Africa, as well as people who traveled from around the country to call attention to Abu-Jamal’s case, his current state of health—he has a number of debilitating conditions, and has just had heart surgery—and to put his story in a context of political prisoners here and around the world.

I confess I was still irked by WHYY using its lead paragraph to frame the story like this:

The case has pitted Abu-Jamal’s supporters, including a long list of national and international celebrities who say he was framed, against police and their supporters, who resent the attention given to a man convicted of murdering a fellow officer.

It bugs me, because those were the themes decades ago when Abu-Jamal was first convicted and sentenced to death (Voices With Vision, 4/27/21). That he was a “cause celebre”—and therefore, wink wink, something something about liberal Hollywood, no need to pay attention—and that the upset of anyone concerned about his deeply flawed trial or his inappropriate sentencing was merely theatrical, because, after all, he was “convicted,” wasn’t he?

Open to lies

Elite media at the time were open to straight-up lies: A 1995 *Washington Post* story (5/18/95) led with a macabre account from Faulkner’s widow, Maureen Faulkner, about how when her husband’s bloody shirt was held up in court, Abu-Jamal turned around and smiled at her. Except attorney Leonard Weinglass and the court record show that Abu-Jamal wasn’t in court when the shirt was displayed (Extra! Update, 8/95).

ABC's investigative news show 20/20 (12/9/98) employed a number of techniques for their big 1998 piece—stating prosecution claims as fact, even when they were disputed by some of the prosecution's own witnesses or the forensic record; stressing how a defense witness admitted being intoxicated, while omitting that prosecution witnesses said the same (Extra! Update, 2/99).

At one point, actor and activist Ed Asner is quoted saying, "No ballistic tests were done, which is pretty stupid"—but then host Sam Donaldson's voiceover cuts him off: "But ballistics test were done," he says, referring to tests that suggested that the bullet that killed Faulkner might have been the same caliber as Abu-Jamal's gun. But he didn't note that tests had not been done to determine whether that gun had fired the bullet, or whether it had been fired at all, or if there were gunpowder residues on Abu-Jamal's hands.

Producers from People's Video Network told *FAIR* at the time (Extra! Update, 2/99) that ABC not only used clips they'd recorded from Abu-Jamal without permission, but they added layers of echo, making him sound, they said, "like a cave-dwelling animal."

No one was too surprised when it was revealed that in a letter asking permission from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to interview Abu-Jamal (a request that was denied), 20/20 pointed out that "we are currently working in conjunction with Maureen Faulkner and the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police" (Extra! Update, 2/99).

The main story has been no story

After that, the main story has been non-coverage.

For instance, in 2006, when Abu-Jamal won the right to appeal on three grounds—including a jury purged of Black people, the prosecutor lowering jurors' sense of responsibility by saying their decision "would not be final," and the fact that judge Albert Sabo was all kinds of biased—the *Philadelphia Daily News* told reporter Dave Lindorff that it was a "non-issue" (Extra!, 3–4/06)—although when a judge overturned the death sentence in 2001, the paper (12/19/01) found time to editorialize: "Let Mumia Rot in Darkness."

The late great media critic Ed Herman (Extra!, 9–10/00) reported how the *Philadelphia Inquirer* wouldn't cover rallies and tribunals in support of Abu-Jamal, calling them "stunts," but when the Fraternal Order of Police bought a full-page ad in the *New York Times*, that merited a story.

In 2000, when Amnesty International declared that the original trial was "deeply flawed," the Inky (2/18/00) made it the fifth "news brief" on page 2B.

But if Mumia Abu Jamal's case is a non-issue that only celebrities care about, why the active silencing?

In 1994, NPR cancelled plans for a series of commentaries from Abu-Jamal—who is, after all, a journalist, a former head of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists—after Senator Bob Dole threatened their funding. They said it was because it was a "highly polarized and political controversy"—which they proceeded to say nothing about for the following year (Extra!, 11–12/95).

When *Democracy Now!* prepared to air commentaries, station KRTI, out of Philadelphia's Temple University, cancelled the show and all of Pacifica news (Extra! Update, 4/97), with a station VP explaining: "What's good enough for NPR is good enough for me."

And when a Vermont college aired a taped commencement address from Abu-Jamal, it led Philadelphia lawmakers to throw together something called the Revictimization Relief Act, allowing crime victims or prosecutors to sue inmates whose behavior behind bars “creates mental anguish” for the victims. Clearly unconstitutional, violating both free speech and due process rights, it was dubbed the Silencing Act by many, who noted that it didn’t just curtail prisoners’ right to speak, but journalists’ and all of our rights to hear them (FAIR.org, 10/22/14).

Media’s response was a shrug: The *New York Times* ran an AP piece (10/21/14) with the headline “Pennsylvania: Gov Signs Law to Help Protect Crime Victims.”

Elite media would have us believe they are engaged in a serious reckoning with the racism of the US criminal justice system, that they care about over-incarceration and prison conditions. And keeping people behind bars just because powerful people want them there, and not due to the merits of their case? Well, that’s what Other Countries do.

If only there were a case, 40 years’ worth of case, that would allow them to explore those ideals—if not to do justice by Mumia Abu-Jamal (they can’t return what’s been taken from him), then to do some semblance of justice by their own claims of concern.

20 Apr - Kings Bay Plowshares 7 Updates and Writings

Carmen Trotta and Martha Hennessy are scheduled to be released early! All that and more just below...and to stay up to date on the writings by the imprisoned KBP7, be sure to regularly visit kingsbayplowshares7.org

MORE:

April 20th - Triduum 2021 by Patrick O’Neill

Excerpts from letters: “The testament of your imprisonment and continued service to God is a source of encouragement to me”; “My conscience is clear, but that doesn’t mean I’m innocent” – Sherman Lee Dillon. ”I pray for you daily and thank God for bringing you and your family into my life”; ”I thank you for this work you are doing to help myself and others more fully understand God’s love” – Mary Fosnaught.

Being in the SHU (Special Housing Unit) has similarities to jail. When the young guys come into the SHU, they like to talk back and forth to each other. But, because of the cells being all steel and block, sounds are muzzled, but not if you yell. So, what we have in the SHU right now is several young guys who spend a lot of time yelling to each other very loudly. Because of the din, I can’t really make out many of the words they’re saying, but the screaming can be unpleasantly loud (this also happens most nights in my regular cell block.) As someone with 8 kids who also worked in a newsroom on deadline and at many media venues, I am good at blocking out background noise. But in here, the noise of voices bounces off the walls and can be intolerable...just another hard part of jail and prison life.

I had a letter ready to go out tonight – you stick them in your door so the C.O.s can see them. I even asked a guard to please take them and he said he would, but never did, so now the letters will not actually leave the prison till Monday morning. If one kind guard had taken them tonight, they would have been postmarked tomorrow. The guards are often not attentive in any meaningful way to the hopes and desires of their captives. But, ahhh...it’s Lent and it’s going to be Good Friday when I wake up in the morning...so thank God for the reminder of who’s in charge in my life. I asked a guard making his rounds, “Hey, does the mail go out?” He said, “Yes”, did not take my mail and kept walking. I hear a bunch of guards talking and laughing. I don’t know what time it is. A guard walked by, snatched my letters out of the door on the go. “Thanks. Thanks a lot,” I cried. No response, which is the response of most C.O.s. Their response to my

spoken words of appreciation is no response. I hope he doesn't throw my mail in the trash. I wrote an article about Julie Shocksnyder and sent it to her asking her to type it up for me, and write an essay of reply if she wants to, and email it to Mary so I can find a Catholic Worker paper to take it. I sent a letter to Mary with four pages of journal entries and a letter to Ted Vaden thanking him for the blog post column about me.

Good Friday

So, Good Friday started at 6:00 a.m. I went to the door to tell the guard I didn't want breakfast so he didn't have to open the door slot. C.O. Hohn said, "How you doin'?" You Ok?" I said, "Yes." Oh, the little works we do. Just paced and said my prayers, which is basically a long list of people I'm praying for that starts out with those who are very sick and moves on to everyone I know, which is really a never-ending litany of names throughout the day. I get a post card from Timmy this week (Oh joy! Oh Rapture!) wishing me happy birthday. He wrote: "I started my job at Dominoes this week delivering pizza on a bike. Pretty good money considering I just have to ride a bike around Chapel Hill, which I would probably be doing anyways." He asked, "what was your Lenten discipline this season? I'm trying to get more exercise."

"You're not hungry?" C.O. Badger asked me when I turned down my lunch trays. "I fast on Fridays during Lent," I told him. My Friday fasts are actually wimpier than the ones I used to do. Now I fast starting after supper on Thursday and break the fast 23 or 24 hours later with Friday's supper. When I was in my unit and not the SHU, I would give my trays away, but in here the guards won't let other inmates eat the extra food. I'm guessing it gets thrown away.

The white-haired nurse just blamed Good Friday for the fact that they aren't doing swabs today, so now no Covid swab til Monday at the earliest. So much for Nurse Kennedy looking after me. No one looks after me at Elkton; nobody cares. This means I stay in solitary for as long as 3 weeks.

Holy Saturday

Jesus is gone. It's a day of doom and gloom and tomb. Jesus is dead. People are mourning, waiting, hoping, hiding. Jesus is in the tomb, descended into hell. Awaiting the promise "I will rebuild it in three days." He's been the prophet, healer, raiser of the dead. Now will he rise? I feel the Holy Saturday fear in my 5x9 cell. I waver. My faith is put to the test: will He rise? Will He rise? Will He rise? Thomas wasn't the only one with doubts on that first Holy Saturday. "I am who I am," Jesus said. I still cling to that promise.

Night is upon me here in Ohio. The stone has been rolled away. The Easter Vigil is upon us. The women (the men are in hiding, full of fear) are running to the tomb. The Word has been revealed to them only. The Temple that is Jesus was crucified, but today it is rebuilt as promised. Easter Sunday begins at midnight. So far, none of the guards I spoke to have any plans for Easter. I'll read the accounts in the Gospel as I sit in my solitary cell. Easter is always cause for celebration.

Easter Morn

I slept like a baby in my jail cell. Jesus is Risen and I am comforted! My mother Ann Cecilia O'Neill died 23 years ago today. C.O. Cavalier just collected the breakfast trays. Each time the trays were passed out to him through the cell door slot he said, "Thank you," the only guard who does that. I listen to his chorus of "Thank you"s as he moves down the row of cells. Each time he says, "Thank you", it is a Divine Easter Greeting/ My case manager stopped by to tell me Julie Shocksnyder had been approved as the first person on my visiting list. I have not even submitted my "family" list yet, but I guess I will. We never know. Burton (case manager) also said that his recommendation of 90 days of halfway house is "usually accepted," and that I will also be given some time at the end of my sentence for "compassionate home confinement," which would mean I would leave the halfway house to live at home (under some restrictions, I imagine – maybe the ankle monitor again). Good information, but I will always take all things said from

the feds with a grain of salt...until I pass through the Elkton gates. But, Good News on Easter nonetheless. Sunday is cleaning supplies day. Bottle of cleanser, toilet brush, small broom, dust bin, two small rags made from old orange washcloths (orange is the color of SHU). I did a bit of cleaning just to have a change of routine. (I think of the Alexander County prison inmate Timothy Helms about eight years ago, who was in solitary so long that he clogged the toilets intentionally flooding his cell so he could experience “a change of routine.” The guards beat him into a coma. After a time of weeks or months he died. His brother was never notified of the coma, only his death. No guards were ever held accountable.

C.O. Culp is a father of eleven children, including Braxton, a 3-month-old. Culp seems to understand that he’s employed by an evil institution, but like most people on the “inside” are not able to be prophetic, because their first allegiance is to their job. Well, God, I suppose they’re not going to do anything that would jeopardize their job – certainly not if you have eleven kids. He mentioned that a lot of the C.O.s are people who hate their jobs and are trained to not treat inmates unkindly, but that training seems to have very little impact on those who hate their jobs. He’s a nice man who works for an evil institution.

Easter Monday

The nurse just handed me the giant Q-tip to swab my nostrils to check for Covid. “One or two days,” she replied when I asked her when the test results will come back, so I could be out of here for Mary’s birthday! And I can call her with a surprise that I’m out of the SHU. Yay! “Come tomorrow, if you’re negative, we’ll let you come out.” I better be negative! It’s my 18th day in the SHU following 4 days in the hospital, and NOT ONCE have my vitals been checked or my blood pressure checked. A stethoscope has not touched my chest; so much for follow-up care at FCI Elkton. C.O. Cavalier just collected my breakfast tray. He’s saying “Thank you” to each slot. The only guard who always maintains his manners. A guy is making a plea of some kind to Cavalier. “I can’t do sh..,” he replied. I’m surprised he said “sh..” C.O. Bender is making his rounds, looking in each window. He asks, “You all right?” He doesn’t look friendly, but he may know something about me. He said to another guy, “You’re being transferred,” which might be a joke “Because you’re a piece of sh..,” Bender says, and all the other Black guys crack up laughing, so I guess it was a joke. “Are you related to the other Bender?” I ask. He said, “No,” but the other Bender said “Yes” to the same question. The other Bender, I’m guessing his son, is softer and kinder than his father. I just finished *The Shipping News*, a fine book with a great ending. Someone wrote this week, “Be calm. God is present.” I hope all the very sick people I’m praying for stay alive. I just don’t want any more bad news in prison.

Post-SHU

I’ve been telling the guys that it’s nice to be back in prison.” HA HA. After spending the last 3 weeks of Lent, my 65th birthday, Mary’s birthday, and Easter in the hole, it’s very nice to be back in my locked-down Fox Bravo unit. I got out for rec yesterday and today and I ran 12 miles total on the track. My body’s glad for the exercise. I have not had any problems with my blood pressure or heart. Sometime in the SHU, I felt a little bad, but it did not last long. I read several good books in the SHU (5 total). My favorites were *Medicus* and *The Shipping News*. Yesterday, I got a note with my mail that a magazine someone sent me was returned because it was “determined detrimental to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution, or it might facilitate criminal activity. The above-named publication has been rejected because the magazine contains images of nude women and infants.” Therefore, my dear friend, Debbie Biesack, is guilty of sending contraband into FCI Elkton (a very virtuous place!). The offending magazine: *National Geographic*. Signed by the warden! I guess Debbie’s not getting approved for my visitor list!

Today, I joyfully had the chance to call my wife, Mary, when she was with three of our children – Moira, Veronica, and Michael. I got caught up on their lives – Moira got a new full-time job working in her field (Food Insecurity/Food Justice) and she was accepted at Georgia State University (in Atlanta where she lives with her partner Cody) into their MSW program. Veronica has taken up roller skating for exercise and

she has lost 15 pounds! Michael just sold a piece of his art work for \$1,000! I miss my eight kids and 2 grandkids and my goddess wife.

Today, my cubicle mate, Mark, got his first Covid vaccine shot, so it may be my chance soon. Because of the lockdown here, I do not have a job and I probably won't have a job while I'm here. Truth be told there are many more inmates than there are jobs. Mark, my "cellie", has a "job" that he does twice a week for less than an hour total and he gets paid once a month for that job. Many other guys have jobs like that (empty trash 2x a day, sweep a floor 3x a week, work on the serving line in the Chow Hall, which has longer hours, etc.). This prison practices what's known as "controlled movement," which means inmates move in and out of buildings at certain times when the door is unlocked. The public address system will announce: "Fox Bravo Chow, 5-minute move." This means my unit has five minutes to get from the second floor of this building to the Chow Hall to pick up a styrofoam tray of food. If you "miss a move", you don't eat. Often, it's a mad rush for men trying to make the move. Controlled movement means lines of men, watched by guards, moving from place to place. It's the type of "control" that always reinforces who is the captor and who is the captive. (The "offenders" know who we are!) Food is not bad. Breakfast is bad and minimal, but lunch and supper keep me satiated. Meat (usually chicken or ground beef) with potatoes, a vegetable or some other carb. It's not Mary Rider gourmet, that's for sure, but I am spoiled. I miss my daily routine of dumpster diving. I tried to leave Mary with good quantities of meat, fish and beer and wine, before I left (all from the Dump-Store).

While I was in the SHU, I got through the New Testament, which I enjoyed (although Paul's epistles were often redundant and gave lots of lists of things that would get you banished to the netherworld and things that would get you to Paradise.) I also have "Give Us This Day", which I use for daily prayer and Lectio Divina. I have been exchanging letters with Robert Ellsberg (who authors the very fine "Blessed Among Us" columns). Robert is publisher of Orbis Books and the son of Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Papers fame. Robert is writing a tribute to his Dad as the 50th anniversary of the release of the Pentagon Papers approaches. My former publisher at The Chapel Hill News, Ted Vaden, (who was also the N & O's ombudsman in those years when newspapers had such positions) wrote a column about me. It is lovely. Find it on "Last Gaffe." I got a card from local (Raleigh) TV news anchor David Crabtree, who read it. Still looking for pen pals for the men in Elkton. Thank you all for your love, prayers, and support.

April 25th - Mars Perseverance and the King's Bay Plowshares: A Study in Priorities

by Mike McQuillan (*History News Network*)

I won, I thought, often. Bobby Allan and I in Ms. Cooke's fifth grade "show and tell" vied for attention with our astronaut scrapbooks. New York in 1962 had six daily newspapers plus Life and Look magazines, all with color spreads after space flights and available at the nearby newsstand of Manny's Candy Store. Scissors sharpened, I gathered and clipped first editions. Letters to NASA brought still more details. When I put aside thoughts of running for President, I presumed I might go into space.

The Perseverance Rover's presence on Mars kindles memories but "the thrill is gone," as BB King sang of a soured romance. My adult awareness of others' suffering transcends childhood's sense of adventure as the spacecraft's \$2.7 billion, 293 million-mile trip checks "different types of rocks such as clays and carbonates to determine whether they contain traces of ancient microbial life," as Forbes reports.

Just as my career goals evolved, our nation needs new priorities.

The Hunts Point Produce strike settlement, hailed as a triumph in January, won little, an hourly raise of \$1.85 an hour over three years; eighty-five undocumented immigrants now on hunger strike at Judson Memorial Church in Manhattan's Greenwich Village are starving themselves to highlight the plight of 274,000 unemployed workers excluded from federal and state pandemic relief programs.

“Never before has man had such capacity to control his own environment, to end thirst and hunger, to conquer poverty and disease, to banish illiteracy and massive human misery,” President Kennedy told the United Nations General Assembly on September 20, 1963. He had grown from harsh Cold Warrior to coexistence crusader, having one month before espoused peaceful coexistence with the Soviet Union. A Dallas gunman killed him two months later.

One wonders what might have been had he lived. Instead, how much has changed?

“There were 55,915 homeless people, including 17,645 children, sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system in January,” the Coalition for the Homeless reveals. City Harvest adds that 1.5 million New Yorkers of whom 466,000 are children deal daily with food insecurity – 38% and 39% growth, respectively, over pre-pandemic figures.

The National Defense Authorization Act 2020 sailed through Congress, meanwhile, to expend \$2 billion daily, according to the Friends Committee on National Legislation, for weapons systems, 800 overseas bases, and our entanglements in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by a military-industrial complex, President Eisenhower’s 1961 Farewell Address warned. Now that complex wreaks an invisible war against at-risk Americans.

These issues are old, as I am, but the post-9/11 provision of war weapons to urban police departments that an FBI inquiry found have been infiltrated by white supremacists prompted frequent and severe uncalled for police violence against people of color. The claim that holds “a few bad apples” at fault for the five-year death sequence that NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo launched with his chokehold on Eric Garner is disproved by what we know has happened and the lack of mandatory reporting for police use-of-force statistics.

“The incidence of wrongful use of force by police is unknown,” the National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics wrote in October 1999. “Research is critically needed to determine reliably, vividly and precisely how often transgressions occur.” The FBI’s National Use of Force Data Collection has had voluntary participation by federal, state and tribal law enforcement groups representing 41% of the nation’s sworn officers since its July 2019 origin.

Bobby Allan and I in fifth grade thought our generation would solve problems like these.

Coming of age in the civil rights and Vietnam War eras convinced us it could. High school peers and I chipped in for a bus to and from the November 1969 Moratorium at the Washington Monument and my service as a US Senate aide and Peace Corps Volunteer stemmed from ideals. Watching “Blue Bloods” on television recalls my change advocacy while chairing the NYPD Training Advisory Council’s Race Subcommittee and that institution’s rigid resistance.

Pablo Picasso’s 1938 Guernica mural speaks to me as its stark blue, black and white imagery shows the perpetual struggle of good and evil. Even incremental change requires extreme effort, it seems in our time, as bureaucratic growth divides leaders from constituents and fewer people possess the nation’s vast wealth. In 1983 I could question Congressman Stephen Solarz in person for his vote to fund President Reagan’s Nicaraguan Contra War; in 2019 Congressman Jerry Nadler’s New York scheduler – after I had filled out his required online contact box, sent letters, then called his Washington, Brooklyn and Manhattan offices – said “he’s too busy” to see me at any time.

“Be the change you want to see in the world,” Gandhi said. I have his quote on a tee shirt that hung in my history classrooms through my 19-year teaching career. Perhaps that is the best I can do as at age 68 I write from my living room corner about what I see through my window and the lens of experience about national and neighborhood life.

The Kings Bay Plowshares poured vials of their blood, damaged a missile and spray-painted “Love One Another” on a sidewalk at the nuclear submarine base they entered in Georgia. Because we value property over people, and are governed by leaders who function from fear, the seven, who deserve a parade, are in jail. The Navy’s 14 Trident submarines can each launch 24 nuclear missiles and a \$58.2 million order placed last year has more on the way.

Is this to defend us or to dominate as we say Russia and China intend?

We should instead address our internal enemies, homelessness and hunger to start.

Our nation with democracy intact would be well worth defending. It might cost less than our weapons and make policing unnecessary.

The Perseverance Rover seeks Martian evidence of ancient microbial life. Shouldn’t we figure out how to live better on earth?

May 2nd - Carmen and Martha to Receive Early Release, Details on Viewing DePaul Award

Martha Hennessy and Carmen Trotta have been told that they will be getting early release to home confinement in two weeks. Martha in Danbury FCI had requested home confinement through the CARES Act which provides for early release for older inmates after serving half of their sentence in order to reduce prison populations to avoid Covid risks. However, she had to clear an old pending case from an anti-drone demonstration in Syracuse to qualify. This was finally done after much back and forth between attorney and judge. She is expecting to be released on May 17 or 18 and go back to her home in Vermont where she is eager to start spring planting.

Carmen was told that he also was going to be unexpectedly released on May 18 after five months in Otisville FCI and two months detention pre-trial. He has not reached sixty years old to be considered an older inmate. He will return to St. Joseph House Catholic Worker in New York City to serve the remainder of his 14 month sentence. He and Martha also now face three years of supervised probation.

Patrick O’Neill and Clare Grady continue to be incarcerated with no word if they will be eligible for early release. Mark Colville is due to report to the Brooklyn, NY Federal prison on June 8. Fr. Steve Kelly went on an Ignatian retreat after his release on April 13. Liz McAlister continues to live in New London, CT with her daughters and their families.

Berrigan-McAlister Award from DePaul University, May 4 & 5

The Kings Bay Plowshares are receiving the first Berrigan-McAlister award for Gospel nonviolence from DePaul University this Tuesday and Wednesday. Dan Berrigan’s 100th birthday which would be on May 9 will also be commemorated. All are invited to the free on-line presentations on Zoom but you must register in advance at eventbrite.com/e/inaugural-berrigan-mcalister-award-tickets-147618327391

Tuesday, May 4, at 6:30pm Central Time (CT), there will be the showing of a new documentary Devout and Dangerous with discussion following by the director, Susan Hagedorn, and members of the Berrigan-McAlister family.

Wednesday, May 5 at 6:30 CT the award will be presented with moderated remarks from the KBP7. Statements will be read from those presently incarcerated and virtual comments from the others.

20 Apr - Veronza Bowers audio & zine publishing

This week, The Final Straw republished an interview with Veronza Bowers, Jr, from 2002 alongside some recordings of his poetry, music and his eulogy for his mother recorded on her passing.

MORE:

We are in discussion about how to post the audio more widely for easier access, but for now the recordings are up at archive.org/details/healing-heart

We also just wanted to let folks who send in materials to prisoners know that since January we've been transcribing each episode and producing a zine version and an un-imposed pdf about a week out from broadcast in hopes of getting anarchist content out further, get it translated, and get it easier sent into prisons. You can find all of our zines and transcriptions listed on our zines page <TFSR.WTF/zines>. Please make as much use of it as you'd like.

22 Apr - Day of The Young Combatant in New York City

Day of the Young Combatant is celebrated annually, on March 29th. Below is a report back from the commemoration in NYC.

MORE:

It commemorates the legacies of Eduardo and Rafael Vergara Toledo, militant members of the revolutionary anti-dictatorship group MIR (Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria). Eduardo was only twenty years old and Rafael a mere eighteen years old when both were ambushed by Chilean State minions on March 29, 1985.

Eduardo was gunned down while trying to flee. As he lay dying, he pleaded with his brother to save himself. Rafael refused, remaining by Eduardo's side. The State caught up with him moments later, and Rafael was brutally beaten before being shot in the head.

When contemplating these extra-judicial murders, one cannot help but recall the countless murders of young members of the Black Panther Party. Such events serve as stark reminders that a state need not label itself "dictatorship" in order to persecute and assassinate its own people. These killings are common under regimes of all stripes, and are meant to intimidate dissenters and corrode revolutionary aspirations.

We take this opportunity not only to honor those who struggled against Pinochet in Chile and those who fought and died for Black liberation in the 20th century, but also to honor the young combatants of today. We stand in solidarity with those who took to the streets during the George Floyd uprisings across the US and beyond. We honor the youth who have been caged by the state and those who have resisted inside. We see in them the tremendous bravery of Jonathan Jackson, who at 17, was gunned down after storming the Marin County Courthouse fighting for his brother's freedom. George Jackson writes a dedication to his brother, Jonathan Jackson, showing us who the young combatant is: "To the Man-Child, Tall, evil, graceful, brighteyed, black man-child — Jonathan Peter Jackson — who died on August 7, 1970, courage in one hand, assault rifle in the other; my brother, comrade, friend — the true revolutionary, the black

communist guerrilla in the highest state of development, he died on the trigger, scourge of the unrighteous, soldier of the people; ...to the destruction of their enemies I dedicate my life.”

On this day revolutionaries gathered outside the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn to raise voices towards those incarcerated inside. The passions of the crowd could not be relegated to our voices: pots and pans were hit, airhorns blared, the walls of the adjacent building were covered in messages: Burn The Prisons, Free Everyone, and Fuck 12. The march took to the streets and barricades were made and a pig car damaged. Chants of DEATH TO AMERICA and OFF THE PIGS! could be heard echoing through the night.

From today until all prisons are ash, we call for fires across the american plantation. We want to highlight Jailhouse Lawyers’ call for mass abolitionist demonstrations on the anniversary of the Nat Turner uprising and George Jackson’s assassination, August 21st, and the Attica Uprising on September 9th, we will #shutemdown2021.

We close by honoring the youth of Minnesota, Portland, New York, Palestine, Nigeria, Greece, Mexico, and countless other places across the globe who risk life and limb for liberation every day. We remember the scores of young comrades who boldly fought against oppression throughout history while recognizing that their story is not over. It lives on in the youth of today: in the courage, determination, and utter selflessness young combatants embody as they boldly confront fascism, capitalism, and white supremacy. Youth resistance is essential to breaking the chains of oppression once and for all so that we may see true, international liberation realized in our lifetimes.

22 Apr - A water protector comes home from prison - Michael “Rattler” Markus is coming home!

It's appropriate that on Earth Day, this day of reverence for Unci Maka, we celebrate the imminent return of one of her guardians.

MORE:

After many months in prison for his brave stand against the Dakota Access pipeline, Michael "Rattler" Markus is coming home! I hope you'll join me in giving thanks to Rattler and to all those on the frontlines to defend sacred lands and water.

Rattler, who served during the NoDAPL protests as an Akicita (defender), positioned between police and water protectors to keep everybody safe, was arrested in February of 2017. He subsequently accepted a plea to a civil disorder charge stemming from his presence on Oct. 27, 2016 — when law enforcement assaulted unarmed water protectors with sound cannons, tasers, bean bags, rubber bullets, and pepper spray.

We have seen these tactics time and again — and we have seen how the colonizers use both the police and new legislation to back up their intrusions into our sacred lands. Following a year in which people all over the world stood together in the streets to promote justice, many lawmakers are now renewing their attacks on our ability to protest.

According to the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law, 71 laws currently pending at the federal or state level — in 29 different states! — seek to limit our right to protest. It is critical that we retain our right to protect the Earth from corporations who ramrod noxious extraction infrastructure like pipelines through our homelands and other communities of color.

I'm grateful to those who served time for their bold actions on behalf of Unci Maka — people like Red Fawn, who came home after years of incarceration a few weeks ago, and Rattler, who will be released from federal custody tomorrow.

You have my gratitude as well. Thank you for standing with all of us on the frontlines. The powers that be can keep trying to divide, conquer, and subjugate us, but we'll stay informed and active until we achieve the justice we seek — for ourselves and for the world we inhabit.

22 Apr - The Black Panther Party Has Never Been More Popular. But Actual Black Panthers Have Been Forgotten.

As you should already know, many of our imprisoned comrades come from the Black Panther Party.

MORE:

by Santi Elijah Holley (*New Republic*)

On October 7, 2020, Jalil Muntaqim exited the Sullivan Correctional Facility in upstate New York a free man. A member of the Black Panther Party and its more militant, clandestine offshoot, the Black Liberation Army, Muntaqim was 19 years old at the time of his 1971 arrest, which was followed by his conviction three years later for the murder of two NYPD police officers, Waverly Jones and Joseph Piagentini. After nearly a half-century behind bars and over a dozen parole requests, Muntaqim's parole was approved last September, one month before his sixty-ninth birthday.

The country has undergone considerable changes during Muntaqim's 49-year incarceration, not the least of which being the widespread popularity, veneration, and commodification of the Black Panther Party. The examples abound: Beyoncé's 2016 Super Bowl performance, in which the singer and her dancers dressed in Panther-influenced attire; the Marvel superhero film *Black Panther*; the Black Panther Party graphic novel; the Levi's "Black History Month" collection, featuring hoodies and T-shirts emblazoned with "Black Panther graphics"; and, of course, the Oscar-nominated film *Judas and the Black Messiah*, a dramatized retelling of the 1969 police murder of Illinois Black Panther chairman Fred Hampton.

But what do veteran Panthers—some of whom are now at an advanced age and fighting to make ends meet after spending more than half their lives in prison—think of this recent boom in artistic and commercial interest?

"They exploit the name and the legacy of the Black Panther Party," Muntaqim told me, "without any credence or any true thought to the idea of those who are still suffering from Cointelpro convictions, and those of us who are elderly now and suffer from age and without any means of surviving. Our circumstances, in terms of being exploited in the name of the Black Panther Party, are horrendous."

The U.S. Counterintelligence Program, or Cointelpro, was a notorious FBI operation that employed covert and illegal means to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize" alleged subversive political organizations throughout the 1950s and '60s. Led by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, Cointelpro targeted Communist and socialist organizations, the American Indian Movement, Puerto Rican independence groups, Vietnam War protesters, and such leaders as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. But by the late '60s, Hoover's FBI had zealously directed its energy toward destroying what it deemed "militant black nationalist groups," particularly the Black Panther Party.

Labelled by Hoover "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country," the Black Panther Party had, by 1969, been the target of 233 Cointelpro actions, which varied from provoking rivalries within the organization to installing undercover agents and agents provocateurs. Until its accidental discovery in 1971

by an activist group digging through files in an FBI field office in Media, Pennsylvania, Cointelpro had contributed to the deaths of at least four Panthers, including Fred Hampton and Mark Clark on December 4, 1969, and the imprisonment of dozens of Panthers. Though some have since been paroled or had their convictions overturned after spending decades in prison, many veteran Panthers remain incarcerated to this day. So while the Black Panther Party is now seeing its greatest popularity (and profitability), the still-living Panthers—whether newly freed or still incarcerated—see little to no benefit, from Hollywood or other entertainment industries.

"They're not providing any services or support for these aging Panthers," Muntaqim says, "but they'll take the name; they'll take the legacy of [the Panthers] and exploit it, profit off of it."

"Someone makes a lot of money off it, and nothing goes to the families of the fallen," elder Panther and former prisoner Sekou Odinga tells me. "Nothing goes to those that are locked up, fighting for their lives." Odinga was leader of the Black Panther Party's Bronx chapter, founded in 1968, and later worked with the Party's International Section in Algeria. In October 1981, Odinga was captured by authorities and charged in connection with the attempted robbery of a Brink's armored trunk in Nanuet, New York, during which two police officers and a security guard were killed; he was also charged with aiding in the escape of Assata Shakur from a New Jersey correctional institution in 1979. After serving 33 years of a 25-to-life sentence, Odinga was released from New York's Clinton Correctional Facility on November 25, 2014. He was 70 years old at the time of his release.

Though Odinga and Muntaqim have been recently granted the opportunity to live out their final years among family and friends, over a dozen Black Panthers and other Black liberation activists remain incarcerated, including Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown), Kamau Sadiki, and Mutulu Shakur (Tupac's stepfather). Many of these incarcerated men—all over the age of 60—have faced intensifying health crises, heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been incarcerated since 1981, tested positive for the virus in March, in addition to suffering from congestive heart failure and an excruciating skin condition. Last November, Shoatz was diagnosed with Covid-19 and stage-four colon cancer. Shakur also contracted Covid-19 last November, while undergoing treatment for advanced bone marrow cancer.

Like Odinga, Sundiata Acoli was affiliated with the New York Black Panthers and the Black Liberation Army. Acoli is currently serving his forty-ninth year of a life sentence, after his conviction for the May 2, 1973, shootout on a New Jersey turnpike that left State Trooper Werner Foerster dead. A college-educated mathematician and NASA computer analyst before joining the BPP, Acoli, now 84 years old, was given the possibility of parole after 25 years, but he has since been repeatedly denied parole, despite his record of good behavior, his expression of "regret and remorse" for his involvement in the shootout, and his advanced age. Acoli has suffered from myriad health complications, including hypertension, emphysema, glaucoma, and advancing dementia. He, too, narrowly survived after contracting Covid-19 last year.

In the last two decades, at least eight Panthers have died in prison—most recently Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, who died in a California prison on March 29, at age 71. Having been incarcerated for more than 51 years, Fitzgerald was the longest-serving Black Panther in American history.

While many people today might be familiar with the co-founders of the Oakland chapter of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale (himself represented in another Oscar-nominated movie this year, Aaron Sorkin's *The Trial of the Chicago 7*), many of the above names remain unfamiliar to those who are just learning about the history of the Black Panthers, whether as students, activists, or moviegoers. And these people are due the same reconsideration that Hollywood has recently afforded Seale and Fred Hampton, whose often violent legacies are now being interpreted with greater

sympathy by audiences and movie executives alike, amid growing awareness of the depths of the Black struggle for equal rights.

Matt Meyer—an author, editor, educator, and longtime peace activist, who has worked closely with and on behalf of political prisoners—wonders about the erasure of these surviving, imprisoned Panthers. "With this whole slew of material coming out in recent years, it's as if the Black Panther Party began and ended in the city of Oakland—and began and ended with the person of Huey Newton and maybe Bobby Seale," Meyer told me. "That wasn't true then, and it's not true now. Only an extremely simplified and mythologized version of history can so easily invisibilize the fact that we've got so many Panthers still in prison today."

Still, some of these formerly incarcerated Panthers acknowledge some benefit to be gained by this current interest in the Black Panthers. "Every time somebody mentions the word 'Panther,' we examine it and we check it out," Bilal Sunni-Ali told me. A founding member of the New York Black Panthers, Sunni-Ali has been arrested twice, once in 1969 and again in 1982, for his involvement with the BPP. He has been free since 1983 and has gone on to advocate for still-incarcerated Panthers and other political prisoners, in addition to his work as a world-renowned musician and member of Gil Scott-Heron's Midnight Band. "If someone is giving out false information, it gives us an opportunity to correct that false information," Sunni-Ali said, "and point to where people can get correct information."

Odinga, too, acknowledges that the current popularity of the Panthers can be used as a "teaching opportunity": "If people are interested, they can ask questions. Or you can challenge people and challenge the things you didn't like, put forward what you think it was, and have a discussion where people can learn the truth, or at least get another perspective."

As veteran Panthers and former prisoners, Muntaqim, Odinga, and Sunni-Ali have taken on the responsibility not only to represent the Black Panther Party accurately, but to advocate for their imprisoned comrades. Odinga is regularly invited to give speeches and lectures on political prisoners in the United States; Sunni-Ali works on campaigns to free Jamil Al-Amin; Muntaqim is founder of the political prisoner advocacy organization Jericho Movement; and Odinga and Meyer serve on the coordinating committee for "Spirit of Mandela." Initially proposed by Muntaqim, Spirit of Mandela plans to hold an international tribunal on October 22 to 24, with the goal of "charging the United States government, its states, and specific agencies with human and civil rights violations against Black, brown, and Indigenous people." It is being held in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of "We Charge Genocide," when actor and activist Paul Robeson and Civil Rights Congress executive director William Patterson delivered a petition to the United Nations accusing the U.S. government of genocide against American Blacks.

The recent glorification of the Black Panthers in popular culture, then, stands as a test for audiences, particularly non-Black audiences. Are they willing to sympathize with the Panthers only if they're presented as long-dead historical actors? Or can they extend that sympathy to the Panthers who are still living and breathing in this country's prisons?

For anyone who might be just learning about the history and repression of the Black Panther Party—whether from the latest books, music, or feature films—and wants to get involved in calling awareness to currently incarcerated Panthers, Meyer offers a simple, straightforward place to start: "Write a letter [to political prisoners], saying, 'I know you're out there.' Send a tweet or text a friend, saying, 'Let's not just go see the latest movie; let's spread the word about the people who are still inside. All of that has one central theme: Organize.'"

"Organize your friends and your family and your organizations," echoes Odinga. "Your churches, the people that you be around, on all your social media—you can put information out there about the struggle, about the brothers and sisters who are still locked down, still struggling for their freedom."

23 Apr - "Zombie Regrets"

We have a new poem from Eric King and are, as always, excited to share it.

MORE:

I'm sorry, I ruined the party
caused a big mess in the lobby
I'm sorry I killed your best friend
had to eat your intestines
I'm sorry I broke your hot plate
feel bad, for eating your hot face
I'm sorry, that you weren't ready
treated guts like they were spaghetti
I'm sorry I caused that car crash
licked your brains off the dash
I'm sorry I picked up your scent
You should have been faster,
I left your fingerprints
I'm sorry I caused such a big wreck
That my teeth ripped out your neck
I'm sorry you tripped while running
I drove straight in your tummy
I'm sorry I ate your grandparents
while you, we're out running errands.
I'm sorry I tracked in all that mud.
Had a, fresh glass of your blood
I'm sorry I smashed the movie
And I jut caught Suzy
I'm sorry that I looked so ghastly
That I had to eat you last night...

25 Apr - Haikus for Sundiata

The 48 haikus are representative of the 48 years Sundiata has spent in prison. These haikus reflect a portion of the broad range of artists, entertainers, educators, scholars, and everyday freedom loving people calling for Sundiata's release.

MORE:

You can view the full collected poetic demonstration at tumblr.com/blog/view/haikus4sundiata

i love freedom
butterflies in the sky
and the stomach too.
by Sundiata Acoli

47 years down
no fistfight in all that time
so who's violent?
by Sundiata Acoli

Flying higher than
Eagles ever would dare try
Black Panther with wings.
by Mumia Abu Jamal

Locked within lies
Brother Panther teacher you

We do not follow,
We lead, with friends to inspire

blackman come home
vibrating spirit soar

We dream of freedom
by David Walker

Courage, grace and life.
by fayemi shakur

free elder, free.
by Anddiswa

Vibrations of heart
creations spring from you. Love
your liberation.
by Jasmin Thana

When panthers are prey
We swallow their teaching whole
And birth warriors
by Sage Crump

Vibrations of heart
creations spring from you. Love
your liberation.
by Jasmin Thana

Justice does not Just
prevail must educate to
propagate Freedom
by Maurice Mitchell

Injustice is Cruel
Broken Promises Abound
The Spirit moves towards Freedom
by Bonnie Walker

No bars can hold hearts
Resistance is sanity
You still bloom in me
by Mystic

a mathematician
confined as irrational
receives infinite love.
by Robert Karimi

An OG enters the ring
The State jumps up!
Freedom fighting still undefeated
by Russell Maroon Shoatz

Sundiata loves
Life, liberty and people
Let my brother go!
by Kiilu Nyasha

Outside prison bars
Spring at last is blossoming
Free Sundiata!
by Freedom Archives

Walls that separate
Cannot dim your strength that shines
And inspires us.
by Jennifer Vehia (Hawaii)

What these walls did teach
about liberating mind,
Freedom signed by grace.
by Lauren Michelle

Let's call you courage
A sun walker for freedom
Vibration and rhyme.
by Nikki Skies

like you, we will bloom
hot into the concrete, what
will open this time.
by Irene Milsom

We keep on singing
Sundiata's freedom songs
Fists raised, we fight on.
by Jamarah Amani (Miami, FL)

calculated pain
will not sustain because hope
and righteous struggle are here
by Bobby Mike

Listen– the water
rushing soft and smooth, over
years, carving through rock
by Nick Ross-rhudy

When spirit moves us
Liberation is the goal
Ancient traumas, free
by Fayemi Shakur

Nothing can stop time
Beating hearts stop on cue but
Nothing can hold you.
by Ferrari Sheppard

Heroic LOVE you
exemplify for Us. Your
brilliance lights our paths.
by Dara Cooper

Flesh weathered by flame
Sundiata so well-named
Heart brighter than suns.
by Walidah Imarisha

Holding the hard line
With your skin and your sweet years
To see our freedom.
by Adrienne Marie Brown

You remind me of
what true poetry should be
purposeful and true.
by Sham-e-Ali Nayeem

The debt of Justice
For Sundiata's release
Is long overdue.
by Stic, dead prez

Salute to the Sun
With the highest of honors
For your sacrifice.
by Stic, dead prez

Sundiata. Man.
Shining soul. Grandfather. Son.
Let him live his song!
by Ishle Yi Park, Poet Laureate

They cut down flowers
And cage a bird but they can't
Stop spring from coming.
by Daniel Sans Culottes

locked in the dungeon
there is only one season
eternal struggle.
by Clarissa Rogers

A cage cannot hold
spirit or contain fire
Even if it tried.
by Nadir Lasana Bomani

my heroes are those
who stay human in the most
inhuman places.
by Gabriel Teodros

Love Sundiata's
freedom and justice fiercely
they too are your own.
by Turiya Autry

These words are small, yet
winged. They squeeze through bars, defy
concrete. Flock of love.
by Olga Garcia

Those who walk through fire
May cup it in hand listen
To phoenix secrets.
by Walidah Imarisha

Spaceships mean future
He worked for that AND for now
NASA Panther Man.
by Thandisizwe Chimurenga

Racism is a caged mind
Imprisoned by hate & fear
Freedom for all is uncaged.
by Daniel Shea

A generation
Removed from glory and pride
Return to our roots.
by Hasan Salaam

spirit can't be killed
when you breathe out the will of
the people. feel you.
by jessica Care moore

warriors walk
with intention, lesson i learned
watching your footsteps.
by Luam Kidane

I shed tears for us
For my people can't be freed
While you are caged.
by Tawana aka Honeycomb

How many fathers
have we lost? Let grandfathers
come home and be loved.
by Tara Betts

Cages may hold you
Your love for the people can't
Be shackled, but soars.
by Kenyon Farrow

Love is what love does
Gave his life for the people
We will set him free.
by Jasiri X

We will imagine
Beyond chains, restraints, illusions
Freedom's before us.
by Jeff Chang

Passionate visions
For our freedom you gave yours
A Black Love Supreme
Cycles of seasons
Like Spring reminds us we can
Resurrect you home!
Warrior Panther King
Walls can't hold a spirit that
grows on brick like vine.
by Liza Jessie Peterson

28 Apr - Oso Blanco Greeting Cards

Imprisoned by the US government for expropriating from banks to fund the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), Oso Blanco has been using art to continue his mission, including the four designs used for a current fundraising initiative he has organized for the Children's Art Project.

MORE:

Proceeds from the sale of these greeting cards will benefit children in the autonomous Zapatista zone of Chiapas, Mexico, and on reservations here on Turtle Island. Cards are 5" x7" and blank inside.

Learn more at schoolsforchiapas.org & freesosblanco.blogspot.com; purchase sets of cards at burningbooks.com/products/oso-blanco-greeting-cards

Note from Oso Blanco:

“I did all this art under extreme duress. For years I was trying to make this happen, I was living in a literal hell on Earth where I did these pieces (SMU Lewisburg). Sometimes I couldn’t get paper, other times no pencils. Every day was violence, every day was conflict with staff and prisoners. Sometimes I had crazy cellies. I was living in an absolute horror. Often times we got pepper sprayed, we got shook down. My pieces got ripped or damaged or stolen by staff. I would have to struggle, REAL struggle, that most people on the streets couldn’t survive, let alone imagine. But I never gave up!

I continue to believe in Children’s Art Project (CAP). This art was done by hand, not by some computer. The toil and the suffering and the high cost of sending out my art via certified Mail is seriously no joke. I’m not sitting at some resort in Washington state, relaxing, doing this art with all the best art supplies and resources. I’m literally doing this with extreme difficulty and the bare minimum. I think people must respect the fact that they could probably not even survive in the environments where I completed this art.

So, please, honor the Children’s Art Project, so that we may help the children in Chiapas, where I’ve risked my life many times in Mexico sending old army surplus, bullets, medicine, horseshoes, vitamins for pregnant women (folic acid), veterinary medicine for horses, you name it. I didn’t just fall off the potato wagon and become a Political Prisoner, I earned this through my great sacrifice, through life and death, through turmoil. Being shot by the police and the FBI and having police dogs sicced on me during this case, ripping me apart, all for the humor of the FBI and Albuquerque police.”

28 Apr - Call for Art/Articles for Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners

Call for art and article submission for the 21st edition of the *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoner Calendar*. The theme for the year is “Creating a New World in the Shell of the Old.”

MORE:

The *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar* collective (certaindays.org) will be releasing our 21st calendar this coming autumn. The 2022 theme is “Creating a New World in the Shell of the Old,” looking at collective approaches at creating a more inclusive and fulfilling world through mutual effort.

We are looking for 12 pieces of art and 12 short essays to feature in the calendar, which hangs in more than 6,000 homes, workplaces, prison cells, and community spaces around the world. We encourage contributors to submit both new and existing work. We especially seek submissions from people in prison or jail, so please forward to any prison-based artists and writers.

Deadline: June 14, 2021

THEME GUIDELINES

The Certain Days project has been inter-generational from the beginning. The inside members and many of the prisoners featured were involved in the freedom struggles of the 1960s and 70s. Most of us in the outside collective were in our twenties when the project began, eager to learn from our elders and to provide concrete solidarity across prison walls. Now, more than two decades later, the world has changed but the need for that connection and support remains as strong as ever. As new movements have risen up to confront forces of repression, we have seen an increase in political prisoners from Indigenous struggles and Earth and Animal liberation movements, to anarchists, anti-fascists, Grand Jury resisters, and hacktivists.

With COVID-19 and a growing and dangerous fascism vying to destroy the world as we know it, this year we were inspired to focus our attention on mutual aid to build new and stronger communities, and collective efforts to assist and free those freedom fighters locked behind the bars.

Topics may include, but are not limited to the following:

- From defense campaigns to prison book programs community bail funds to phone lines, mutual aid has been at the heart of prison support throughout the history of our movements. In what ways has mutual aid benefited us? In what ways have we failed to engage it effectively?
- What does mutual aid look like behind the bars? For those incarcerated, power dynamics and violent hierarchies are the norm, and actively confronting them risks very real and harmful repercussions. However, mutual aid has in fact blossomed in such conditions—peer support during pandemics; inside-outside projects like Victory Gardens and Certain Days. What are other ways in which mutual aid is utilized by those locked away?
- In what ways can mutual aid help us in creating transformative and healing spaces for those returning from prison? What about for those about to go to prison for the first time?
- What is the future of mutual aid in the ongoing abolitionist struggle against the prison industrial complex?

FORMAT GUIDELINES

ARTICLES

1. 400-500 words max. If you submit a longer piece, we will have to edit for length.
2. Poetry is also welcome but needs to be significantly shorter than 400 words to accommodate layout.
3. Please include a suggested title.

Due to time and space limitations, submissions may be lightly edited for clarity, with no change to the original intent.

ART

1. The calendar is 11” tall by 8.5” wide, so art with a ‘portrait’ orientation is preferred. Some pieces may be printed with a border, so it need not fit those dimensions exactly.
2. We are interested in a diversity of media (paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, computer-designed graphics, collage, etc).
3. The calendar is printed in colour and we prefer colour images.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Send your submissions by June 14, 2021 to info @ certaintdays.org.
2. ARTISTS: You can send a low-res file as a submission, but if your piece is chosen, we will need a high-res version of it for print (600 dpi).
3. You may send as many submissions as you like. Chosen artists and authors will receive a free copy of the calendar and promotional postcards. Because the calendar is a fundraiser, we cannot offer money to contributors.

Prisoner submissions are due July 1, 2021 and can be mailed to:

Certain Days c/o Burning Books
420 Connecticut Street
Buffalo, New York 14213
USA

Certain Days c/o QPIRG Concordia
1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest
Montreal, QC H3G 1M8
Canada

ABOUT THE CALENDAR

The *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar* is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal, Hamilton, New York, and Baltimore, with two political prisoners being held in maximum-security prisons: David Gilbert in New York and Xinachtli (s/n Alvaro Luna Hernandez) in Texas. We were happy to welcome founding members Herman Bell and Robert Seth Hayes (Rest in Power) home from prison in 2018, after serving over forty years each. All of the current members

of the outside collective are grounded in day-to-day organizing work other than the calendar, on issues ranging from migrant justice to community media to prisoner solidarity. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer- and trans-liberationist position. All proceeds from the calendar go to abolitionist organizations working for a better world.

May 1st - Prison Break: Empty the Cages

Happy May Day! From New York ending long-term solitary confinement in jails and prisons to people being held at the St. Louis City Justice Center rising up in their own Easter Rebellion, April has had many liberating moments. And let us not overlook the liberation and subsequent ransom of Confederate leader Jefferson Davis's chair. We also mourn the passing in April of LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, leader at Standing Rock and Lakota historian.

As you flip your 2021 *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendars to May we hope you appreciate the incredibly moving and detailed artwork by Joseph Dole, who is currently serving a life-without-parole sentence for a crime he did not commit. The essay for the month—titled “What I Need”—is written by Rev. Joy Powell, also being held for a crime she did not commit.

The Certain Days collective is happy to release our call-out for submissions for the 2022 *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar [see above].

Releases, Acquittals, and Dropped Charges

On Friday, April 23, Standing Rock Water Protector Rattler was released from a halfway house. His support crew stated:

He now has 3 years under federal surveillance on probation. He is forced by BOP and probation, for now, to be in Bismarck where locals are openly hostile to native people and, still, towards water protectors. He has already experienced hostility for these reasons. Rattler, his loved ones and legal team are working to have him housed with family at home in the coming months.

Kings Bay Plowshares 7 defendant Stephen Kelly was released from Federal custody on April 13, after being sentenced to 33 months in prison. Four of the seven KBP7 defendants remain behind bars.

On April 12, Grand Jury Resister Steve Martinez was released from Federal custody after serving 60 days. The statement from Martinez's support crew reads, in part:

[...] since the end of February, neither his attorneys nor Steve himself have been at liberty to speak with anyone about Steve's legal situation or the court proceedings. Anti-repression efforts are a crucial tool for our movements and communities. The Federal government is hard at work to repress powerful social and political movements that are working towards the liberation of the earth and all of us who inhabit it [...] We continue to stand in our solidarity with Steve and are working to ensure he can soon share his story with those who have shown their support over the past months of his resistance.

Ongoing Cases

On March 31, drone assassination program whistleblower Daniel Hale pleaded guilty to violating the Espionage Act. Hale will be the first person to face sentencing for violating the Espionage Act under the Biden regime.

On April 9, Mark Coville became the last of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 to be sentenced to prison, more than three years after the incident that took place at Kings Bay Naval Base in Georgia. Colville was sentenced to 21 months in prison [You can read his sentencing statement in the April 20th NYC ABC Updates & Announcements]. We do not yet have an address for Coville, but check back here soon.

Diné (Navajo) BLM activist and hip hop artist Loren Reed continues to face bogus charges and up to 10 years in prison for comments posted on a Facebook thread. Reed has faced unprecedented repression as a result of a pro-cop snitch within the Arizona activist community.

In mid-April renowned political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal was rushed to a hospital for heart surgery, with supporters worldwide calling for his immediate release.

Certain Days to Keep in Mind

As you'll see in your 2021 *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar, May is packed full of dates commemorating the ongoing liberation struggle. From the births of abolitionist John Brown and Black liberationist Malcolm X to the deaths of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands and the murder of George Floyd, you won't miss an important radical date again with your *Certain Days* calendar. Get one now while they still last!

30 Apr - Leonard Peltier's Spiritual Advisor, Lenny Foster, Submits Statement to UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

During the two-week-long the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Indigenous citizens from around the globe are afforded opportunities to address the forum in-person or through written submissions on issues that impact the lives of Indigenous peoples.

MORE:

by Native News Online Staff (*Native News Online*)

With the Covid-19 pandemic still limiting travel, the 2021 UNPFII is being conducted in a hybrid format of in-person and virtual speakers. Last week as reported on Native News Online, U.S. Dept. of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) gave the keynote address on the opening day of the forum.

Lenny Foster (Navajo), who has served as Leonard Peltier's spiritual advisor for several decades, submitted a written statement.

My name is Lenny Foster, and I am of the Towering House clan born for Mountain Cove, originally from Fort Defiance, Arizona. I am a citizen of the Navajo Nation, and I have been a spiritual advisor for Leonard Peltier since March 1985 when I started visiting him at the United States Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas. My specific duties with him have been conducting sweat lodge ceremonies and pipe ceremonies. My prayers have been to sustain his sanity, for spiritual cleansing and purification, and to help him enhance his humanity and remain spiritually strong.

Leonard Peltier is Dakota and Anishinaabe from the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. He was wrongfully convicted for the June 26, 1975 murders of two FBI special agents in Oglala, South Dakota. He has been incarcerated for over forty-five years and remains the longest-held Indigenous political prisoner in the Western Hemisphere.

At seventy-six years old, Leonard remains incarcerated at the United States Penitentiary in Coleman, Florida, and his medical and health status is very poor. I am recommending that he be granted compassionate release based on his poor health. He is experiencing severe Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and failing eyesight. He is insulin-dependent and has an aortic aneurysm. The threat of Covid-19 is present in the United States prison system, and he needs to be released as soon as possible due to his multiple risk factors.

I feel that Leonard Peltier qualifies for compassionate release. I am, therefore, recommending that the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues present a resolution that concurs with this

recommendation for his immediate release on compassionate release. He needs to be recognized as a foremost Indigenous political prisoner and needs to be provided the respect for his elderly condition. I am recommending that he be granted a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Cali, as well as every opportunity for immediate release on compassionate release.

7 May - Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) General Assembly

WHAT: General Assembly

WHEN: 6:30pm, Friday, May 7th

WHERE: Online (details below)

COST: FREE

MORE:

We will be hosting another "Virtual" General Assembly—lookout in your various Working Group platforms, e-mail listservs, Loomio, et cetera for details on how to join in and visit macc.nyc

General Assemblies are the most ideal place for new folks to plug-in to MACC, learn about our projects and ongoing efforts, and connect to organizers. We encourage everyone to come with ideas about what they would like to see for future campaigns or actions and what direction they'd like MACC to take to build a more powerful anarchist movement. Especially in our current context, when renewed attention has mixed repression with struggles for racial justice, abolition, and a humane economy. There will be a 6:30-7PM orientation for new folks that would like to get connected and learn more about MACC's structure and history.

Please review these documents before coming: macc.nyc/organizing macc.nyc/safer-spaces

21 Mar - Anarchists Care About Books: “Detransition, Baby” by Torrey Peters

WHAT: Book club

WHEN: 4:00pm Sunday, May 16th

WHERE: YOUR HOME/Zoom

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) to discuss “Detransition, Baby” by Torrey Peters.

Zoom info TBA. Join our listserv to stay in the loop gaggle.email/join/acabooks@gaggle.email

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