



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for June 15th

1 Jun - Imprisoned Anti-Fascist Activist Says Prison Guards Allowed White Supremacists to Beat Him

A lawsuit filed by an imprisoned anti-fascist activist alleges guards at the McCreary federal prison in Kentucky allowed white supremacist gang members to beat him in 2018.

MORE:

by Staff (*Democracy Now!*)

A lawsuit filed by an imprisoned anti-fascist activist alleges guards at the McCreary federal prison in Kentucky allowed white supremacist gang members to beat him in 2018. Eric King is currently serving a 10-year sentence for throwing Molotov cocktails at an empty building in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2014 amid Black Lives Matter protests. King says he's been targeted by over 40 correctional officers across multiple facilities throughout his imprisonment. He's been held in solitary confinement for over 1,000 days and now faces an additional 20 years to his sentence for allegedly assaulting a federal officer, which King says was in self-defense.

In a statement published by *The Intercept*, King says, "I'm a human being with a family. I've been treated deplorably ... denied access to my family and my lawyers, and subjected to physical and emotional torture. They've done this because of my beliefs, not because of my actions."

June 7th - Kite Line Radio covers Eric King's case(s)

Check out the interview with Eric King's lawyer Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center on Kite Line radio about his recent lawsuit, his current case and threats against him at itsgoingdown.org/kite-line-ongoing-threats-to-eric-king-with-lauren-regan-of-the-cldc

1 Jun - Prison Break: Tearing Down the Walls

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

MORE:

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

While thousands take to the streets in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and even more in the streets commemorating the 1-year anniversary of the brutal killing of George Floyd, it looks like it's going to be a long, hot summer again this year. There is still a call to #DropTheCharges against all Movement for Black Lives protesters and others who have been arrested during recent conflicts with the police, so be sure to check out this toolkit and offer support if you can: tiny.cc/DropTheCharges

As you switch your *Certain Days* calendar from May to June we hope you enjoy the vibrant and timely art by Damon Locks, a Chicago-based visual artist, educator, vocalist/musician who works with the Prisons and Neighborhood Arts Project at Stateville Correctional Center. The essay for the month—"What Surviving Prison During the AIDS Epidemic Taught Me About Coronavirus"—is written by Richard Rivera, a formerly incarcerated activist who was released in 2019.

This is a final reminder that the *Certain Days* call-out for submissions for the 2022 *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar is still open. 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. The deadline is June 14, so please share this far and wide in the next two weeks.

As there are no political prisoner birthdays in June, it's the perfect time to remember that June 11 is the International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason and All Long-term Anarchist Prisoners. It's the perfect time to reach out to those anarchist prisoners locked behind the walls.

Releases, Acquittals, and Dropped Charges

On May 15, longtime political prisoner **Jaan Laaman** was released from prison after serving 37 years for his involvement in the United Freedom Front. At 73 years young, Jaan joins his co-defendants Kazi Toure and Ray Luc Levasseur on the outside. Sadly, co-defendants Richards Williams and Tom Manning passed away while locked behind the bars.

Loren Reed, arrested last June in connection with protests in Arizona, accepted a favorable, non-cooperating plea deal and was released from custody on May 5. Join in the celebration here! Supporters are also fundraising for Reed's post release by selling shirts. [*NOTE: Loren has since been REARRESTED. Updates to follow.*]

Catholic Plowshares activists **Martha Hennessy** and **Carmen Trotta** were released from Federal prisons to halfway houses on May 26 and 27, respectively. Both were sentenced for the Plowshares action at Kings Bay Naval Base on the 50th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Also on May 27, Cleveland 4 political prisoner **Joshua Stafford** (Skelly to friends) was released to a halfway house where he is to remain until his scheduled release in October 2021.

Ongoing Cases

On May 6, **Daniel Baker** was convicted of making threats to right-wing provocateurs in Tallahassee, Florida, after a two-day trial. Baker has remained imprisoned since his arrest in January, and he is scheduled to be sentenced in mid-August. You can donate (Venmo: @DanBakerDonations), send him some books from his wishlist: tiny.cc/DanBakerBooks

On May 20, the Pennsylvania Superior Court ruled that it lacked jurisdiction to hear political prisoner **Mumia Abu-Jamal's** challenge to his original conviction. Mumia's case will now proceed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Fundraising & Support

Political prisoner and Certain Days collective member **Xinachtli** is scheduled for his first ever Parole Review Hearing on July 18th. The Xinachtli Defense Committee has a new and updated website, and is asking for parole support letters from those who know Xinachtli: freealvaro.net

Longtime political prisoner and Black Liberation Army soldier **Jalil Muntaqim**, released from prison last October after nearly 50 years, has an ongoing housewarming fundraiser to celebrate his release. If you are able to offer support it is greatly appreciated. (Cash App: \$Jalil69 or Paypal: jalil.muntaqim@gmail.com)

Standing Rock Water Protector **Rattler** was finally released from a halfway house weeks ago, and appreciates any support you're able to offer as he acclimates to life on the outside.

Beloved community leader, advocate, mother and more, **Nona Moselle**, passed away on May 13th. Nona was involved with No Justice No Pride where she stayed for the past few years as well as her job at Collective Action For Safe Spaces.

Certain Days to Keep in Mind

As you'll see in your 2021 *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar, in June we have both Juneteenth, celebrating the liberation of those who were enslaved in the U.S., and also June 11, the International Day of Solidarity with **Marius Mason** and All Long-term Anarchist Prisoners. This month we also commemorate the anniversaries of **Harriet Tubman's** daring Combahee River raid, the Stonewall resistance in New York City, and the founding of the IWW, and also honor the passing of **Geronimo Ji-Jaga Pratt**, and **Ethel and Julius Rosenberg**.

3 Jun - Update on Whistleblower Daniel Hale

Daniel has been moved from "administrative segregation" to the general population at the Alexandria Detention Center while he awaits sentencing.

MORE:

This represents a small improvement in conditions, with more rec time outside the cell, but he is still under restrictive lockdown conditions and lacks access to counseling, to minimal reading materials, and to news and information. Please continue to write letters and send printed news items, as detailed on our website.

While Daniel has been insistent that he should not be seen as a hero, he does appreciate the solidarity, and the knowledge that people are following the issues and abuses in surveillance and drone warfare that he called attention to.

6 Jun - Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald Memorial Report

Comrades from the OC chapter of ABCF went to the recent memorial for Chip and have written the following reflections.

MORE:

This is just a quick round up of the Memorial for Romaine Chip Fitzgerald.

A few of us from the OC chapter and some friends were able to attend.

The event was held at Chuco's Justice Center, a community space in Los Angeles. There were some notable folks in attendance. Dequi Sadiki MC'd the event and kept things moving along. Yasmeena from Jericho was also there and spoke towards the end.

There were a lot of musical performances, including one by M1 from Deadprez. Angela Davis and Mumia Abu-Jamal both submitted recorded messages. Members of Chip's family and support committee also spoke at different points.

Black Lives Matter Los Angeles had a lot of folks on the itinerary, including founding member Melinah Abdullah.

Personally, I think it was very important that Chip's friend Kumasi spoke after the various BLM organizers and artists because he highlighted the tension between the non-violent civil rights movement and the black liberation movement (as represented by SNCC, BPP, BLA) and where Chip stood on that continuum. The decades of time since the BPP was active make it very easy for certain kinds of groups and individuals to gloss over the party's embrace of armed self-defense and other necessary proactive "violent" tactics. Naming this distinction explicitly and doing it often makes it harder for folks who are less than sincere to appropriate the "Panther aesthetic" for their own purposes.

We also got to speak very briefly with Arthur League, who was an active BPP militant in Orange County in the 60/70s. I'm hoping to have more conversations with him in the future. Additionally, we talked more with friends and supporters of Chip who were active on his behalf until the end. Hopefully these introductions can grow into working relationships which free our remaining New Afrikan/BPP/BLA comrades from captivity ASAP.

8 Jun - Mark Colville Reports to Prison

More writing by and updates on the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 (KBP7) is available at kingsbayplowshares7.org

MORE:

Mark Colville reported to The Brooklyn Detention Center in the afternoon yesterday, June 8, to serve the remainder of his 21 month sentence. He had been incarcerated for 15 months prior to trial so should have to serve about four more months. He does not want to apply for any early release to home confinement or a halfway house as he views that type of intrusive supervision and wearing an ankle monitor as worse than being in a prison.

After a Mass and blessing at St. Joseph House Catholic Worker in Manhattan with about 25 supporters, Mark's wife, Luz, and daughter, Soli, drove him to the prison where he was met by five friends and supporters. He arrived right on time at 2 pm as ordered but was told by the guard at the gate to wait across the street because they had to check on paperwork. Everyone then went across the street and sat on some concrete road barriers at the curb. The prison is in an industrial zone with busy truck traffic and an Amazon warehouse. Hours passed without any progress. Luz and Soli had to drive back to New Haven. When a severe thunderstorm blew in everyone went around the corner to an enclosed bus stop as advised by the guard. Finally another guard came by and told Mark he better check in again as there had been a shift change. Sure enough the new guard at the gate didn't know what had happened but quickly arranged for two marshals to come out and take Mark in. It was now almost 5:30. The BoP was in no hurry to take Mark in.

Martha Hennessy is in a halfway house in Manchester, NH for three weeks. She has been through quarantine and is now allowed out for a short while each day. She doesn't know how long she will be kept there before being allowed to return to her home in Vermont. She continues to write reflections which are put on the website under jail reflections.

Carmen Trotta is under home confinement at a friend's apartment in NYC. He has now received permission to go to church on Sunday and a gym twice a week. He's hoping to be allowed to go to the Catholic Worker to cook.

9 Jun - NYC ABC Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War Version 14.4 released

We've finished the latest version of the NYC ABC "Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War" and it's available for viewing (and download) by clicking on the tab at the top of nycabc.wordpress.com

MORE:

This update includes updated mini-bios, photos, and address changes for several prisoners. Unfortunately, we are adding a prisoner to the guide this month—Kings Bay Plowshares 7 defendant Mark Colville. We are thankful to remove whistleblower Reality Winner (halfway house)!

9 Jun - Fire Ant: Anarchist Prisoner Solidarity #9 Released

Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross has released the latest issue of Fire Ant, a quarterly publication focused on spreading the words of anarchist prisoners and generating material solidarity for our imprisoned friends.

MORE:

Begun as a collaboration between anarchist prisoners and anarchists in Maine, *Fire Ant* seeks to raise material aid for anarchist prisoners while fostering communication between anarchists on both sides of the walls.

Issue #9 is a special June 11th edition. It features an article about Eric King, an update from Sean Swain, a letter about Prison Lives Matter by Jennifer Rose, a piece by Comrade Z, explorations of prisoner support by Peter Werbe and someone from the Anarchist Black Cross, and the 2021 June 11th statement. It can be downloaded at bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org/fire-ant

11 Jun - The origins of the June 11th Day of Solidarity

Civil Liberties Defense Center has article on the origin of the June 11th day of solidarity for Marius Mason and anarchist prisoners. We're including reports as they trickle in on June 11 events and actions, too.

MORE:

"June 11th is a reminder to us that though we spend our days outside of a prison many of our friends and allies spend theirs behind bars having sacrificed what little freedom they had to fight for something greater than themselves. We have a responsibility to them and to ourselves to struggle and fight until all are free."

– Jeff "Free" Luers, former Green Scare prisoner

When you're a political prisoner, the cards are stacked against you in a very purposeful way by the carceral State. Prisoners who feel isolated from their families and friends, uncared for, and forgotten, are more easily demoralized and depoliticized. For these reasons, it means so much for supporters on the outside to show solidarity with incarcerated comrades by maintaining contact through letters, sending books, and raising funds for their commissary needs. Sharing ongoing updates with your networks about how prisoners are faring while locked up is an act of resistance. New York City Anarchist Black Cross compiles and publishes a newsletter every other week for just this purpose.

Through June 11 and other campaigns, activist supporters from all over the world are regularly reminded that the collective work for liberation and the abolition of the prison industrial complex is intimately linked to prisoners' struggles. After all, any one of us who demonstrates our defiance of the State's profit-driven, racist ecocide could be next. Movements cannot afford to abandon prisoners who have put their freedom on the line — sometimes for decades — for acting upon their ethical convictions.

Since 2004, when June 11 was established as the International Day of Solidarity with eco-prisoner Jeff "Free" Luers, people from around the world have come together to show their support for anarchist and other political prisoners through a variety of tactics that have ranged from letter-writing events to banner drops, and more. We invite you to join the day of solidarity by attending a local event or simply writing a letter from wherever you are.

Marius Mason, a trans Green Scare prisoner and (previous CLDC client), is an anarchist environmental, animal rights, and labor activist currently serving nearly 22 years in federal prison for acts of property damage carried out in defense of the planet. He is also a painter and poet.

CLDC client Eric King, is another prisoner who urgently needs support. Eric is an anarchist political prisoner serving a 10-year sentence for attempted arson of a government official's office in Kansas City, Missouri, in September 2014. He acted in solidarity with the Ferguson uprising and rebellion — a movement that took place over the summer of 2014 in response to the Ferguson police murder of Michael Brown. Last month we filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on Eric's behalf against the Federal Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") and more than 40 of its correctional officers. His constitutional rights have been continually violated since 2018 and his life and safety are regularly in jeopardy in retaliation for his political and anti-racist actions while incarcerated. King has been held in solitary confinement (the Special Housing Unit, or SHU) for over 1,000 days with no explanation or legal justification, in violation of BOP and federal statutory policy. He is currently one of only 80 people who have been held in the SHU for more than a year, let alone almost three years.

You can learn more about other incarcerated anarchists, by visiting the June 11 website, which also includes information about how to reach out and show your support — which is appreciated more than those of us on the outside could know. If you have never written to a prisoner before, that's OK! You can learn more about sometimes very stringent prison rules regarding mail to prisoners and how to start at nycabc.wordpress.com/write-a-letter

June 11th - Fight Toxic Prisons: In Solidarity with Eco/Anarchist Prisoners

This year, as with every year, Fight Toxic Prisons would like to take some time to commemorate June 11th. Historically, since the early 2000's, June 11th has been a day to remember, stand in solidarity with, and renew our commitment to liberation for long-term anarchist and environmentalist prisoners. We at FTP would like to extend our commitment to any and all who suffer at the hands of the prison industrial complex, on June 11th and every day. However, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the specific struggles of environmentalist prisoners, those who are fighting for the very lifeblood of this planet. Within the past year, eco-defenders have been harassed with grand jury subpoenas (such as Steve Martinez, a NoDAPL Water Protector who refused to testify and was imprisoned for 60 days), subjected to imprisonment without bail (as happened to Wren and Acre, two tree-sitters with Appalachians Against Pipelines) and more. Even now, the campaign to Stop Line 3, a toxic tar sands pipeline that is being built through Anishinaabe and Dakota territories, has seen hundreds of arrests at the hands of Minnesota police, and the RCMP has been arresting forest defenders in the Fairy Creek area of Vancouver Island, BC. The fight continues!

We are taking this opportunity to also support long term eco-prisoners by donating to an FTP commissary funds and through letter writing to some of our incarcerated comrades.

June 13th - Rail disruption in solidarity with imprisoned anarchists

Cincinnati, Ohio (USA) - Rail disruption in solidarity with imprisoned anarchists, Received anonymously

Using copper wire we sent false signals on five sets of freight trains tracks around Cincinnati, ideally delaying or stopping all rail traffic that day. We want to acknowledge the sacrifice of imprisoned anarchists and our desire to halt industrial society. There is so much spirit in our shared struggles and we refuse to allow the prevailing order to crush it. In pursuit of wildness and anarchy.

20 Jun - Anarchists Care About Books: We Do This 'Til We Free Us by Mariame Kaba

WHAT: Book club

WHEN: 4:00pm Sunday, June 20th

WHERE: YOUR HOME (Details below)

COST: FREE

MORE:

RSVP at withfriends.co/event/10931011/anarchists_care_about_books

Anarchists Care About Books has met in person at Bluestockings for over 2 years. In light of the pandemic, we are experimenting with hosting our discussions online. Our monthly book discussions focus on themes and political questions from each book. Our discussions are open to all anarchists, antifascists, anti-authoritarians and those interested in and curious about anarchist ideas and organizing. We recommend reading the book in advance of the discussion, but you are welcome to sit in without having read the book (as long as you don't mind some spoilers!). We try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction. These books are chosen by participants over our listserv every few months. We can provide a pdf/epub, if people struggle to acquire the book.

22 Jun - Third Spirit of Mandela Webinar

WHAT: Webinar

WHEN: 8:00pm, Tuesday, June 22nd, 2021

WHERE: Details below

COST: FREE

MORE:

The International Tribunal "In the Spirit of Mandela" coalition cordially invites you to our Third Webinar: *Leading Up till Tomorrow!: International Perspectives on Legal, Educational & Political Imperatives to hold the US government Accountable and END Human Rights Violations NOW!*

Featuring

Mary-Louise Patterson, MD: Board member, Physicians for a National Health Program; daughter of William Patterson (co-petitioner with Paul Robeson of historic 1951 WE CHARGE GENOCIDE filings to the United Nations)

Lennox Hinds: International Association of Democratic Lawyers; convenor of the historic 1979 Petition to the UN on Human Rights Violations in the US; convenor of the historic 2021 International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence Against People of African Descent in the US

Dr. Kwame-Osagyefo Kalimara: Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika; co-founder of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the New Afrikan People's Organization; professor of law, psychology, and history

Olga Sanabria Dávila: Comité de Puerto Rico en Naciones Unidas:

Advisor to the annual United Nations Decolonization Committee of 24 hearings on Puerto Rico

Joy James (invited): Abolition Collective Black Internationalist Unions; editor of The New Abolitionists and Imprisoned Intellectuals

With SPECIAL GUESTS... and emcees: **Matt Meyer** (IPRA; NEPPC) & **A'isha Mohammad** (Jericho)

To attend the webinar, register at crowdcast.io/e/international-tribunal/3

To get involved with and endorse the Tribunal, visit spiritofmandela.org