



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for July 13th

26 Jun - Leonard Peltier's June, 2021 Statement

We're always glad to share writings from Leonard Peltier...

MORE:

Another year is gone since I was able to write to you.

This past year has been so very tough for all of us. We have lost two of our greatest men. In December we lost my Brother Tom Poor Bear to Covid and now we have lost my brother and teacher Chief Leonard Crow Dog. Both were original AIM to the core and of course Treaty men. These were two great men who did so much for our people and the world looks very different now without them.

My memories of them both are clear and strong and I hold them in the highest respect.

I know Covid has been devastating and has caused great suffering in the Indian country and I am praying that it is coming to an end.

I send heartfelt condolences and love to all our people who have lost relatives and friends in this past year.

And my sister Belva has now walked on. She was a powerful water protector and Wounded Knee Veteran. She never stopped working for the people and for me.....even when she was very sick. I am grateful for her love and support all these years.

I send my love and condolences to all Belva's family and friends and the entire Oglala Oyate in these sad times.

As for me.....This past year the prison has been in lockdown almost constantly because of both Covid and gang violence. This has been hard on me and the others who are warehoused here. Almost like being in the hole for many months.....Almost.

I am hopeful that Covid is finally being brought under control. And that things will get better for our people in the coming months and years.

I want to send prayers for comfort for my Brother Edgar Bear Runner who is struggling now..

I am so proud of my young Brother Kevin Killer who I know will be a strong and honest Tribal Chairman for the Oglala Lakota people. I send him my prayers and support for the hard job he has taken on and my gratitude for his sacrifice for the people.

I am allowing myself to become hopeful and to believe that I may live long enough to walk out the doors of this concrete and steel cage. My health problems continue to mount but I am trying very hard to take care of myself in this place so that I can live long enough to get out of here on my feet.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have come together each year to remember me and all that was lost and gained on June 26th, 1975.

I say Thank You to all of my dear friends who continue to organize this day each year. To the Runners and the Riders and of course the elders who still come.

I hope that one day I can be there with you and can sing and pray and eat with all of you.

I remain your Brother and will keep hope alive for us all.

July 1st - Chase Iron Eyes: My D.C. trip to free Leonard Peltier

I've just returned from a productive, week-long trip in Washington, D.C. At the behest of Carol Gokee, president of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, I joined people from around the nation in taking action to raise awareness about Leonard's imprisonment, in hopes that he's eventually freed. I encourage you to watch a speech I gave on a Black Voters Matter stage in D.C., in which I express our solidarity for all political prisoners everywhere.

The events in the capital were scheduled around this past Saturday, which marked the 46-year anniversary of the shooting deaths of two FBI agents at Pine Ridge, for which Leonard was falsely convicted and sentenced in 1977. I have met with Leonard — an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe and an original American Indian Movement activist who fought hard to combat racism and police brutality. I visited him in Coleman, FL, at the federal prison where he has been incarcerated for more than 43 years. He is a good man.

Though President Obama denied his petition for clemency in 2017, the list of those who have voiced support for Leonard's freedom includes the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and Amnesty International. 55 members of Congress and counting have also called for his clemency, as has our first Indigenous U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. After Robert Redford visited Leonard in prison, he made the powerful documentary "Incident at Oglala — the Leonard Peltier Story," which I strongly recommend you watch, if you have not already done so.

It's a grave miscarriage of justice that Leonard remains behind bars, even after the FBI admitted that nobody knows who actually killed the agents. And it's not right that Leonard was never allowed to present evidence about 57 unsolved murders of Native people at Pine Ridge, a true reign of terror against AIM during the early 1970s. That's why I and Lakota Law will continue to work with a diverse coalition of partners — including Carol and her committee, Leonard's lead counsel, Kevin Sharp, and AIM activist Jean Roach — to ensure we're doing everything possible to get him out.

28 Jun - Political Prisoner Xinachtli's case featured on The Final Straw Radio

Via our friends at The Final Straw...

MORE:

Listen at thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/post/2021/06/27/free-xinachtli-and-updates-from-greece

This week, we're featuring two main portions of the show. You'll hear updates from Greek comrades at 1431 AM free social radio in Thessaloniki and Radiozones Of Subversive Expression, 93.8 FM pirate radio in Athens. Both of these were featured on the latest episode of Bad News: Angry Voices from Around The World, available the middle of each month at A-Radio-Network.org. Prior to that, you'll hear anarchist prisoner Xinachtli talk about his life and his case.

This segment was first aired on TFSR in 2013 and then again in 2015. We thought it was time to share some of the story of Chicax, anarchist-communist political prisoner Xinachtli, in his own words. Throughout the segments original audio, I used his state name of Alvaro Luna-Hernandez as he had not yet

adopted the moniker Xinachtli, which means “seed” in Nahuatl. Xinachtli is a collective member at and editor of the Certain Days political prisoner calendar.

Xinachtli is serving a 50 year sentence since 1996 in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for aggravated assault on a Sheriff in Alpine, Texas. The Sheriff was serving a warrant for Xinachtli’s re-arrest at Xinachtli’s home. When questioned on the nature of the warrant, the Sheriff pulled a gun and Xinachtli was able to disarm him and make an escape without harming the Sheriff significantly.

After a few days of man-hunt, his mothers house was surrounded by numerous local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the house was beseiged. It was only a 9-1-1 call from Xinacthli made stating that he was not being allowed to surrender that caused the troops to stand down and he allowed himself to be taken into state custody.

The grounds for the arrest warrant have since been overturned, but based on the post-facto word of the Sheriff that Xinachtli had pointed the gun at him, Xinachtli was sentenced to 50 years. He’s been determined to be a political prisoner based on his participation in multiple cases against abuse by prison officials and police, his jailhouse lawyering, advocacy for Latinx and other marginalized people in Texas and his political stance that the US and state governments occupying the Southwest of Turtle Island is a racist and illegitimate regime.

Here is featured an interview with Xinachtli that we received from comrades in the Anarchist Black Cross who were doing support work for him. The original interview was incomplete, missing the voice of the interviewer, so we did our best to edit and reconstruct the audio to better fit a conversational format and present his conflicts with the Prison Industrial Complex, his views on his political prisoner status at the time of this interview and his views on his case. More info on his case, plus his writings and ways to get involved in his support campaign can be found at FreeAlvaro.Net.

29 Jun - Cops Brutalize and Arrest Queer Marchers on Anniversary of Uprising

After the Queer Liberation March and the Stonewall Protests' Pride March, the police brutally arrested eight people. We must fight for the charges to be dropped, against the racist police and for the right to free, public space.

MORE:

by Tatiana Cozzarelli (Left Voice)

Just one day before the 52nd anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, a riot against the police led by trans women of color, New York City cops brutalized and arrested marchers as well as a street vendor.

On early Sunday evening, after the Queer Liberation March and the Stonewall Protests' Pride March, people poured into Washington Square Park. After individuals allegedly moved barricades, the police arrested, brutalized, and pepper-sprayed eight people.

Journalist Janus Rose told Gothamist, "The park was packed and people were just hanging out and having a good time after the Queer Liberation March. Then all of a sudden we started seeing dozens of police vans circle around the park with their sirens and lights flashing, pedal to the metal."

Videos on Twitter show swarms of police in riot gear surrounding the park. Some officers pepper-sprayed people who were merely standing around.

Four people were charged with disorderly conduct, and four more with resisting arrest, obstructing administration, and criminal possession of a weapon.

This just highlights that 52 years after the Stonewall uprising, the police remain a racist force of repression against the most marginalized amongst us. It proves that even though they now drape themselves in rainbow flags and even "apologize" for the brutality shown at Stonewall in 1969, they are the same racist, brutal force that they have always been.

But times have changed. The police don't repress wealthy, white gay men at expensive parties — they repress working-class queer people of color crowded in the streets, and the unhoused people who spend time in the park. In a city with more empty apartments than unhoused people, the capitalist state still pretends that it's impossible to provide housing for those who need it. We call bullshit.

In the past few weeks Washington Square Park has become the center of protests. As youth of color, activists, and unhoused folks attempt to enjoy the free public space, the police have increasingly begun to repress, arrest, and brutalize the people in the park. This is part of the continued gentrification of the West Village at large — the wealthy people in the neighborhood don't want to see unhoused people or radical youth outside their doorstep or expensive bars.

The NYPD already announced a 10 p.m. curfew for the park in order to justify their repression against the many people — mostly people of color — who hang out there. But on Sunday, thousands of people broke curfew in an act of joyous defiance.

But this is not enough.

We must demand, organize, and mobilize for the charges against those arrested to be immediately dropped. We must fight for the end to the Washington Square Park curfew and an end to the racist police. And we must fight for the right to free, public space.

30 Jun - M4BL: Bring Former Black Panther Sundiata Acoli Home!

The Bring Sundiata Acoli Home Alliance (BSAHA), has regrouped and is committed to utilizing this moment to bring Sundiata home this year after 48 years of tortured incarceration.

MORE:

Today we are writing in support of the fight to release former Black Panther and elder Sundiata Acoli. This year, on January 14th, Sundiata spent his 84th birthday in a prison cell and his health is deteriorating in his late stage of life. Sundiata is an educator, mathematician, poet, profound visual artist, mentor, and grandfather.

Sundiata suffers from advanced dementia, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, emphysema, post COVID 19 symptoms and glaucoma. He also still suffers from lingering COVID-19 symptoms. His life and health are in jeopardy as he continues to battle harmful prison conditions.

Sundiata Acoli was convicted in the murder of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerester in 1973 and sentenced to life in prison. A life sentence in New Jersey means that he was eligible, by law, for parole after serving twenty-five years. Sundiata has repeatedly expressed his heart-felt remorse for decades. In his 2016 appearance before the full parole board he said; "I offer my deepest remorse and sincerest apology to Trooper Foerester's family for my crime and I hope it will be accepted in the spirit offered and provide them with a measure of solace and peace."

The BSAHA is calling for NJ Governor Phil Murphy to release Sundiata Acoli immediately! We are calling on allied organizations and institutions to support Sundiata by signing and sharing this petition <tiny.cc/SundiataClemency>. We welcome collaborations and partnerships to help secure Sundiata's release. Sundiata's life depends on us. We must #BringSundiataHome now!

July 7th - Art 4 Liberation: A Virtual Conversation with Sophia Dawson and Emory Douglas

On June 23rd, BSAHA hosted Art 4 Liberation, a virtual conversation and art showing with two powerful visual artists, Sophia Dawson and Emory Douglas. Emory and Sophia discussed the life, art, and contributions of Sundiata Acoli.

They also shared their personal stories of their connection and relationships with Sundiata. The conversation and images presented during this event were inspiring. View Art 4 Liberation at youtu.be/GwAKqkxJ2a4

1 Jul - Prison Break: See You When I'm Free

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

MORE:

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

In the last month we mourned the loss of three revolutionaries, all from different movements and all former political prisoners. Sebastian "Sabi" Senakiewicz of the NATO5 passed unexpectedly on May 30, at age 33. American Indian Movement spiritual leader Leonard Crow Dog passed away on June 6. And on June 16, following ongoing revelations of how the city of Philadelphia murdered and hid her children, MOVE member Consuewella Africa passed on. Sabi, Leonard Crow Dog, and Consuewella Africa Presente!

In June we also witnessed wide scale mass arrests of those protesting the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline, which is still under construction. Over 100 Water Protectors were arrested in Minnesota as they engaged in civil disobedience and blockaded the pipeline pump station. More than 200 were arrested in northern Minnesota, and 31 others days later, all while protesting Line 3 construction.

With further discoveries of residential school mass graves, people across so-called Canada channeled feelings of grief and rage into action...[Making] connections between Canada's violent history of colonialism and its ongoing destruction of the land, and targeting of Indigenous peoples.

As you switch your Certain Days calendar from June to July we hope you appreciate the beautifully vibrant portrait of Assata Shakur, painted by former political prisoner and frequent calendar contributor Tom Manning. Active with the United Freedom Front, Tom Manning spent 53 years imprisoned before he passed away in July 2019. The essay for the month, entitled "Dykes and Fags Want to Know," is an interview between former Resistance Conspiracy case political prisoners Linda Evans, Laura Whitehorn, and Susan Rosenberg, first published in 1991 by Queers United in Support of Political Prisoners (QUISP).

Here's a look back at June, and ways to get involved in July.

Releases, Acquittals, and Dropped Charges

On June 4, imprisoned whistleblower Reality Winner was finally released to a halfway house after serving most of her 5-year sentence under extreme duress. After testing positive for Covid-19 and being denied compassionate release, Reality Winner is now on home confinement though still under Federal custody.

Ongoing Cases

There is an ongoing clemency campaign for Dr. Mutulu Shakur, whose health has continued to deteriorate during his more than 35 years of incarceration. Sign and share the petition, write to Dr. Shakur, and join in the struggle to free him: tiny.cc/MutuluClemency

On June 8, Kings Bay Plowshares 7 defendant Mark Colville reported to MDC Brooklyn to serve his 21 month sentence.

Certain Days to Keep in Mind

As you'll see in your 2021 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar, July is full of radical and commemorative dates. This month, we mourn the passing in 2019 of political prisoner Tom Manning and anarchist and antifascist Willem Van Spronsen. We commemorate prisoner-led strikes and resistance at Pelican Bay in California, Bedford Hills in New York, and in Terre Haute. We also celebrate the takeover of Lincoln Hospital in 1970 by members of the Young Lords, and the birth of revolutionary Assata Shakur 74 years ago.

2 Jul - Button fundraiser for Gage Halupowski

Twitter user @genderended is raising funds for anti-racist political prisoner Gage Halupowski.

MORE:

We are selling these buttons sliding scale \$1-\$5 for Gage's birthday to put \$ on his books! To order send \$ to our payment apps (Venmo: genderenders Cashapp: \$genderenders) and put "gage" in the notes and send us a screenshot! If you can't donate write him a letter.

2 Jul - FBI Doorknocks Again in Washington State

With federal agents attempting to make contact with people in Washington state, we want to remind everyone that STFU Friday is every day. Sent from Puget Sound Anarchists.

MORE:

If you're contacted by federal law enforcement don't talk to them. Get yourself into a safe situation and then call the NLG Federal Defense Hotline: 212.679.2811

Having a plan with your loved ones and housemates about what to do if an agent knocks is very important in times like these. Getting everyone on the same page helps keep everyone safer. For more info check crimethinc.com/2017/05/17/if-the-fbi-approaches-you-to-become-an-informant-an-faq-what-you-need-to-know

Tell your community about the visit or interaction. Putting out good info keeps rumors from spreading. The less isolated we are the stronger we are in facing repression. We can post info for you if you do not feel comfortable to post it yourself: nycabc@riseup.net

4 Jul - New Writings by Hanif Shabazz Bey

We haven't heard from Hanif Shabazz Bey in a while and recently received two pieces via one of his supporters. Both were written in May, but now that we have them, we will share below.

MORE:

May 19th - Free The Fathers

I am 70-years-old, and this coming September I will be 71, and will have been locked up for my 49th consecutive year in prison.

At the age of 27 I met Leonard Peltier in the US Federal prison at Marion, Il., and at the age of 29 I met Leonard again in Lompoc, CA.

Leonard Peltier is 6 years older than I.

I recall attending an “African Cultural Society” program at Marion in 1977, and Leonard was also in attendance.

There came a question & answer segment of the program, and as I sat attentively in the background Leonard approached me and said “Bro. Hanif, you have a political case, and at times like this, you should assert yourself, and let your views be heard.”

It was encouragement as it was this that catapulted me through the years, to be outspoken on issues affecting Prisoners.

In more than 46 years in prison, Leonard has been confined to some of the most violent Prisons in the Federal Prison System. Prisons that have always been awry with violence due to disputes and Rivalry, and through it all Leonard has remained a helpful Prisoner, who will give other Prisoners encouraging advice.

I also met, and served time in the same cell block with Sundiata Acoli in the mid eighties in Marion, Ill.

He is 14 years my senior, and a bastion of knowledge in the struggles of the oppressed People of the World. Whenever I approached his Cell, I would be met with a broad smile that was enhanced by the Thick Lens Reading Glasses that he wore.

He is a brilliant educator, with a photoscopic memory, and a gregarious spirit, who is affectionately called “Sunni” by his Prison Peers.

At least, this is how I recall Sundiata, but now at age 84, and having suffered a series of health maladies including Co-Vid-19, and now in the early stages of Dementia.

Both Sundiata and Leonard are experiencing serious health problems, and with their Remaining Time, if they were Released would make many contributions to their Families and Communities.

Yes, both of these Humanitarians were involved in actions that Resulted in 2 Agents of the State losing their Lives. However, there has Never been any evidence that the bullet from either of their weapons took the lives of their victims.

Throughout their incarceration Neither of these men have ever been accused or charged with committing acts of violence against anyone, which Attest to the fact that Neither has a propensity for violence. Yet still, the State continues to maintain their vindictive state sponsored attempt to murder.

On November 16th, 1968, U.S. Troops on Patrol in the Sovereign Nation of Viet Nam came upon the Village of “My Lai”, and one Lt. William Calley gave the order to Attack this Village.

This Attack resulted in the death of 138 unarmed Women and Children.

For his Actions Lt. William Calley spent less than 5 years in a “Country Club” Detention Compound in the States.

It’s as if these two men are paying for Lt. Calley’s crime, because they both came to Prison around the time Lt. Calley was being released.

The State uses Sundiata and Leonard’s continued torture and incarceration to dishearten and put fear into those who would dare to stand up and fight for Social Justice.

When I look at Sundiata’s situation, I see myself in the same predicament 14 years from now, and I am not disheartened at the possibility. Instead my convictions are strengthened to continue Resisting a System that is so despairingly Unjust in the dispensing of Justice.

May 31st - Sunni Needs Our Help

Just a brilliant Country Boy who came along with a smile, and a willingness to help.

The more he studied and learned, the harder they tried to circumvent his ability to help.

Through decades of torment his smile remained bright, and his study turned to wisdom, as he continued to help.

Who ever thought that the Country Boy would become a treasure so rich. A treasure so rich, that the more they tried to hide it, the more it continued to help.

The Country Boy knew that the more he sweat, the less he would bleed, so he continued to move forward, and he continued to help.

Now legions of helpers came forward following the Country Boy’s example, all eager to study and eager to help.

The Country Boy is now ready for some fresh air, and yet it will not be easy, but he knows he will need our help.

4 Jul - Running Down the Walls Save the Date

NYC ABC is excited to announce that we will be hosting an in-person Running Down the Walls on September 12, 2021 in Prospect Park, Brooklyn!

MORE:

Details will follow and of course this decision is dependent on how the pandemic variations spread, but we are excited to finally see folks in person. Stay tuned to nycabc.wordpress.com for more information.

4 Jul - David Elmakayes, BLM defendant, Needs \$ For Lawyer

David Elmakayes, who is being charged for his participation in last summer’s George Floyd uprisings in Philadelphia, needs money to hire a new attorney. Donate at gofund.me/53f3ddb1

MORE:

Currently, his public defender is trying to get him to snitch on other defendants to benefit his own case and David wants no part of it. David is being charged with:

- Maliciously damaging property used in interstate commerce by means of explosive (1 count)

- Carrying explosives during the commission of a felony (1 count)
- Possession of a firearm by a felon (1 count)

5 Jul - Water Protector sentenced to 8 years in Federal Prison for actions to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline

A Federal Judge sentenced Jessica Reznicek to 8 years in prison, followed by 3 years supervised probation, and a huge restitution paid to ETP for the actions she took in 2016 to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline.

MORE:

“I am saddened to be preparing for prison following today’s sentencing hearing. My spirit remains strong, however, as I feel held in love, support and prayer by so many near and far. Regardless of my sentence I am hopeful that movements to protect the water live on in the struggles against Line 3 and the Mountain Valley Pipelines,” said Reznicek.

The judge sided with the Federal prosecutors and applied a domestic terrorism enhancement to Jessica’s case. The enhancement originated in the Bush era Patriot Act, which expanded the definition of terrorism to cover “domestic,” as opposed to international, terrorism. The prosecutor requested the enhancement claiming that Jessica’s acts of resistance were “violent”, “dangerous”, and sought to “intimidate the government”. The judge decided that this argument provided enough evidence to substantiate the enhancement, saying it was necessary to discourage others from taking similar actions. The enhancement increases Jessica’s sentence, but also has far reaching implications for broader social justice movements. This use of this enhancement interprets non-violent actions that challenge corporate profit as acts of terror against the government.

On today’s decision one of Jessica’s attorneys Bill Quigley stated, “Unfortunately, actions to protect our human right to water were found to be less important than the profit and property of corporations which are destroying our lands and waters. For a country which was founded by the rebellion of the Boston Tea Party this is extremely disappointing. But the community of resistance will no doubt carry on. And history will judge if Jessica Reznicek is a criminal or a prophet. Many of us are betting she’s a prophet.” In her statement to the court Jessica highlighted how the water system for her hometown of Des Moines is on the verge of collapse. The city water department has admitted that both the Des Moines and Racoon rivers are so polluted and low that in the upcoming weeks they might not be able to continue to use them to supply the capital with drinking water.

Meanwhile “victim” in this case Energy Transfer Partners and its subsidiaries are responsible for 313 reported spills since 2012 on liquid lines, 35 caused water contamination. In the last 5 years the company had more accidents harming people or the environment than any other operator. Jessica will remain on house arrest until she has to self-report for her sentence and plans to file an appeal within the 14 day window allowed by the court.

5 Jul - Report from July 3 Mumia Rally

Rain prevented folks from marching but the participants and the Mumia puppet moved under the Municipal Office Building’s overhang and continued to rally.

MORE:

First was the assembly of the puppet, under the direction of Jacqueline Wade and Little Wolf. NBC Channel 10 filmed us putting it together and interviewed Jacqueline, Little Wolf and me about the puppet and Mumia’s case. If it gets aired, we will share it.

Just ten minutes into the rally, rain and thunder showed up, forcing us to take cover. We had to abandon the planned march but all the speakers were able to give their presentations.

6 Jul - Eric King's Communication Restrictions Updates

Eric's communication restrictions were set to expire July 7th and the state toyed with him instead.

MORE:

The last time the restrictions expired it took him about 2 weeks to receive his first piece of mail. Then, after 2 weeks the BOP renewed the restrictions for 6 more months. Eric is also pretrial right now so avoid conversations about his case please!

July 10th - Eric given another 6 month general correspondence restriction.

Not the post we wanted to be making, but on July 7th after his communication restrictions expired SIS (special investigation services) from FCI Englewood gave him word that they were renewing the expired restrictions. For another 6 months, Eric will be unable to communicate with anyone who is not family. This will bring him to a total of a year and a half being held incommunicado from the public when this restriction ends. Like the last two blocks this one comes without much explanation other than a general statement about how his communication might pose a threat to the institution and to the public.

The first communication restriction was given to him 2 months into the pandemic.

It's a weird flex for the BOP to remove a prisoner's only method of communication with the world 2 months into a global pandemic. (Even though he was approved for visits and the CARES act allowed him to conduct them over the phone FCI Englewood did not provide his first sporadic call until almost a year later.) The pandemic brought instead of compassion, isolation and a life of constant attack via the federal officers at FCI Englewood.

While this is a typical move when it comes to a prisoner the bureau wants to silence, it is complete deprivation from his community and the outside world.

Today marks 1,056 days of being held in segregation without even a reason.

7 Jul - Welcome home Michele

Lore sent supporters a portrait of Michele Wood, with whom she's been incarcerated, and who will soon be released from FDC Philadelphia.

MORE:

If you can, Venmo @WeLoveLore with "Michele" in the memo to help her back on her feet. Lore writes...

There is this person, she describes her as creative, resilient, and a motivator. To me, she is all of these, and an angel. A friend, a guide.

Michele is the creator of her own liberation. She has taught me through example that it is possible to grow no matter the environment. She has shown me how to make lemonade from a poisoned well. She is the architect of her future despite, not because of, her situation. In a time when people who look like her are assumed guilty, assumed criminal, she remains determined to be free.

She has shown me how to navigate incarceration in legal, social, and emotional ways. She has taught me that I must choose carefully what I pour myself into. She has taught me how to inspire and how to move

with purpose. If she is pointing out a problem, she always provides a solution. She has taught me to be an inspiration to myself, to keep expectations of my integrity at the highest level. She teaches me by living these truths. With her guidance I have begun removing my unhelpful pride, and triple checking that my actions are not harmful, no matter my intention.

If you knew her you'd know all of this--she speaks volumes for herself. I wish she should show more bravado, but she wears her pride tight.

She has been the only fellow inmate to ask me, 'what are you going to do with your time here?' Despite the well known cycle for African-Americans of assumed guilt, segregation, inequity, arrest, incarceration, surveillance, and re-arrest, she stays motivating herself and others. She is determined to create generational wealth for her future kids. She is going to be an incredible partner to a future wife.

When I push the limits, she tells me how to scale it back, how to not get in my own way, how to not add to my karma. She has reminded me that I can do better.

I want her to live her dreams. Please, join me in boosting this amazing human all the way up. She has taught me the importance of a free mind. Please, join me in supporting her freedom.

She has made me question many things I believe in. She sees the bigger picture and every side to the story--a Libra, after all! She has taught me to weigh all my solutions. She has shown me infinite patience.

I hope she gets to see the best of this world; a fresh, saltwater pool to dip her toes in; a colorful rain forest to breathe in; a place to run with her favorite wild cats; a world worthy of throwing her heart into.

She never sleeps on something important--thinks on her feet. She moves and she thinks like a boxer. She is quick, striking, impactful. She has taught me that you can find love anywhere. She reminds me to take no one and nothing for granted. I cannot wait for you to meet her. I look forward to her first step out the door, towards home. And her first ice cream come! Get her something sweet, please!

She is a role model, and the kids in her family need her back. She has wonderful things in store. With her creative mind she always has a few things cooking. She makes me laugh so hard my ribs hurt. She makes me laugh the hardest at myself. Some lessons can only be taught with canyons full of humility.

She is funny, totally awe-worthy, and damn beautiful. Grateful is only skimming the surface of how I feel about her. I am swimming in those sometimes still, sometimes rapid, always deep waters of hers. I know she will be embraced by my family around the world, my family who is as solid, inspiring kind and loyal as she is. I hope you get to know her, you'd be lucky. I know I am.

6 Jul - Why Daniel Hale Deserves Gratitude, Not Prison

The whistleblower acted on behalf of the public's right to know what is being done in its name.

MORE:

by Kathy Kelly (*The Progressive*)

"Pardon Daniel Hale."

These words hung in the air on a recent Saturday evening, projected onto several Washington, D.C. buildings, above the face of a courageous whistleblower facing ten years in prison.

The artists aimed to inform the U.S. public about Daniel E. Hale, a former Air Force analyst who blew the whistle on the consequences of drone warfare. Hale will appear for sentencing before Judge Liam O'Grady on July 27th.

The U.S. Air Force had assigned Hale to work for the National Security Agency. At one point, he also served in Afghanistan, at the Bagram Air Force Base.

“In this role as a signals analyst, Hale was involved in the identifying of targets for the US drone program,” notes Chip Gibbons, policy director for Defending Rights & Dissent, in an article about Hale's case. “Hale would tell the filmmakers of the 2016 documentary National Bird that he was disturbed by ‘the uncertainty if anyone I was involved in kill[ing] or captur[ing] was a civilian or not. There's no way of knowing.’”

Hale, thirty-three, believed the public wasn't getting crucial information about the nature and extent of U.S. drone assassinations of civilians. Lacking that evidence, U.S. people couldn't make informed decisions. Moved by his conscience, he opted to become a truth-teller.

The U.S. government is treating him as a threat, a thief who stole documents, and an enemy. If ordinary people knew more about him, they might regard him as a hero.

Hale was charged under the Espionage Act for allegedly providing classified information to a reporter. The Espionage Act is an antiquated World War I era law, passed in 1917, designed for use against enemies of the U.S. accused of spying. The U.S. government has recently dusted it off for use against whistle blowers.

Individuals charged under this law are not allowed to raise any issues regarding motivation or intent. They literally are not allowed to explain the basis for their actions.

One observer of whistleblowers' struggles with the courts was himself a whistleblower. Tried and convicted under the Espionage Act, John Kiriakou spent two and a half years in prison for exposing government wrongdoing. He says the U.S. government in these cases engages in “charge stacking” to ensure a lengthy prison term as well as “venue-shopping” to try such cases in the nation's most conservative districts.

Daniel Hale was facing trial in the Eastern District of Virginia, home to the Pentagon as well as many CIA and other federal government agents. He was facing up to 50 years in prison if found guilty on all counts.

On March 31, Hale pled guilty on one count of retention and transmission of national defense information. He now faces a maximum of ten years in prison.

At no point has he been able to raise before a judge his alarm about the Pentagon's false claims that targeted drone assassination is precise and civilian deaths are minimal.

Hale was familiar with details of a special operations campaign in northeastern Afghanistan, Operation Haymaker. He saw evidence that between January 2012 and February 2013, “U.S. special operations airstrikes killed more than 200 people. Of those, only 35 were the intended targets. During one five-month period of the operation, according to the documents, nearly 90 percent of the people killed in airstrikes were not the intended targets.”

Had he gone to trial, a jury of his peers might have learned more details about consequences of drone attacks, typically outfitted with Hellfire missiles, designed for use against vehicles and buildings.

Living Under Drones, the most complete documentation of the human impact of U.S. drone attacks yet produced, reports:

“The most immediate consequence of drone strikes is, of course, death and injury to those targeted or near a strike. The missiles fired from drones kill or injure in several ways, including through incineration, shrapnel, and the release of powerful blast waves capable of crushing internal organs. Those who do survive drone strikes often suffer disfiguring burns and shrapnel wounds, limb amputations, as well as vision and hearing loss.”

A new variation of this missile can hurl about 100 pounds of metal through the top of a vehicle or building; the missiles also deploy, just before impact, six long, whirring blades intended to slice up any person or object in the missile’s path.

Any drone operator or analyst should be aghast, as Daniel Hale was, at the possibility of killing and maiming civilians through such grotesque means. But Daniel Hale’s ordeal may be intended to send a chilling message to other U.S. government and military analysts: keep quiet.

Nick Mottern, of the Ban Killer Drones campaign, accompanied artists projecting Hale’s image on various walls in D.C. He engaged people who were passing by, asking if they knew of Daniel Hale’s case. Not a single person he spoke with had. Nor did anyone know anything about drone warfare.

Now imprisoned at the Alexandria (VA) Adult Detention Center, Hale awaits sentencing.

Supporters urge people to “stand with Daniel Hale.” One solidarity action involves writing Judge O’Grady to express gratitude that Hale told the truth about the U.S. use of drones to kill innocent people.

At a time when drone sales and usage are proliferating worldwide and causing increasingly gruesome damage, President Joe Biden continues to launch killer drone attacks around the world, albeit with some new restrictions.

Hale’s honesty, courage, and exemplary readiness to act in accord with his conscience are critically needed. Instead, the U.S. government has done its best to silence him.

9 Jul - Make a call to help Drop the "FSP 3" Charges

Protesting in front of prisons is an important way of showing that the people inside are not forgotten or invisible.

MORE:

It’s also a way of engaging with current and former prison employees who need to know that the outside world is paying attention to what happens behind those walls. Whether or not one agrees with the message or tone of a protest, we all agree they are a fundamental part of maintaining a free society.

We are the friends and family of three people facing criminal charges for participating in one such protest at the gates of Florida State Prison on December 6, 2020, as part of a memorial for a beloved abolitionist organizer Karen Smith who died in a car accident a week earlier.

We’re asking you to contact the State Attorney’s office and encourage them to (1) respect constitutional right to free speech, and (2) be fiscally responsible with court resources by not prosecuting this case.

Use this form letter to send a quick email explaining why to stop prosecuting this case: tiny.cc/FSP3Letter

In addition to sending this email, you can also call the attorneys who are responsible for deciding how to handle the case:

Luis Bustamante, Division Chief Assistant State Attorney 904.966.6208

Scott LaPeer, Assistant State Attorney 352.374.3670

Brian Kramer, Head State Attorney of the 8th Judicial Circuit 352.374.3675

You can send postal mail expressing your concern to this address:

State Attorney, 8th Judicial Circuit

120 West University Avenue

Gainesville, Florida 32601-5381

Other ways to help:

- If you've got mainstream media contacts you can leverage to help attract attention to the case, get in touch with us.
- We also urgently need help with a quick turnaround video editing project - contact me for more info.
- We can also use donations towards legal costs:
- Venmo: @FreeFloridaF12 or Paypal: donate@flprisonersolidarity.org [note: the name that comes up will be Jordan- that's correct.]

11 Jul - Support Political Prisoner Ruchell Magee! Parole Board Hearing This Week!

Ruchell Magee is the longest-held political prisoner in the United States and the world.

MORE:

He has lived under the full weight of this rotten, racist California prison system for over 57 years but still remains strong at 81 years old.

Ruchell Magee was on the witness stand when the 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson broke into the courtroom, demanded the immediate release of the Soledad Brothers (George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette), and asked him if he wanted freedom. Magee responded "Take these chains off, I'm a free man!" In the tragic massacre of this modern day slave rebellion, the San Quentin guards shot and killed Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas, James McClain, and even Judge Harold Haley in a brutal onslaught. Only Magee survived, but he was critically wounded in the attack.

Magee was slapped with murder and conspiracy charges, but was only convicted of simple kidnapping.

Read More: liberationnews.org/free-ruchell-cinque-magee/

Emergency Call to Action

WRITE TO RUCHELL'S PAROLE BOARD

Ruchell Magee's next parole hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 15th. That gives us a few days to support him with as many letters of support as possible. Please take a couple of minutes to draft a letter using the guidelines below:

Write a one-page letter to Ruchell's parole board about your support for Ruchell based on his length of confinement (over 58 years). People have committed horrendous crimes and gotten much less time than Ruchell. Mention that Ruchell was very young when he was arrested and he should be able to enjoy the rest

of his life outside of captivity. Add that we as taxpayers pay to keep this elderly man incarcerated instead of in his community, where he could make a positive contribution toward community development. Send completed letters to:

Board of Parole Hearings
Post Office Box 4036
Sacramento, California 95812-4036

SIGN THE PETITION to Free Ruchell Magee at bit.ly/freeruchell

18 Jul - Balloons for Liberation and Justice!

WHAT: Vigil

WHEN: 2:00pm, Sunday, July 18th

WHERE: Marcus Garvey Park–124th Street and 5th Avenue, NYC

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join NYC Jericho and Friends as we remember those who have died from Covid inside the walls.

Join us as we stand in solidarity with U.S. held Political Prisoners who are suffering from medical neglect like Mumia Abu Jamal and Russell Maroon Shoatz.

Bring a balloon or candle!

If you have lost a loved one due to Covid inside or outside prison walls, please join us in memory of your loved one! More than 2,700 people have died unnecessarily from Covid in prisons throughout the U.S.

We will have music, poetry and speakers! José Saldana from the RAPP Campaign will be joining us to speak on this issue!

18 Jul - Anarchists Care About Books: The Salt Eaters by Toni Cade Bambara

WHAT: Book club

WHEN: 4:00pm Sunday, July 18th

WHERE: YOUR HOME (Details below)

COST: FREE

MORE:

RSVP at withfriends.co/event/10931020/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.