



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for December 14th

29 Nov - Year-end Giving for Political Prisoners

As 2021 comes to a close, the Anarchist Black Cross Federation is stronger than ever before. With community support, we have been able to donate thousands of dollars so far this year to political prisoners.

MORE:

Plus, the ABCF can now accept tax-deductible donations through our fiscal sponsor. With your continued support, we can further the struggle for freedom for all political prisoners.

This year was huge for the ABCF. We welcomed home several comrades after many years in prison: Jaan Laaman, David Gilbert and Russell Maroon Shoatz. As the struggle continues, we also added some newly incarcerated people to the list of people we support: Jessica Reznicek, Dan Baker. We are following cases coming out of the George Floyd uprising and ready to jump in lending support as needed. In solidarity beyond the imperialist border of the U.S., we officially extended our direct support to political prisoners held in Mexico who are now also on our list: Fidencio Aldama, José Antonio Arreola, José Luis Jiménez and José Gerardo Talavera. We also do our part in sustaining the international database of political prisoners on prisonersolidarity.com and have been able to lend monetary support for political prisoners internationally.

In addition to one-time contributions of funds upon a political prisoner's release or in other urgent situations, our Warchest Program currently provides 17 prisoners with \$50 a month to cover basic needs like stamps and phone time. From its inception in November 1994 to date, we have distributed over \$158,000 in funds [view our latest Warchest Report accounting for funds raised]. Our internal fundraising has been solid with large and successful Running Down the Walls events, but we want to do so much more in 2022.

We are an all-volunteer organization, dependent on contributions from people who are passionate about social justice. Please make a gift and invite your friends to do the same. Opportunities to free political prisoners are in reach— help us make them come to fruition!

To donate directly to the ABCF, send check or money order made out to Tim Fasnacht to Tim Fasnacht, Post Office Box 8682, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604 or use these links: Venmo: @TimFasnachtABCF | Cash App: \$Timabcf | PayPal: PayPal.me/abcfwarchest

To get a tax deduction for donations of \$500 or more, make your check out to GLACTS and send to Philly ABC, Post Office Box 8643, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101 so that it arrives no later than December 28th.

29 Nov - Help Bring Sundiata Home

For as long as the movement for Black liberation has existed, Black revolutionaries, organizers and activists have been targeted and vilified in attempts to dissuade us.

MORE:

Many of those targeted have lost their freedoms for speaking out against white supremacy and state violence. Some leaders who fought hard for a future in defense of Black lives have spent decades in prison. We have not been deterred in our efforts to achieve Black liberation, but as we continue the fight to free

ourselves, we must uplift our comrades' sacrifice and struggle. We continue to push forward for freedom for our people, and that includes our elders who are still in prison right now.

Today we focus our energy and support on Sundiata Acoli, a poet, artist, grandfather, and freedom fighter who has been in prison for nearly 50 years. Sundiata deserves to be free for the remainder of his life, and the Bring Sundiata Acoli Home Alliance (BSAHA) is working hard to make this a reality. We're sharing this powerful message from BSAHA seeking support in finally bringing Sundiata home. Together we can and will free our people from the cages that hold them.

Sign and share the Petition!

The BSAHA is calling for community members nationwide to support the release of Sundiata Acoli by signing & sharing the petition demanding New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy release him immediately. We are calling on allied organizations and institutions to share the petition with their base and membership. We welcome collaborations and partnerships to help secure Sundiata's release. Sundiata's life depends on us.

Donate Today!

The BSAHA consists of educators, attorneys, faith leaders, students, and activists committed to bringing Sundiata home this year! We are fundraising to offset the many expenses of this campaign. Our goal is \$300,000, we have already raised over \$80,000 towards campaign expenses. We need to raise the remaining \$2200K by the end of this year. We are looking to our friends, colleagues, and supporters to bring us closer to our goal by donating today. We appreciate you all for your commitment to bringing Sundiata home. We must #BringSundiataHome now! Donate today!

Online, tax-deductible donations can be made here. Please check "Sundiata Acoli Campaign" in the "What is your donation towards?" section. *No donation is too big.*

Paypal or Zelle donations can be made via: Y.MAJID0310@gmail.com

Checks should be made out to NAABPP (please write BSAHA in the memo section), mailed to:
Bring Sundiata Acoli Home Alliance
c/o NAABPP
Post Office Box 7978
Garden City, New York 11530

30 Nov - Eric King Update

Eric King's "Motion to Suppress" has been granted, in part. All that and more BELOW!

MORE:

“Despite the Court’s conclusion that factors one through four weigh in favor of the voluntary nature of Defendant’s statements, those factors simply do not outweigh the coercive effect that the physical and psychological suffering at the hands of BOP officials apparently had on Defendant.⁵ Therefore, in light of the foregoing, the Court finds that the Government has not met its burden to demonstrate that Defendant’s statements at the interview were voluntary. Accordingly, the Court concludes that Defendant’s will was overborne such that his statements on August 20, 2018 were involuntary and must be suppressed.”

At Eric’s disciplinary hearing on October 15th a federal judge for the first time was able to hear a bit of the abuse that Eric suffered at the hands of the Bureau of prisons. Because of this the court has granted the right to suppress Eric’s involuntarily statements during his interrogation. The judge's full order is here at cldc.org/cases/police-misconduct and you can read Eric’s entire testimony from the hearing at supporterickking.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/19cr257-Eric-King-10-14-2021-Motions1.pdf

December 6th - Tight ropes, taut lines

In the past three plus years I've been in the SHU (segregated housing unit), I've been directly aware of nine hangings. That is, occurred either on my range, in my cell, or near enough that I could hear the body hit the ground. Some of these were "cries for help", some were serious, all were scarring and devastating. Almost always BOP staff hides behind either indifference towards our lives, or bureaucratic policy to avoid actually helping... at USP Atlanta they rushed in and yanked the prisoner down (by the legs), slapping them, yelling to "be a man, not a bitch!" at other institutions they laugh, yelling to quit faking.

Two years ago, here at Englewood Levi hung up, and it took minutes before his door was opened... The guards who cared (there were a few), hamstrung by the policies they were too worried to violate. While some officers were distraught, others laughed calling Levi a "Turkish piñata"... rage swelling in my chest seeing how a desperate death could be mocked and belittled... at that time in the SHU we were not allowed radios, newspapers, magazines or personal books. We were told to deal with it "don't come to SHU if you can't handle it." Never mind the fact that for some...the SHU came to us, we could not avoid it, escape it, work our way out. You handle it or become a "piñata."

A few nights ago, Englewood's evening staff displayed its humanity and treated a human life like a human life. My next door neighbor hung from his sprinkler, his awoken celly lifting up his legs to relieve the pressure, screaming for help...and it came...the C.O.s Rushing in to get him down, the Lieutenant wasting no time, there would be no Levi repeat. Bravo really.

Despite this redeeming display, there will be more acts of desperation because being in the SHU pretrial is an exhausting, deeply desperate situation. We are allowed radios (if you have \$70 to spend), you can have reading material mailed in (if you have people to do it) but those things mean little in the late of the night, these tiny 6x8 noise boxes allow little comfort, yet plenty of despair. People who suffer withdrawal while the pharmacist refuses to institute the MAT program). People suffer anxiety, anger, migraines after losing access to coffee cold turkey, we suffer the loss of loving contact, going months or years being denied physical contact with our families during the most stressful periods of our lives. We still only see one hour outside a day, pacing around in a degrading dog kennel, most still only get one 15-minute phone call a week. My visiting situation is better than most (after a year plus during the pandemic with no visits or calls I have for the last couple months been allowed 1 hour visit a week) while the phone situation is worse... but for me right now visits>calls.

The first time in my bid I can say that it isn't even the staff that are the issue, back here right now we are being treated more decent, often guards will go out of their way to be respectful. The major issue is they are also constrained by policies. Personnel isn't the problem, policy is the problem, the SHU is the problem. The bureau leadership and policies they author. The problems are limitless...the lack of information, the once a week chance to get any news only to be told "nothing", the stress of trying to fight your case with drastically limited access to your legal team (and family and friends), the constant noise that refutes any hopes of thinking clearly for a minute, the being stuck and knowing all the kindness or good behavior in the world won't open that door. That combination would break the strongest back and it often does.

This (FCI Englewood) is the "easiest" SHU possible, and people still hang here, because even the softest SHU is a soul crippling death trap...we still have to beg and plead for medical attention, we still sleep directly next to our toilets...we still can't hug or kiss our families. We are stuck...long-term segregation must be abolished, the people who are chosen to write policies should not exist unchecked and have limitless ways to torture at their disposal, non-contact visits must be reverted back to contact, basic comforts like real hygiene and coffee must be allowed for purchase, access to information and those who have it must be increased. We need out of these cages.

Abolish the SHU, abolish state domination. Anarchy Always (A)

December 7th - We have a TRIAL DATE!!!

March 14th, 2022 is the date. Please plan to attend if possible and visit supportericking.org for more information as the day comes closer.

30 Nov - Free Leonard Peltier!

Join the global photo & video action urging President Biden to grant Leonard clemency!

MORE:

Amnesty International urges the Biden administration to act in the interest of justice and grant Leonard Peltier clemency—AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PHOTO ACTIONS

Take photos with Free Leonard Peltier signs. Make them yourself, or print these: tiny.cc/Peltier_Signs

Get creative! Write Free Leonard Peltier in the sand on your favorite beach, write it with stones, leaves, twigs, flowers, or people! Ask your local theater to put Free Leonard Peltier on the theater's marquee and take photos and post on Twitter and/or your preferred social media platform or upload at tiny.cc/LP_Upload

Take photos in front of landmarks, iconic places around the globe, cityscapes, murals, spaces in your community, including the Capitol building in your city, national parks, your garden, any natural setting—wherever you are in the world!

Ask your local bookstore to put a sign in the window or to order Leonard's book, "Prison Writings" or Peter Mathiessen's "In the Spirit of Crazy Horse" and display it in the window. Paint a painting or a mural. Get in the picture and post on social media!

Remember to always be very professional and polite in your ask!

Sample Tweets

.@amnesty calls on @POTUS to grant #NativeAmerican elder Leonard Peltier #CLEMENCY before it is too late. He is in very poor health and should live with his community @JoeBiden @VP @amnestyusa #FreeLeonardPeltier

Dear @POTUS please grant #clemency to #NativeAmerican elder Leonard Peltier. He is 77 in declining health and needs access to medical treatment. He has already served 2 sentences. @VP @amnestyusa @SpeakerPelosi #FreeLeonardPeltier #IndigenousRights

Peace Prize Laureates & religious & #humanrights leaders around the world like @NelsonMandela @DalaiLama @TheDesmondTutu have called for Leonard Peltier's release for 45+ years now @POTUS please grant #LeonardPeltier #CLEMENCY while there is still time #FREELEONARDPELTIER

VIDEO ACTION

1. Write an incisive 30-60 second script on why you think Leonard Peltier must be released. Introduce yourself and your city/state or country. See sample script below for pointers to pull a line or two from and stay on message!
2. Film horizontally with good lighting (no filters).
3. Make sure your audio is clear and good quality (no wind, or other noises).
4. Post on your social media platforms, be sure to tag President Biden @POTUS Vice President Kamala Harris @VP Amnesty International USA @amnestyusa so that we can amplify your activism! Please use the hashtag: #FreeLeonardPeltier
5. Please upload video and/or photos to tiny.cc/LP_Upload to allow Amnesty International USA Group 30 San Francisco to post and advocate for Leonard's freedom!

SAMPLE LINES FOR VIDEO ACTION

- 1.) "Hello President Biden, my name is [FIRST NAME] and I am a human rights defender in [CITY/STATE]." I am calling on you to please release Native American elder, Leonard Peltier.
- 2.) Leonard Peltier has spent more than 45 years in Federal prison, often in solitary confinement, for a crime he maintains he did not do.
- 3.) Leonard Peltier is 77, in rapidly declining health with life threatening conditions including an aortic aneurysm, diabetes & other serious illnesses. He needs access to medical treatment as soon as possible.
- 4.) Former US Attorney James Reynolds, the prosecutor who helped put Leonard behind bars, now calls for his clemency and admits that the prosecution and continued incarceration was and is unjust.
- 5.) Leonard Peltier's case is a prime example of unfair trials, misconduct and other injustices that first peoples, and BIPOC people face in a historically racist and biased legal and carceral system.
- 6.) Peace Prize Laureates, such as the late Nelson Mandela and many religious and human rights leaders like Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Coretta Scott King have called for Leonard Peltier's release.
- 7.) President Biden you have an opportunity to rectify a case that has troubled many people for decades. It is time to release Leonard Peltier!
- 8.) I am calling on you President Biden to grant Leonard Peltier clemency so that he can live his final days with his loved ones. In the name of justice, before it is too late please grant Leonard Peltier clemency.
- 9.) The time to act is now!

December 1st - Patrick Leahy Calls For Leonard Peltier's Release From Prison

by Jennifer Bendery (*HuffPost*)

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the former longtime chair of the Judiciary Committee and the longest-serving member of the U.S. Senate, said Tuesday that it's time for Native American activist Leonard Peltier to be released from federal prison and go home.

Without hesitation, Leahy, who is currently chair of the Appropriations Committee, answered yes to all of *HuffPost's* questions about Peltier.

Do you know who Peltier is? "Yes."

The Native American activist who's been in prison? For decades? "Yes."

Is it time for him to be released? "Yes."

It appears to be the first time Leahy has urged freedom for Peltier, making him the highest-ranked official in the U.S. government calling for his release. Leahy, who has announced he's retiring from the Senate, is third in the line of succession to the presidency, just after Vice President Kamala Harris and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.).

Peltier has been in prison for 44 years for a crime he says he didn't commit. His trial was riddled with misconduct. Prosecutors hid key evidence. The FBI threatened and coerced witnesses into lying. A juror admitted she was biased against Peltier's race on the 2nd day of the trial but was allowed to stay on anyway.

There was never proof that he killed two FBI agents in a 1975 shootout on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. But the FBI needed someone to take the fall. It had just lost two agents, and Peltier's co-defendants were all acquitted on grounds of self-defense. His trial was also happening as the FBI was trying to suppress the activities of the American Indian Movement (AIM), a grassroots group of activists focused on drawing attention to federal treaty violations, discrimination & police brutality targeting Native Americans.

Peltier, an AIM member, was there when the shootout occurred on June 26, 1975. So the U.S. Attorney's Office charged him with murder based entirely on testimony from people who had been threatened and intimidated by the FBI, some of whom later recanted their testimony.

By all appearances, the FBI is simply waiting for Peltier to die in prison.

Peltier is 77 now and ailing in a Florida penitentiary. He is perhaps America's longest-serving political prisoner (NOTE: longest-serving political prisoner in the U.S. is Ruchell Cinque Magee.) His story still moves hundreds of thousands of people to sign petitions urging his release. An astounding mix of human rights leaders have called for his release, including Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela and Coretta Scott King. Prominent artists including Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt and Rage Against the Machine have held concerts in his name. Elected tribal leaders and the National Congress of American Indians have passed resolutions urging clemency.

Even the U.S. attorney who helped put Peltier in prison wrote to President Joe Biden this summer urging him to grant clemency.

"I write today from a position rare for a former prosecutor: to beseech you to commute the sentence of a man who I helped put behind bars," former U.S. Attorney James Reynolds said to Biden in a July letter. "With time, and the benefit of hindsight, I have realized that the prosecution and continued incarceration of Mr. Peltier was and is unjust. We were not able to prove that Mr. Peltier personally committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation."

With Biden in the White House, Peltier's supporters say they feel a renewed sense of hope that Peltier may have a shot at living out his final years as a free man.

A White House spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether Biden is considering clemency for Peltier.

December 2nd - Leonard Peltier Day of Mourning Statement

Each year as November nears I try to think back on all that has happened in my world in the past 12 months. I know that in my world I can only see a very small part of what is happening on the outside. For me, this year somehow seems to carry more weight than usual.

I have passed ever so slowly into the world of the elderly. I am now closer to 80 than to 70. The truth is I never believed I would live this long. I was just past 31 years old when I came to prison. It was almost half a century ago. My body is now the body of an old man. And it is harder to try to keep myself from being overtaken by sickness or depression or loneliness. They are constant companions here. I keep them at arms length and I know I cannot ever let them overtake me. If I allow that to happen it will be the end. There is no mercy here. No compassion.

I can't even imagine what it is like on the outside. I only hear stories and cannot believe half of what I hear.

For me, the best days here at USP Coleman 1 in Florida were the days when we could be outside in the yard and feel the sun. Even though they purposely built the walls so high that we cannot even see the treetops, the occasional bird or butterfly gives a welcome glimpse of our relatives in the natural world, but even that is very rare now.

I know Covid has cost all of us, you and me, in many ways. And I offer my condolences for all of you who have lost loved ones and friends to it.

Here inside the steel and concrete walls it is no different. Constant lockdowns caused by both Covid and violence have made life here even harder than usual. I have not been allowed to paint in eighteen months and we are almost always in some form of lockdown.

We are stuck in our cells for days at a time. It is a very rare day when we get to go outside to the yard.

I feel moved to try to explain something that has been on my mind for many years. I think maybe it will be helpful if I say the words out loud.

When we started to emerge from the darkness of Residential schools it became clear that we had to go back to try and reclaim what they robbed from us.

And what they robbed us of was the very heart of who we were. Our language, our ways and our connections back home. They wanted us leaving those “schools” thinking like little non-indians who would just go along with the program and not rock the boat. Even with all the terrible damage they did to so many of us, many of us did survive them. And then we began the process of reclaiming our culture and way of life. I know that process continues to this day.

I am so deeply saddened in hearing the stories of all the children’s graves they are finding at Residential schools. I guess I was one of the lucky ones who made it home. But the death of those children is so sad and outrageous and I am glad the world is finding out at last.

Back then even our home at Turtle Mountain was under threat of Government termination. I remember how hard my Dad who was a World War II veteran fought to save us.

Over the years we fought so many fights to keep our way of life alive and protect the natural world.

After our family was relocated to Portland, Oregon I took part in the fishing struggles with Billy Frank and his Nisqually people at Frank’s Landing. The rednecks were cutting up their nets and attacking both woman and men who just wanted to continue to fish as their ancestors did.

And when they shot Hank Adams it was a very dark time and outraged all of us but we stood strong to protect the Nisqually people. I will always be proud of that.

There were so many outrages back then.

When the land at Fort Lawton in Washington State fell into disuse we went there and occupied it under old treaty law. That was also a hard time. At one point soldiers were pointing flame throwers at us. But we held our ground and eventually they gave in. We put our good friend Bernie White Bear in charge and he helped to build the Daybreak Star Center that is still a great asset to Indian people today. Bernie is gone now as are so many of the others from those days.

Same thing when we took the abandoned Coast Guard Station in Milwaukee with Herb Powless. Our actions might have been unpopular at the time but they led to a school, alcohol treatment center and employment office. The school is still thriving and is an asset to the Native community and the Milwaukee area. Herb is gone too.

So even though the price we paid was very very high we did make things better for our people and we did help to turn things around.

I wonder if many people understand the events in our history and how connected they are. I was born in 1944. The massacre at Wounded Knee was in 1890. That was just 54 years earlier and both Geronimo and Chief Joseph died only 35 years earlier in 1909. Think about that. 35 years ago, now it was 1986. Not very long ago at all.

I want to leave you with some positive thoughts.

Retired United States Attorney James Reynolds did an interview with the *Huffington Post* last week and actually apologized to me for all the wrong they did to me. I hope that is spread all over the world and I am grateful to him.

I can say that I am heartened and encouraged by the courageous water protectors from Standing Rock to the beautiful manoomin (wild rice) lands of Northern Minnesota.

I am proud of Winona LaDuke and her people's work to protect those beautiful lands and lakes and her work to offer alternatives to fossil fuels.

Using hemp could fix so many things. It is not something we can fix in a year or ten years but it is something that all reasonable people should understand.

We cannot poison the water that sustains us. All of us. Not just Native and First Nations people, but all people. We have that in common. People should understand, we are trying to protect our homes and our natural lands. Water IS life.

And I am deeply grateful for the courage and Vision of Deb Haaland the new Secretary of the Interior Department. I know she went to Alcatraz this week. That is an acknowledgment that what we did was right and honorable. I was not at Alcatraz but those of us, woman and men who stood up in those days were right. And in other parts of the country we formed our own branches of United Indians of all Tribes. So their efforts led to others joining in.

I heard that Deb Haaland said that the day has come when Indians no longer have to protest to be heard by the U.S. Government. That is music to my old ears.

Our people were, and many still are, suffering.

Anyone of any race would do the same things to stop the sufferings of their people.

I wish all of you good health and happiness in all you do. You are in my prayers and I am grateful to all of you who have supported me or will support me going forward.

I still hold out hope that I can make it home to Turtle Mountain while I can walk out under my own power.

I remain grateful for the gift of life.

1 Dec - International Call For New Year's Eve Noise Demonstrations

Call from New York City Anarchist Black Cross for yearly New Year's Eve noise demonstrations outside of jails, detention centers and prisons.

MORE:

This is a call for a night of strong solidarity with those imprisoned by the state. Historically, New Year's Eve is one of the noisiest nights of the year. This year, most of which has been consumed by a global pandemic, we encourage folks to take whatever measures are necessary to insure individual and community well-being, in response to both the virus and the state, understanding the balance each of us must strike for ourselves. Given our current reality, on New Year's Eve gather your crew, collective, community, organization, or just yourself to raise a racket and remind those on the inside that they are not alone.

Internationally, noise demonstrations outside of prisons are a way to remember those who are held captive by the state and a way to show solidarity with imprisoned comrades and loved ones. We come together to break the loneliness and isolation.

We know that prison is beyond reform and must be completely abolished. It is a mechanism of repression used by the state to maintain a social order rooted in white supremacy, patriarchy, and heteronormativity. To come together outside of the sites of repression is to also stand in defiance of what they represent.

The logic of the state and capital—of punishment and imprisonment, must be replaced by a rejection of oppression and exploitation. This call is one step in that direction.

Wherever you are, meet on New Year's Eve at the prisons, jails, and detention centers, be loud in solidarity with those imprisoned and to push forward the idea of a world free from domination.

We send this call in solidarity with those defying state repression of large scale dissent: from the Belarusian uprisings to ongoing defiance in Greece by those facing repression as anarchists, and all of those in the spaces between.

We want a world without walls and borders.

We will fight together until everyone is free!

2 Dec - Awesome Update on Antifascist Prisoner Alex

Update on the case of Alex "Beta Cuck 4 Lyfe," an antifascist prisoner who faced charges stemming from an antifascist mobilization in Portland in 2019.

MORE:

The black school bus with mesh screens over the windows looked right out of Mad Max: Fury Road as it drove up to counter-protestors who had just successfully confronted fascists at a Unite The Right-style rally in Portland, OR. In it were members of "American Guard" – a neo-Nazi bonehead splinter group – and they came well-armed. The first one off the bus pulled a knife and tried to stab the first anti-fascist he saw, but luckily tripped, dropping his knife. A second fascist came right behind him, with a pistol on his belt and a claw hammer in his hand, aiming a blow to the skull of the antifa the first neo-Nazi had failed to stab.

That's when Alex stepped in. Thinking quickly, Alex grabbed the hammer and tore it from the fascist's hands, then managed to throw it before the nazis panicked and slammed the bus door shut to make their getaway. Alex's actions likely prevented an antifascist from being bludgeoned to death that day.

But Alex's fiercest opponents weren't the armed, violent nazis who had driven into Portland that day to try to murder anti-fascists; they were the police and prosecutors who, while declining to charge any of the neo-Nazis, slapped Alex with multiple felony charges, claiming they were justified because Alex "assaulted someone with a hammer" (maybe Andy Ngo was running the prosecution office that day?) For saving someone's life by intervening to disarm an attacker, Alex was now facing a minimum of five years behind bars and needed a skilled lawyer to defend him. Funding was soon launched and The International Anti-Fascist Defence Fund, along with others, pitched in to make sure he could hire the best lawyer possible.

Fast forward two years later and Alex is in a courtroom packed with supporters for his trial, watching as his lawyers COMPLETELY DEMOLISH the District Attorney's case.

Had the DA's office contacted any of the neo-Nazis that were on the bus? No they had not.

Was the DA able to establish that Alex injured anyone? No. In fact, one of their own witnesses stated that he was "uninjured and unafraid" of Alex after a brief interaction.

Can the prosecutor explain why they are demanding a prison sentence and a \$10,000 fine? No.

Will the prosecutor describe the facts of their case? No, they defer to Alex's attorney to do that!

In the end, with the prosecution's case in shambles, the judge wisely ruled Alex to be guilty of only the mildest of his many charges and decided that no jail and a \$1k fine or community services – "whichever

(Alex) prefers” to be the appropriate sentence. That might not sound like a complete vindication but it could well be enough for the DA to defer from appealing the case.

Have no doubt that things could have gone very differently and turned out much, much worse for Alex had he not had the funds to hire a competent lawyer. The list of antifascist prisoners is full of people who weren't as lucky as Alex was in terms of having quality legal representation. We are happy things turned out as well as they did for Alex and that we were able to play a role in them turning out as they did. Just like Yvette Felarca, or two antifa moms in SC, our three friends in Austin, TX, our friends in Corvallis, OR., an antifascist in Lünenberg, Germany, and – just last month – seven antifascists in Lyon, France we were able to help pay for legal defense that kept anti-fascists free and in their communities so they can continue the fight against hate!

As Alex wrote to us after we sent him some help, “I am aware of what a huge gift this is from you. Thank you so much for believing in me. I know there are others out there like me who need help, too. Thank you, truly, for what you’ve done.”

2 Dec - Eligible for Release in 2016, Mutulu Shakur Remains Behind Bars With Worsening Cancer

Judicial discretion and an antiquated parole system are turning the Black liberation leader's illness into a death sentence.

MORE:

by Natasha Lennard (*The Intercept*)

Mutulu Shakur was not sentenced to die in prison, but die in prison he may. The 71-year-old icon of Black liberation struggle has been incarcerated for over three decades. The rules governing his 1988 sentencing set his presumed release date for 2016. Yet, despite an impeccable institutional record, he has been denied release by the federal parole commission nine times. He remains behind bars, while an incurable cancer is now spreading through his bone marrow.

Reforms and policy shifts in certain state parole systems, including New York's, have seen the long overdue release of a number of aging former Black Panthers like Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim in recent years. Held in the federal system, however, longtime prisoners like Shakur face further layers of institutional intransigence and procedural arcana.

Shakur, the stepfather of the late rapper Tupac Shakur, was convicted of racketeering conspiracy charges alongside a number of Black liberationists and leftist allies for his involvement in the 1981 robbery of a Brink's armored truck during which a guard and two police officers were killed. He was also convicted for aiding in the prison escape of Assata Shakur.

A member of the Black nationalist organization Republic of New Afrika who worked closely with Black Panther Party members and New Left activists, Shakur was at the forefront of liberatory struggle. As a renowned acupuncturist, he was a central figure in the movement to bring holistic health care and self-determination to Black residents in the Bronx in the 1970s, blighted as the New York City borough was by police violence, poverty, and heroin addiction. That landed Shakur in the crosshairs of the federal government's malicious COINTELPRO campaign to decimate racial and social justice movements.

Yet the demand for his release now has nothing to do with the political underpinnings of his arrest, trial, and conviction. If any party is displaying ideological excesses, it is the federal justice system apparently acting against its own standards in the case of a Black liberation elder.

“Dr. Shakur is a 71-year-old man who has been imprisoned for over 35 years, undergoing treatment for bone marrow cancer,” Shakur's attorney, Brad Thomson of People's Law Office, told me. “He has been

praised by current and former Bureau of Prisons staff, and BOP's own assessment tools establish that he poses absolutely no risk, should he be released.”

Shakur is aging and ill. He has served his extensive prison time and has accepted full responsibility for his actions. Like other long-imprisoned Black liberation elders, including Mumia Abu-Jamal and Sundiata Acoli, the alleged grounds for Shakur's continued incarceration are without merit, even according to the purported logics of our brutal criminal legal system. The Department of Justice's own risk assessment tool categorizes Shakur at the absolute lowest risk of recidivism; the rates of reoffending for people in his age group are already vanishingly small.

A top oncologist's recent medical declaration on the state of Shakur's health stated that, even with ameliorative cancer treatment, he would likely die within two to three years; in the highly possible event that treatment fails, Shakur is expected to live fewer than 11 months. His mandatory release date is in 2024, but his family, friends, and supporters believe he cannot survive that long. With an accordant sense of urgency, Shakur's legal team is currently trying every available legal, statutory, and bureaucratic avenue to see him released.

“Due to bureaucratic and administrative failures, arbitrary abuses of discretion, and inconsistent applications of the law, Mutulu and most others in his position have been denied the relief that were designed for them,” said Thomson.

Shakur was incarcerated in the federal system under a set of harsher sentencing guidelines, known as “old law,” because he was convicted for crimes that took place before 1987, when the guidelines changed.

Those convicted under “old law” and eligible for parole remain beholden to a moribund body known as the U.S. Parole Commission. The commission was intended to be phased out decades ago: The new sentencing guidelines eliminated parole for defendants convicted of post-1987 federal crimes, dramatically decreasing the need for the federal commission.

The cases of fewer than 200 people sentenced under “old law” and eligible for parole — all of whom are aging and many of whom, like Shakur, are infirm — remain under the discretion of the commission. Only two federal parole commissioners make all the decisions, and they do so with a vested interest in keeping those imprisoned under “old law” inside to justify the commission's very existence.

Their stated reasons for denying Shakur parole have been no less than absurd. They said, for example, that Shakur lacked the appropriate remorse for his actions and remained a threat to the general public because he had signed off letters to friends and supporters with the phrase “stiff resistance” — the very resistance to injustice that has made Shakur a trusted mentor to dozens of formerly incarcerated men.

Steven Hinshaw, one of the numerous men who found a mentor in Shakur while imprisoned alongside him, told me how Shakur was unique in his ability to break through the extreme race-based gang segregation encouraged in federal prisons. Hinshaw, who is white and has mixed-race children, now works as a truck driver and owes his determination to Shakur's inspiration. “Anyone who has been in the yard with him knows that he solves problems and builds bridges,” Hinshaw told me. “He has a gift for helping people see themselves.”

The commissioners also cited an alleged “serious” violation: He was put on loudspeaker during a call with a professor and her class in 2013. It's not clear why this constituted a violation, let alone a serious one. That the subject of the class was Shakur's support for the founding of a truth and reconciliation commission in the United States — to reckon, through peaceful conflict resolution, with histories of racism — made for a grim irony.

A letter signed by numerous civil rights organizations urging President Joe Biden to grant “corrective clemency” to “old law” federal prisoners described the U.S. Parole Commission as “an abusive and insurmountable barrier to any hope of due process or release.”

“‘Old law’ prisoners like Dr. Shakur have essentially fallen through the cracks,” Shakur’s attorney, Thomson, told me. “Due to administrative failures, the laws establishing how and when ‘old law’ prisoners should be released are not being followed, and there is almost no accountability for these failures. Meanwhile, new reforms are not being retroactively applied to prisoners sentenced under the ‘old law.’”

An antiquated parole commission has not been Shakur’s only barrier to freedom. Alongside his numerous parole denials, an application for Shakur’s compassionate release was rejected by a judge last year. At the time, the judge noted that Shakur had “tolerated chemotherapy with no adverse effects,” but his body was nonetheless ailing: hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, glaucoma, and the aftereffects of a 2013 stroke, not to mention the high risk of contracting Covid-19 in prison. Studies have found that longtime incarceration ages a person by a decade. Shakur did indeed contract Covid-19 last year, from which he recovered. His cancer, though, once in remission, has returned.

The judge who denied Shakur’s compassionate release in effect told the aging prisoner to reapply only when he was at death’s door. These were the conditions, after all, under which Shakur’s co-defendant Marilyn Buck, who was convicted on the same charges, was released on July 15, 2010. She died of uterine cancer on August 3 that year.

“Should it develop that Shakur’s condition deteriorates further, to the point of approaching death, he may apply again to the Court, for a release that in those circumstances could be justified as ‘compassionate,’” wrote Judge Charles Haight Jr. in his decision.

Haight was no impartial arbiter: Thanks to the vagaries of the federal system, the judge tasked with ruling over Shakur’s compassionate release request was the very same judge who sentenced him to prison over three decades ago. Haight was 90 years old when he last ruled against Shakur’s release.

Following the return of Shakur’s cancer, his legal team has again applied for compassionate release, but they are not relying on this single avenue for his freedom.

Shakur’s attorneys and several legal scholars also believe that he could be freed without relying on the unbounded discretion of the parole commission or judge. He should, they argue, be released immediately based on no more than the correct calculation of so-called good time credit to reduce time served.

Shakur is an “old law” prisoner but has not been credited with the appropriate “good time” days as required by “old law” rules. According to his legal team, Shakur has been denied a staggering 976 days of earned good time, which he is owed. Once properly accorded to him, he would be eligible for immediate release. Shakur is in an administrative remedy process to get this time restored.

A spokesperson from the Bureau of Prisons told me by email that “any inmate who believes their ‘good time’ is inaccurately calculated, may file a formal complaint on the matter” but declined to comment on any specifics regarding Shakur’s case.

Shakur and his team have yet to hear back about either his “good time” calculations or his request for compassionate release.

“I don’t see what they’re not seeing. They’re disregarding him as a person,” said another of Shakur’s numerous formerly incarcerated mentees, Anthony Jordan, of the authorities keeping his mentor behind bars. For eight years, 33-year-old Jordan was imprisoned in the same unit as Shakur, whom he describes as an “inspiration, an uplifting spirit beyond words.” Jordan added, “He’s been incarcerated my whole life. I can’t comprehend it. I can’t imagine how that must feel.”

No one, least of all a community healer like Shakur, should have to.

December 2nd - Demand Immediate Release for Dr. Mutulu Shakur!

Please sign this petition to President Biden to grant Presidential clemency to Dr. Mutulu Shakur:
tiny.cc/MutuluClemency

Immediate release is critical to save his life. Living with his family, he will be able to access nutritional foods, supplemental modalities of treatment & care, and most importantly — he will be able to experience human touch and receive love. Please support this campaign for immediate release for Dr. Mutulu Shakur.

2 Dec - Illustrated Guide Version 14.9 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 visiting the link below.

MORE:

nycabc.wordpress.com/2021/12/02/guide_14_9

This update includes updated mini-bios, photos, and address changes for several prisoners. Unfortunately, we are adding a prisoner to the guide this month—antifascist Daniel Baker.

3 Dec - Ruby Montoya Case Raises Questions about Cooperation and Movement Lawyering

Ruby Montoya is doing whatever she can to lighten her punishment after publicly admitting to a string of arson and sabotage attacks against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) in 2017.

MORE:

by Ryan Fatica (*Unicorn Riot*)

According to a recent article in *The Economist*, “Montoya agreed to cooperate with the FBI” in fall 2020. During such FBI debriefs, agents typically attempt to solicit information on other activists and pressure co-defendants to testify against each other. (*The Economist* declined to reveal its source for this information, and in an email to Unicorn Riot, Montoya denied cooperating with the FBI).

Since summer 2021, Montoya’s lawyer has repeatedly filed motions on her behalf asking the court to allow her to file documents under seal—a practice typically avoided by those facing political charges in an effort to be transparent about engagement with law enforcement and the courts. In a motion in federal court in August, Montoya claimed she was coerced into taking action by her co-defendant Jessica Reznicek, members of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community and others, and that she felt forced into pleading guilty to the charges against her by her former attorney.

On June 30, Reznicek was sentenced to 8 years in prison after accepting a non-cooperating plea deal.

As Montoya scrambles to cast blame on others, the climate movement around her faces fundamental questions about cooperation with law enforcement and movement lawyering. Movement lawyering is a term for legal defense strategies that consider the needs of and take direction from broader political movements in its defense of individual activists.

Although there is no solid proof publicly available yet that Montoya is selling out her former comrades to the FBI, some in the movement think that the evidence is pretty clear.

“It’s quacking and it has a beak so I’m thinking it’s a duck,” said Daniel McGowan, a former political prisoner who served 7 years in prison for eco-sabotage after refusing to cooperate with the government

against his co-defendants during the Green Scare. McGowan now works as a paralegal and pays close attention to cases in which activists are charged with crimes similar to those he pleaded guilty to.

McGowan believes the sealed documents in Montoya's case demonstrate a lack of transparency.

Montoya's current attorney, Daphne Silverman, refused to comment on whether Montoya is or has been cooperating with law enforcement. "As a lawyer representing Ruby Montoya," Silverman said, "I owe Ms. Montoya a duty to represent her interests alone, which requires me to place those interests paramount and not be held back by any conflicts of interest, including the interests of a movement or another individual."

In McGowan's case, several of his former friends chose to provide information on him and others in hopes of receiving lighter sentences. "I remember reviewing a plea bargain of my co-defendant and I had to review it in the presence of my lawyer because there was concern about leaks," McGowan said. "So I remember asking 'what part is sealed?' And my lawyer showed me the three sections and it was, of course, the sections about cooperation."

In addition to filing sealed motions with the court, Silverman struck a blow against movement lawyering when she filed a motion seeking to withdraw Montoya's guilty plea & accusing Montoya's former attorney, Lauren Regan, of a conflict of interest stemming from her commitment to concepts like "solidarity."

Now, a group within the National Lawyers Guild is pushing back. In an internal statement (PDF) obtained by Unicorn Riot, the National Lawyers Guild Federal Repression Taskforce (FRT) condemned Silverman, who is a Guild member, for her attacks on movement lawyering and called for her expulsion from the Guild. According to the statement, the Taskforce "was formed by experienced lawyers and legal workers in the summer of 2020 to track and help respond to instances of federal law enforcement questioning, harassment, grand jury subpoenas, and other repression against social movements."

"We wrote this statement to respond to Daphne's attacks on movement lawyering," the group wrote, "and to assert that Daphne should resign from Guild membership because her professed values do not align with the Guild in crucial respects. If Daphne does not resign, we believe the Guild has a responsibility to expel her from Guild membership."

In the motion, Silverman claimed that rather than approach the case with her client's best interest in mind, Regan had coerced Montoya into accepting the plea for political reasons. "Ms. Montoya was coerced by attorney Lauren Regan," the motion read, "to accept a packaged plea deal in 'solidarity' with her 'comrade' in the 'movement', co-defendant Jessica Rae Reznicek."

Lauren Regan and the Civil Liberties Defense Center declined to comment for this article.

The FRT statement criticized Silverman for treating concepts like "solidarity" as suspect.

The National Office of the National Lawyers Guild declined to comment on the Taskforce statement and on Silverman's criticisms, citing the sensitivity of the case due to its "wide-reaching impact and potential repercussions for protest law and Indigenous peoples' rights."

"It is outrageous that the concept of solidarity is being touted as bullying or manipulation when one is fighting for their life in the courts of the most powerful carceral system in the world. A system which is standing up for one of the wealthiest and most exploitative corporations in the world," said Garrett Fitzgerald, an activist legal worker in Minneapolis with over a decade of experience helping activists defend themselves against repression.

The Taskforce statement raises concerns about the potential broad impact of Silverman's attacks on movement lawyering. "Daphne's argument suggests that anyone holding a leadership position in—and possibly anyone who is a member of, employed by, or affiliated with—any of these or similar organizations

has a conflict of interest any time they represent an individual activist,” the statement reads. “This, quite plainly, has potential to bolster prosecution arguments to deny activists their chosen counsel. If the argument were to gain traction, it would undermine competent movement legal defense.”

For McGowan, the Taskforce statement doesn’t go far enough. The statement, McGowan said, “wants to defend a concept, the practice, of movement lawyering, but not defend a person that has been thrown under the bus, an actual NLG member, Lauren Regan.”

The NLG’s Federal Repression Taskforce declined to comment for this article, but did confirm that the statement was produced by their group.

In response to the Taskforce statement, Silverman filed another motion in federal court last week claiming that Regan is behind the efforts to expel her from the Guild. “Tellingly, since the filing of the motion to withdraw, Ms. Regan has sought to have undersigned counsel expelled from the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) for prioritizing Ms. Montoya’s interests above the movement,” the motion reads. “A faction of the Guild at the behest of Ms. Regan has taken the position that a lawyer can prioritize a movement and require a client to act in the best interest of the movement including pleading guilty and going to prison instead of investigating defenses and proceeding to trial.”

McGowan takes particular umbrage with Montoya’s efforts to blame Reznicek for the pipeline sabotage they admittedly took part in. “It just comes across as blaming everyone but Ruby for things she did,” said McGowan. “And I don’t want to see anyone go to prison. I certainly don’t want to see Jessica in prison, but I wonder why is Ruby special? Why is Ruby special when Jessica is sitting in a bunk bed in a room of a hundred women at Waseca, basically on lockdown status, because the prison is on a COVID restriction?”

In a recent conversation with *The Economist*, Reznicek spoke from FCI-Waseca, a Federal women’s prison in Minnesota, saying that Montoya’s recent claims made her “so angry.”

“If Ruby Montoya and Jessica did these actions together,” said McGowan, “and went on a tour doing public events talking about what they did and were fully responsible, accountable adults, then why now, when the shit hit the fan, is one of the people seeking to just get out of it? To be honest, that’s how I see all these pleadings.”

The recent allegations of Montoya’s lack of transparency and the allegations of cooperation with the FBI has caused some within the movement to question whether they should continue to support her. In September, Chase Iron Eyes with the Lakota People’s Law Project released a video in collaboration with Montoya seeking to build support for her case.

“This is a critical moment for the Indigenous and environmental justice movements,” said Iron Eyes in an email to Unicorn Riot. “Our communities live on the frontlines of the climate battle, and we strongly believe that no water protector should ever be prosecuted for standing up for Mother Earth — much less convicted as a terrorist. We absolutely cannot allow that to become the status quo. It breaks my heart to see that this happened to Jessica, and it’s why we initially supported Ruby when she asked for our help.”

Montoya also maintains a GoFundMe page to raise money for Silverman’s legal representation. The campaign lists a target fundraising goal of \$176,000. According to documents recently filed by Silverman in federal court, Regan and her organization, the Civil Liberties Defense Center, had previously been representing Montoya pro-bono.

McGowan says he thinks this continued support sends a confusing message to activists about how one should behave when confronted with state repression.

Silverman's recent filings draw on the government's evidence against Montoya in the DAPL sabotage case, which reportedly contain 265 reports from the private security firm TigerSwan, including numerous reports from law enforcement.

Silverman continues to allege that Montoya and Reznicek were taught to weld by undercover operatives who sought to entrap them. "TigerSwan documented Ms. Montoya's heartfelt commitment to protecting the climate for our children," Silverman wrote in the pleading, "documented their connection to law enforcement and documented their immediate knowledge of who caused the damage to the pipes. The only way this knowledge is possible is through a provocateur informant who was present for the training."

"Montoya is a young female who appears to have been brainwashed," a TigerSwan operative wrote during the investigation, according to the pleading.

TigerSwan's involvement in the Standing Rock protests, and their investigation into Montoya and Reznicek, has been widely reported. In response to the historic protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline, TigerSwan was contracted by Energy Transfer Partners to provide additional private security to the pipeline company in the face of mounting and increasingly militant public pressure. In 2017, *The Intercept* obtained about 1,100 TigerSwan reports from public records requests and a leak from a private contractor, documenting the company's surveillance of anti-pipeline activists.

(Unicorn Riot interviewed Alleen Brown, one of the authors of *The Intercept* article, to discuss the TigerSwan documents.)

TigerSwan was the first to identify Montoya and Reznicek as the likely perpetrators of a series of arson and sabotage attacks on the pipeline. In a May 2017 report obtained by *The Intercept*, TigerSwan agents wrote, "The best assessment based on the known facts is that the attack was most likely conducted by Iowa activists; Jessica Reznicek and Ruby Montoya."

Over four years later, as Montoya continues to deny responsibility for the actions she took, a fragmented climate justice movement seeks to define its values. In the crucible of state repression, where concepts like "movement lawyering" and "solidarity" can define futures, the Montoya case may now be laying the groundwork for what's to come.

"Obviously, the scramble to get the shortest sentence results in the government winning and individual defendants and the movement losing," said McGowan. "I think that when people stay together and are strong and work with each other by sharing information and sharing legal resources, we come out a lot better."

4 Dec - Inside the Deadly History of Gangs in the LA Sheriff's Department

On this episode of the It's Going Down podcast, they speak with southern California journalist Cerise Castle on how she wrote an extensive history of organized gangs within the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department that have existed for the past 50 years: tiny.cc/IGD_LA_Gang

MORE:

From groups that embrace neo-Nazi symbolism to gangs where participants have to kill someone in order to join, here's a crash course into the violent and bloody world of gangs within local law enforcement.

From Castle's investigation:

There are at least 18 gangs within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Officials at various government agencies, including the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County District Attorney, the California Senate Senate Subcommittee on Police Officer Conduct, and the United States Commission on Civil Rights have heard testimony on the violence inflicted on communities at the hands of deputy gangs for decades. And yet, there have not been any internal investigations or significant policy changes to address the issue. Deputy gangs have killed at least 19 people, all of whom were men of

color. At least four of them had a mental illness. Los Angeles County keeps a list of lawsuits related to the deputy gangs. Litigation related to these cases has cost the County just over \$100 million over the past 30 years.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has embraced deputy gang culture for the past 50 years. Although the names have changed, these groups all participate in the systematic terrorization of the communities they are sworn to serve and protect.

9 Dec - A Convicted Anarchist Speaks Truth to Injustice

We're happy to be able to share a new writing from recently imprisoned anarchist Dan Baker.

MORE:

by Dan Baker (*Mongoose Distro*)

I cannot remain silent in the face of corrupt authority and recent events. My friends would laugh and ask when I have ever remained silent. I tried to tone it down before my trial and sentencing, but I told my defense committee that I even if I “bent my knee”, as they say in Game of Thrones, and kissed the ring and licked the boot, even if I degraded myself this way, the judge would try to throw the book at me. I have been falsely charged with “Extortion – transmitting an interstate threat to kidnap or injure a person” because I posted flyers encouraging my community to defend itself from a fascist coup, that failed, on January 6th 2021, to overthrow a democratic election’s results. In the same year Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted after he traveled across state lines with an assault rifle and killed several protesters. This is why the United States is the laughing stock of the world. It makes me sick. For the past year I have been bounced around the country between 4 prisons, detained illegally pre-trial and been subjected to conditions and torture worse than a zoo, all because I am an anarchist. For my love of freedom, I am a political prisoner.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, by incompetence or complicate cooperation, failed to stop Rittenhouse from his mass shooting, yet managed to organize a SWAT raid against me for posting flyers online. While spending obscene amounts of resources tracking me, harassing me, calling my family, friends, employers and trying to tempt me into antisocial behavior, the FBI has failed to stop dozens of mass shootings. In doing so they have proved right all of our anarchist criticisms of the prison and military industrial complex.

Anarchism is an evolving, living idea based on mutual aid, freedom and direct democracy. Anarchists demand maximum human liberty because human nature is social and prone to working toward the mutual benefit of all. We reject government, hierarchy, domination, private property, coercion and authority. Freedom depends on equality, and that equality is the product of free individuals working together to make sure everyone has equal access to collectively produced resources. Rejecting the privatization of wealth by state-socialism and state-capitalism, we believe that all states are unnecessary and that social organization is best left to free-associating individuals to decide their fate through direct democracy. People should be free to associate in the creation of social organizations designed to structure social life. Anarchist movements pose challenges to liberal democratic states, which empower the criminalization of poverty, creating a dystopian police state. Criminal justice and law are just another form of coercion.

There is nothing I can learn in prison which I could not have learned in a healthy, functional, social community. The more I am oppressed by the US government, the more I am motivated and empowered to remove all the obstacles of oppression. I was raised by a Palm Beach County Sheriff Deputy who took me away from my mother because she was on drugs, which he supplied for her. I am the result of her affair with another man. I was taken from her, then put out on the street as a teenager. After a childhood of being forced to train, shoot and fight, I felt I had no choice but to join the Army. There I was assigned to a unit which bragged about the rape, pillage and murder they committed in Afghanistan. I went AWOL when they deployed to Iraq, absent without leave. I managed to avoid deploying with this unit, and while they were in Iraq they committed the Mahmudiyah Gang Rape Massacre – Google it. So, even though I was kicked out without an honorable discharge, I preserved my integrity. But “society” in the US is harsh to homeless veterans and I struggled to find work, housing and education. I used begging money to train in jiu

jitsu and fight in tournaments. When I got strong again, I used that begging money to fly to Iraq, where I crossed the border into Syria and then Rojava, where I joined the Kurdish YPG, the People's Protection Unit. I did this because I believe in the Rojava Revolution, which is based on feminism, social ecology, direct democracy and the ideas put forth by Murray Bookchin and Abdullah Öcalan. There I fought against ISIS and I saw the US Military slaughter a crowd of women who had escaped from the jihadis and were trying to surrender. They were disintegrated by an air strike and their body parts rained down on us for several long minutes. When I returned home, to help take care of the man who raised me while he died, I was hounded by FBI agents like Brian King and Nicolas Marti. My mother died right before I went to Rojava. I was targeted for criticizing Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Trump. Despite staying out of trouble, and refusing to engage in "criminal" behavior that undercover agents tried to entrap me with, I was told that they "were coming for me hardknock style". I even told them I'd surrender peacefully if they had a warrant, but on January 15th 2021 the FBI kicked my door down, right after I got off the street and into a home, fresh out of homelessness. I was dragged straight to prison and thrown into a shit covered cell for six months of isolation, pre-trial. Having been subjected to criminal abuse I have a few criticisms, which are included in my lawsuits against the prison guards.

Prisons enslave people and traffic their bodies for labor and to justify their bloated budgets. Jailers are indoctrinated in an ideology which convinces them that all prisoners are subhuman criminals, the worst of society. In truth most inmates are merely uneducated and struggling against poverty, a crushing poverty which exists by design to keep a mass of people enslaved as so called "unskilled labor". Prisons also target the disabled. One of my neighbors in isolation was an autistic man who was clearly disabled and suffering from an ongoing mental health crisis. He would scream constantly whenever his light was on and punch and kick his door every 30 seconds. The guards would say, "Fuck you nigger, I'm leaving your light on!" After 3 days of screaming he had become inarticulate, no longer screaming, "Hit my light!", but just shrieking. The guards would refuse to collect our styrofoam meal trays for days, then tell my autistic neighbor to flush his trays down the toilet. When his toilet clogged, they'd accuse him of trying to flood his cell and they'd shut his water off for 3 days. This man would only say 20-30 phrases, over and over again. The captain of the unit sprayed him with mace, then shot him with pepper balls and finally threw a CS gas grenade in his cell until he passed out. The guards openly spoke about trying to get him to kill himself, telling him to hang himself with his sheets. He'd spread his feces all over his cell, himself and push it under the door into the hall. For several months I was not taken outside. I did not see the sun or breath fresh air, and all I heard was screaming day and night.

"Inscribed on the bodies of many prisoners and the walls of cells and cities you will find the circle-A symbol. Pierre-Joseph Proudhon argued that anarchy is the reality of the human condition out of which true freedom emerges, like a flower growing from the ground of existence. The circle-A is believed to be taken from Proudhon's proposition that anarchy is order – the A in the O." from 'Classic Writings in Anarchist Criminology' (AK Press, 2020)

As international revolutionaries we must receive into our ranks any foreigner, isolated individuals, provinces, communes, associations and countries which have rebelled in the name of the same principles, even though they belong to different political systems. Take an example from the International Volunteers of the YPG International Battalion.

During my trial the prosecutor accused me of hating the American government. I denied this accusation and I deny it now, as I sit in prison. I don't even hate ISIS, even when I fought against jihadis on the front lines. As an anarchist and a philosophical ascetic I am content to sit back and distribute food while the economy collapses under its own spoiled decadence. I teach yoga, meditation and first aid. The resilience of our health, healing and mutual aid is stronger than any temporary power structure, no matter how fascist and authoritarian they are. At the same time, we engage in Tyler Durden inspired support groups. Everything is temporary – your body, the planet, the sun, empires, everything. Eventually all petty tyrants fall. We don't even need to push them over, If you are so restless that you need to take a direct action, remember the first two rules of Fight Club: we don't talk about it. I love my city, my neighbors and all peoples. Nations and states are not the people, not society itself. These governments are mere ideas disguising a corrupt power

structure. This is a war for your mind, a spiritual war of ideas. You must define yourself by reading, discussing and acting on the conclusions your community agrees on. I recommend making soap and community gardens.

18 Dec - Page One Collective & NYC ABC Holiday Card Party

WHAT: In-person Event

WHEN: 3:00-5:00pm, Saturday, December 18th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Avenue, Brooklyn 11215 (Directions Below)

COST: FREE

MORE:

As our last letter-writing event of the year, with Page One Collective we are co-organizing a holiday card signing for PPs and POWs. The following day, we are co-organizing our annual event, Send Love Through the Walls, with Resistance in Brooklyn, which will be a virtual event. Interference Archive's current covid protocols limit capacity to 20 folks, so please RSVP to pageonecollective@protonmail.com if you plan to attend. Come ready to SIGN. SOME. CARDS.

Directions:

Getting to Interference Archive is simple:

From the N/R/W Train:

9th Street Stop: Walk north on 4th Avenue (away from 9th Street, toward 8th Street). Turn to walk east on 7th Street and continue about one block. We're on the south side of the street.

From the F/G Train:

4th Avenue Stop: Walk north on 4th Avenue (away from 10th Street, toward 9th Street). Turn to walk east on 7th Street and continue about one block. We're on the south side of the street.

7th Avenue Stop: Walk north on 7th Avenue (away from 9th Street, toward 8th Street). Turn to walk west on 7th Street and continue about two blocks. We're on the south side of the street.

19 Dec - Send Love Through the Walls

WHAT: Send Love Through The Walls: Holiday Card-Writing For Political Prisoners

WHEN: 4:00-6:00pm, Sunday, December 19th

WHERE: Online (details below)

COST: FREE

MORE:

In what many prisoners have told us is their favorite event of the year, Resistance in Brooklyn and NYC Anarchist Black Cross again join forces to bring you the annual holiday card-writing party for U.S. held political prisoners, prisoners of war, and prisoners of conscience. This event is always a lot of fun. This year will be no different, but will be organized virtually. So plan to tell your friends and bring your creativity. We'll have updates on the pp/pow campaigns as well. For more information, including the zoom meeting information, contact:

Resistance in Brooklyn: resistanceinbrooklyn.ows@gmail.com

NYC Anarchist Black Cross: nycabc@riseup.net