



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for March 22nd

7 Mar - Eric King Update

We will include the whole timeline, but the BIG NEWS is that Eric was ACQUITTED! Congratulations, Eric! We hope you'll actually get to read this and could not be happier for you.

MORE:

March 7th - Trial in a week! And words from Eric.

“There’s something happening here, something special for certain. It begins with trees and bugs and grows into communities built on trust. It revolves around the idea that we can cause their destruction with our growth. It starts with love and grows with the flowers. Ends with the stars burning us all to dust ♥“

Eric is excited, nervous, and just so ready. Eric has been silenced for years now with communication restrictions. (Which were reinstated days ago ♥). Eric had something really terrible happen to him. And then for years he didn’t get to talk about it. This trial is Eric’s opportunity to finally speak--this is a *good* day. Even when the communication is dampened he can feel all the love and support. He is overwhelmed with the letters he was able to receive and everyone just helping make him feel so not alone.

Eric has his preliminary hearing this morning please keep him in your thoughts.

Unfortunately, right now there is another communication restriction so mail won’t be making it through.

If folks are looking for more ways to help they can donate to his lawyers from the Civil Liberties Defense Center and you can support his legal defense efforts by donating at cldc.org/donate (please earmark your donation on the website “Eric King legal defense”). These funds cover transportation, housing, transcription, deposition, and filing fees. Donate if you can.

March 9th - Eric King’s trial info

If you want to hold space for Eric and virtually attend trial the phone number 877.336.1828 and enter access code 9449909#

On Monday March 14th during jury selection the public may only attend virtually. This is such a big moment for Eric, he has been so cut off from the world for so long. Allowed no outside communication outside of family been in segregation for three and a half years. Finally, he gets to tell his story.

Due to covid regulations physical access to the courtroom will be limited to 26 seats to be shared by defense and prosecution. Folks looking to attend have permission to respectfully sit in the hallway and wait for a seat as well as the lobby. If you are sitting in the hallway or lobby it is very important to stay quiet while court is on session. If the way you want to hold space for Eric is in person we have the decorum from the judge here. PLEASE read all of it if you are planning on attending in person.

We want to support Eric in this really big moment and be with him in any way we can. Because this is a federal jury trial in person attendance comes with the responsibility of respectful behavior. Including clothing. The courthouse has identification requirements. There’s a little bit of homework to do first. We want this trial to happen. This is a moment he has been waiting for for so long. So please, please read the whole decorum if you are planning on attending in person there are VERY specific rules. Read what Eric’s lawyers wrote about trial attendance cldc.org/king-trial-decorum

March 14th - Eric King trial updates

The best place to get updates for Eric King's trial is by following *Unicorn Riot* on twitter at twitter.com/UnicornRiotLive

Updates will be posted to Eric King's social media after 9pm EST:
fb: facebook.com/SupportEricKing | twitter: twitter.com/SupportEricKing
instagram: instagram.com/supportericking

March 14th - Eric King trial court report (Day 1)

Judge Martinez opened the proceedings and addressed the jury pool solemnly explaining, "Our system cannot survive without jurors!" From there, both the Government and Defense whittled down the pool to the appropriate 12 and the alternate. Some highlights or low-lights of the process were one woman being excused because she was prejudiced against Mr. King solely based on the fact, he was a prisoner. Another juror's father had been brutalized by the police and permanently disabled. They were both excused.

The State's Opening Statement

The Government laid out its case, claiming Mr. King was completely not injured in the storage closet exchange. Their evidence of this was a photograph of Mr. King taken moments after Wilcox struck Eric. This was immediately countered by the defense showing a photograph of Mr. King with a very clear black eye taken two days later. They then attempted to maximize Lt. Wilcox's injuries by describing his blood-stained shirt in dramatic fashion.

Ms. Regan's Opening Statement

Attorney Lauren Regan began the defense by explaining that Mr. King has been wrongly accused of a crime he did not do, further explaining he was defending himself from an unjust attack by Lt. Wilcox who had walked him into a broom closet for an 'attitude adjustment'. Ms. Regan further explained that the blurry pictures the government will try to pass off as evidence are indicative of the intentionally obfuscated true facts of the case.

Poignant quotes from Lauren Regan's Opening Statement:

"Nothing legitimate happens between a prisoner and a guard in a storage closet."

"The evidence will show that Mr. Wilcox chose to create this situation. Without visibility, there is no accountability!"

Lt. Wilcox's Testimony

The Government opened their case with a direct examination of Lt. Wilcox. Wilcox was nervous and uncomfortable, pausing for laughter at strange moments in his testimony. From the Governments line of questioning it was clear they'll be basing their case upon the fact the storage closet is really a Lt.'s Office, and that Eric was 'extremely agitated' upon arrival in the LT.'s hall. Wilcox's testimony came across as weak and heavily coached. Wilcox claimed the storage closet was a 'transitory office'. Again, it was clear that statement had been coached and rehearsed.

March 15th - B.O.P. Takes Eric's Documents; Report from Day Two of Trial

Day two started with some highly disconcerting news. Yesterday, while Mr. King was in court, unbeknownst to him or his council, his cell was emptied of all his belongings, including a bevy of attorney/client privileged documents. The obvious concern here is that the B.O.P. had taken control of sensitive documents without any oversight, and if they chose to do so, there is no telling who previewed and potentially copied these documents. This potentially corrupt action could easily tip the hand of defense strategy in this important case.

Based on the fact that this case is primarily about B.O.P lies, the idea that B.O.P officials had custody of Mr. Kings privileged documents all day and did not violate the defense's privacy is a difficult pill to

swallow. Mr. King was then notified he would be moved in the middle of his trial from FCI Englewood to FDC Englewood, an entirely different prison with different guards and procedures. This move could easily be perceived as punitive or retaliatory as a disruption at such a critical time could easily upset any individual who is incarcerated and accustomed to their routine as well as staff attached to their current housing.

The attorneys for the government, the Marshals, and all other officers of the court claimed to have no prior knowledge of this action taken by the Bureau of Prisons. The government claimed Mr. King's property was only taken for 15 minutes where Mr. King shared that it had been missing for 2.5 hours. (This made it impossible for him to prepare adequately for today's hearing. His documents and belongings were actually taken in the morning and held ALL DAY). Despite the fact the Judge explicitly said Mr. King had done nothing to deserve this transfer, he then allowed Mr. King to be moved this evening to FDC Englewood based on the belief that it would be a similar level of surveillance and conditions. Several years ago, Judge Martinez had explicitly ordered Mr. King to not be subjected to further diesel therapy by the B.O.P. This entire event was understandably upsetting for Mr. King.

Ms. Regan – Mr. King's lead defense attorney asked for an evidentiary hearing to bring all B.O.P. officials to testify under oath that Mr. King's documents were not viewed, shared, or copied. She also asked for photographic evidence of Mr. King's new conditions of confinement. She was denied on both requests.

The two main government witnesses today used conveniently fuzzy recollections to cover up the obvious inconsistency in their testimony. Ms. Regan cross examined Lt. Wilcox while Ms. Alvarez handled Lt. Kammrad. Some of the inconsistencies included where Lt. Kammrad was located when Mr. King was brought into the storage closet before the assault occurred, who did the medical photography of Wilcox's hands, timeline inconsistencies etc. It has become clear that the government's case will largely try to obscure the truth through heavy coaching as well as an incredible loss of memory when examined by the defense attorneys. Tomorrow, we expect to be another long day of testimony for both sides though Judge Martinez has consistently tried to keep this trial on track for the scheduled timeline and 5-day trial.

March 16th - Eric King Takes the Stand; Report from Third Day of Trial

Defense attorneys Sarah Alvarez and Sandra Freeman went to visit Mr. King last night only to find him in an alternate location from where the government said he would be. This cut into attorney/client visitation time in a furtherance of the B.O.P. and the FCI Warden's frustrating and suspicious actions against Eric. On who's actual directive this harassment has been taken is hard to say. Mr. King's defense team has still not received an inventoried list of Mr. King's possessions nor documents making it impossible to see how, if any, of the items taken had been mishandled. The government has still not been able to articulate any type of security threat either from or against Mr. King to justify his movements to an empty range in the SHU facility for the remainder of the trial.

Prosecution called Nurse Practitioner Farboni in the first half of proceedings today. Farboni is the RN that gave Mr. King his 'medical assessment' after experiencing the unprovoked attack by Lt. Wilcox. Farboni was skillfully crossed by defense team member Sandra Freeman. Through sharp and steady questioning, they were able to show the shockingly inept and incomplete assessment performed by Nurse Farboni. Over three minutes of audio/video evidence was shown to the jury explicitly showing Mr. King complaining of a pain level of 7/10 on his temple as well as other points of pain around his face and wrists. Nurse Farboni did not address a single one of Mr. King's complaints nor did she question any of his injuries. Her 3-minute assessment came off as willfully negligent at best.

In a very long awaited and anticipated moment, Mr. King finally took the stand on his own behalf with lead attorney Lauren Regan conducting the direct examination. Ms. Regan opened the line of questioning by asking Mr. King about his history as a boxer when he was a young man. Eric spoke well of the discipline and self-respect this training brought to his youth. It also explained why Mr. King was able to so skillfully defend himself against Lt. Wilcox's attack. During Mr. King's testimony the jury was leaning forward and paying close attention to Eric's words, his language offered a welcome respite from the parade of "I don't

recall” parroted by all the BOP employees who have taken the stand to this point. Mr. King spoke about the hardship of staying positive on the inside, “Being in prison sucks, it’s not like normal life, It’s dark. It’s built around violence.” Eric then spoke about all the ways he has made an effort to do good time, teaching yoga and spending time in the law library and chapel. Mr. King lit up when he spoke about getting out, becoming a welder and reuniting with his beloved family.

The questioning from Ms. Regan then turned to the day this case is centered around: August 17, 2018. Mr. King described how after a lockdown that resulted from a separate physical interaction between a prisoner and a prison guard, he had reached out to his wife and shared with her the news of the altercation. Ms. Regan asked Mr. King about the purpose behind the email written to his wife, the same email that inflamed Lt. Wilcox and led to the unprovoked attack. Mr. King calmly described that his wife was recovering from surgery and the purpose of this email was to stay connected, brighten her day, and make her laugh. Ms. Regan asked Eric, “Are you aware your emails are monitored?” Eric answered with an unequivocal yes.

After writing the above-described email to his wife, Mr. King was summoned to the Lt.’s Office for what remained an unknown reason at this moment. After arriving, Mr. King described in perfect uncoached detail how the attack on him unfolded in the storage closet attached to the Lt.’s office hallway. In testimony that disputed the mish-mash of different scenarios offered by the string of prison guards offered up in this case, Eric explained how he was led into the storage closet and left alone by Lt. Kammrad on Lt. Wilcox’s demand. Once alone, Lt. Wilcox began to berate Mr. King before eventually losing his cool and attacking Mr. King unprovoked. Lt. Wilcox exclaimed “You’re a bitch, you’re a punk,” before shoving Mr. King and striking him twice. Mr. King then calmly explained how he skillfully defended himself with 3 quick punches before putting his hands on top of his head and becoming passive as other guards rushed in. The clarity of his testimony was very believable and had the jury listening intently.

March 17th - Eric King Faces Retaliation and Bullying from Bureau of Prisons

by Josh Davidson (*It’s Going Down*)

On day three of the trial of political prisoner Eric King, it came to light that the cell he is being held in at FCI Englewood was flooded, destroying his personal property and legal documents. Attorney Sarah Alvarez, a member of King’s legal defense team, relayed to presiding Judge Martinez that the corrections officers at the facility communicated to Mr. King that they had observed a bird fly into his cell, a guard had to chase it, and somehow toilet paper ended up in the slightly leaking sink, causing the flood damage. Judge Martinez made a statement to the court that he had never seen such issues in all his years on the bench and that it is far reaching to say it was not intentional on the part of the Bureau. “Now a bird is being blamed? The BOP is setting itself up for a civil lawsuit,” Judge Martinez noted.

When questioned by Judge Martinez, Zachary Huffman, attorney for the Bureau of Prisons, attempted to insinuate that Mr. King himself had flooded his cell, destroying his own property.

The story of modern-day prison abuse is exemplified in the case of Eric King. King is 5’6’, a father and a husband serving a ten-year sentence in federal custody. Two years ago, in FCI Florence, a federal prison in Colorado, a guard took King to a storage closet, alone, and beat him with closed fists. Even though this prison guard’s violence was not video-recorded and only King and the guard were present during the altercation, other prison employees fell in line to try and undermine King’s self-defense claim.

Today, March 17, 2022, King is now facing a federal assault trial with the possibility of a 20-year sentence. King has been in solitary confinement since that incident in 2018 and is one of 42 people to be held for over a year in solitary confinement within the federal system. “For Eric King, a video recording of this incident would have sealed the deal for his self-defense claim, and potentially acted as a deterrent for this bully guard, keeping both King and the guard uninjured,” said Josh Davidson, a member of the Eric King Support Committee.

In 2021, Senator Ossoff introduced bi-partisan legislation to install such cameras in the BOP as a response to widespread criminality and violence within the corrections officers employed by the Bureau.

This is not the first time that this Florence prison facility has experienced disturbing guard abuses and cover-ups. The AP recently reported that “more than 100 federal prison workers have been arrested, convicted or sentenced for crimes since the start of 2019, including a warden indicted for sexual abuse, an associate warden charged with murder, guards taking cash to smuggle drugs and weapons, and supervisors stealing property such as tires and tractors.” In fact, a bipartisan Senate working group was launched last month to “scrutinize conditions within the Bureau of Prisons following reporting by The Associated Press that uncovered widespread corruption and abuse in federal prisons.”

Former political prisoner and whistleblower, Chelsea Manning, offered her support to King by speaking out against the violent culture of corrections officers:

“The most awful and violent and dangerous interactions I’ve ever seen have come, with impunity, from prison staff. The only common denominator in every single jail, every single civilian and military prison, at every security level, was just the awful brutality of prison staff towards inmates. The worst people in jail or prison are staff, time and time again, and this was across the board no matter where I went.”

Davidson added that “the events occurring amidst trial are a clear extension of the corruption and violent culture BOP staff are ensnared in and that all prisoners are forced to suffer. Eric is taking the Bureau head on and refusing to allow this agency to continue to bully and harm people inside, and they are trying to make him pay for it.”

Closing statements have been made in the case and the jury has been sent for deliberations.

March 18th - Trial Comes to a Close; Report from Day Four of Trial

The morning began with a worrying description of the conditions that defense attorneys Alvarez and Freeman heard of upon arrival at the prison to visit Eric following yesterday’s court session. Alvarez told the Judge that Eric returned from court to find his cell was flooded, his personal property damaged, and his legal papers covered in spilled coffee. When pressed, a corrections officer told Eric that a bird flew into the cell and knocked over the coffee. The Judge expressed his frustration with these bullying tactics stating that never in his entire career had such things occurred during the course of trial and it was becoming difficult to believe the BOPs excuses any longer. He then requested that the BOP provide surveillance video of the range where Eric is being held in segregation.

Eric was cross examined by US Attorney Teitelbaum, who attempted to impeach Eric by publishing several pictures, a drawing, and a letter written to his wife prior to the alleged assault. The defense repeatedly objected to these exhibits and had to remind the Government of the rules of the court’s order on the motions in limine. After several sidebars adding to the length of cross examination, Teitelbaum ended his questioning and the defense did not redirect.

The defense called FBI Special Agent Cronan as their next witness. After lengthy back and forth with the Judge and the Government about the purpose of calling this witness, the defense declined to call the agent and rested. At this point in the day, jurors were brought back to the courtroom for closing arguments and jury instructions.

The Government began its closing argument with the assertion that Eric is guilty. He went on to assert that Mr. Wilcox is trustworthy because of his nervousness that went on to become more comfortable over 3-hours of testimony, also that he openly admitted what he could and could not remember. He asserted that there are two types of people in this world, the ones you can rely on and the ones who seem to have an answer for everything and always believe they are right. In a strange flip of the script the Government seemed to argue that inconsistency made their witnesses against Eric more credible. Teitelbaum completes his closing after 45-minutes.

Lauren Regan, Executive Director of CLDC and lead attorney for Eric’s legal team, made the closing argument. In a response to a strange analogy to a wedding made in the Government’s closing argument,

Regan began by saying that 08/17/18 was not a wedding. Not for Eric, who was assaulted. Not for the guards. Not for anyone. Eric's memory is clear, he was assaulted by Mr. Wilcox in a storage closet. This was not normal. She then reminded the jurors of their duties to uphold Eric's constitutionally protected rights and his presumption of innocence, underscoring that burden of proof lies with the Government and not with Eric. Unfortunately for the Government, the proof just isn't there. Because the assault occurred intentionally out of the view of cameras and witnesses, in a room that was clearly not the appropriate venue. She went on to remind jurors that inconsistencies in testimony should cast a shadow of doubt on the credibility of the evidence against Eric. The BOP witnesses repeatedly attempted to obfuscate the clear and simple truth. Wrapping up her argument, Regan reminded the jurors that there are nearly 2 million people imprisoned in this country, prisons are violent places, and cover-ups at the hands of the people holding others captive are real.

Because the burden of proof rests at the feet of the Government, they are given the opportunity to give a rebuttal after the defense closes. US Attorney Spencer stepped in to finalize their case. She began by relaying something she was told by her mother, that "words matter." Speaking in an agitated tone, Spencer said that we don't call correctional officers captors, we don't call prisons a business, and we don't lie and call a medium security prison "notorious," in a clear response to Lauren Regan's closing. She asked if the BOP guards were attempting to make up a story, wouldn't they all align? Asserting her point, she said there is nothing sneaking happening. She repeated that words matter and ended her rebuttal.

Following the closing arguments, the Judge gave further instructions to the jurors and sent home the alternate.

March 18th - BOP Blames Bird for Eric King's Property Destruction During Federal Trial

by Alex Binder (*Unicorn Riot*)

During the federal trial against political prisoner Eric King, there have been multiple disruptive incidents affecting the defendant at the Englewood prison where he is being held. King, his legal team, and supporters are concerned that these seem like consistent retaliatory actions by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

On Thursday morning, which was the fourth and final day of trial, the government and the defense brought to Judge Martinez's attention (without the jury present) that King's cell was flooded when he returned to it the previous evening.

Zachary Huffman, a BOP paralegal, told the court that King's cell's sink was left on and there was some toilet paper in it, seemingly alleging that King left the sink on. The judge asked if anyone else could have done that, and Huffman said there weren't other inmates in that housing unit, but it could potentially have been prison staff. He told the judge he will collect all the information he can.

Attorney Sarah Alvarez for King's defense approached the lectern and stated that when King arrived back at his cell the previous evening, he was crying and distraught at seeing it flooded—many of his belongings were soaked and destroyed including some of his legal papers, family photographs, and books. Alvarez added that King noticed his inventory paperwork provided to him by BOP listing all of his property had coffee stains on it, and when King asked staff about it, they told him "a bird flew into his cell and knocked it over."

Judge Martinez asked the government how anyone knew about a bird in King's cell, and they said an officer saw the bird and entered the cell. Alvarez added that BOP staff told King that when the officer allegedly went into King's cell because of the bird, that's how toilet paper ended up in the leaking sink. The defense told the judge there should be video evidence of these claims as that area of the prison has security cameras.

Judge Martinez said he had never seen anything like this in his whole career—it was far reaching at this point to say it wasn't the BOP's intention, and an accident instead—"Now a bird is being blamed?" Martinez added that the BOP seemed to be setting themselves up for a civil lawsuit.

In the previous days of trial, Martinez was told about other instances of BOP actions disrupting King. On the second day (Tuesday), the defense alleged that on the previous evening while King was back in prison, he was without his property and legal documents for 2.5 hours. The government alleged King was only without his property for 15 minutes.

BOP staff planned to house King in the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) building throughout the duration of the trial, which is a different building on the Englewood campus than the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) building King has been living in. However, Monday evening, King was taken to the FCI because there were alleged errors at the FCC.

Attorney Lauren Regan for the defense said the acts toward King by BOP staff seemed retaliatory and calculated. She said that according to King, there were no housing cells in the FCC other than a suicide cell, and so she shared her concerns of King being housed in the FCC. Regan asked for photographs of the cell King would end up in that evening, so they could all have subjective evidence of whether his placement there was punitive or not.

Spencer objected to "the whole tone" of Regan's comment, telling the court that asking the BOP staff to take photographs was beyond what they could do.

On Wednesday morning, before the jury was brought in, the defense brought up that King was housed at the FCI the previous night, not the FCC like they were told. The defense said King was without his property and legal papers until late in the evening, and that the housing unit he was in was empty, except for him. They also brought up the inventory list created of King's property, saying they were waiting for a copy to see if his legal papers were looked through by BOP staff, which is against attorney-client privilege.

In a press release published Friday morning by the Eric King Support Committee, they highlight how the "widespread criminality and violence within the corrections officers employed by the Bureau" influenced Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA) to introduce the Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021. The Act was passed on October 21, 2021.

Former political prisoner and whistleblower Chelsea Manning shared her insight and experience in solidarity with King: "The most awful and violent and dangerous interactions I've ever seen have come, with impunity, from prison staff."

During Assistant U.S. Attorney Valeria Spencer's rebuttal closing arguments, she mentioned how the defense's story doesn't make sense, that correctional officers wouldn't harm inmates and attempt to get away with it. However, for people like King and Manning who have first-hand experience in prison, it makes perfect sense to them.

March 19th - Anarchist Prisoner Eric King Found "Not Guilty" of New Charges

On March 19th, a jury acquitted anti-racist and anti-fascist political prisoner Eric King on the count of "assaulting" an officer. CLDC is overjoyed at the return of a not guilty verdict from the jury. After hearing hours of compelling testimony from King himself, the jurors were rightly convinced of his constitutionally protected rights to defend himself against threat of death or bodily injury, even when that threat came from a corrections officer at the Bureau of Prisons.

This victory belongs not only to King, but to his family, community of supporters, and most importantly to all those who have fallen victim to the horrific abuses and torture the Bureau of Prisons metes out on a daily basis in facilities across the country.

CLDC executive director, Lauren Regan was thrilled with the verdict, stating “on behalf of the entire CLDC team, we are thankful for the trust and friendship that Eric King shared with us and we feel fortunate for the privilege to defend him and to work with his family and community in order to bring justice to light within the confines of the federal Bureau of Prisons. This was a long and arduous battle against State power, and we are appreciative for the jury’s earnest deliberation.”

“When Eric made the decision to fight back against these trumped-up charges of assault brought against him, he made the choice to extend the same values of anti-racism and anti-fascism that moved him to act in 2014 in solidarity with the uprisings in Ferguson, Missouri,” said Josh Davidson, a member of the Eric King Support Committee. This case was fought not only with the goal of returning King home to his family without any additional years of his life being stolen away, but with the goal of holding the BOP accountable in order to make that place survivable for others by at least shedding light on the secretive system of racism and abuse that has been running rampant within the BOP.

This outcome is even more momentous given the government’s fierce opposition to King’s courageous efforts to tell the world about his plight and that of others held in custody.

March 20th - AT LAST SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT ERIC KING! – PRISONER SUPPORT

via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

Eric was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2014 after a Molotov cocktail attack on a congressional office in Kansas City in solidarity with the Ferguson demonstrations. Since he was served his sentence, guards have conspired with white supremacist prisoners to beat Eric multiple times, and in 2018 Lieutenant Correctional Officer Donald Wilcox took him into a closet, away from cameras, and beat him as part of an “attitude adjustment.” Eric was later charged assaulting a corrections officer.

Throughout last week, his case was heard in court, and the guards told all sorts of lies like a bird had managed to enter the prison and messed up his cell and spilled coffee on his legal documents.

On Thursday, the jury returned a ‘Not Guilty’ verdict after seeing through the lies of the prison officers that had been conspiring to ultimately kill Eric.

Because of this Not Guilty verdict, Eric will be out of prison in December 2023, but until then he really needs to hear as much animal rights and antifascist news as possible. Eric needs to feel the support of his comrades and to know that he is not alone facing the fascist prison officers in the jail.

8 Mar - How an Undercover Colorado Springs Police Officer Tried to Entrap Leftists with Illegal Firearms Charges

A look into how undercover police in Colorado Springs attempted to go after left-wing organizers on weapons and conspiracy charges.

MORE:

by CS AFA (*It's Going Down*)

Thanks to reporting from *Colorado Springs Independent*, it is now public knowledge that Colorado Springs Police infiltrated the Chinook Center and a number of groups that organize there such as Colorado Springs Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and Colorado Springs Tenant Union, using a pink haired cop named April Rogers who went by “Chelsie Kurti” and pretended to be a sex worker.

CSPD’s infiltration of Chinook Center initially looked exactly like their infiltration of Colorado Springs Socialists back in 2017: Go undercover into an easy-to-join leftist group, surveil, and arrest as many people as possible as soon as they take a march off the sidewalk. However, we recently had a couple of local activists who had previously been involved with Chinook Center reach out to us with their experiences involving CSPD officer April Rogers. These experiences show a police department desperate to entrap leftist organizers. If there’s no crime, Colorado Springs Police Department will create one.

If you are involved in any level of left-wing, anti-capitalist, or anti-state political organizing – tighten up your security. We highly encourage anyone involved in radical organizing to create an alias for yourself and use a separate phone number and email for organizing purposes. Apps like Burner and MySudo provide burner phone numbers and emails. You can also follow this guide to create an anonymous Signal number.

As this situation with the Chinook Center also shows, standing with survivors of abuse can also protect you from police infiltration.

The CSPD undercover wasn't going around smashing windows or planting piles of bricks in order to justify violent police repression, she was quietly surveilling everyone she could, asking for personal information, adding folks on social media, and as we've recently learned, working to get local leftists to buy firearms for her illegally. Officer April Rogers repeatedly asked about levels of gun knowledge, about building firearms, and suggested making straw purchases. She also spoke about some kind of front range gun running operation, and suggested starting a leftist "militia."

We've attached statements from two leftist organizers who had the misfortune of being targeted by Officer April Rogers posing as Chelsi Kurti. These statements provide an important look into the tactics of the police, and show that they'll create crimes where there are none. The idea that your group is above ground and therefore you were never in any danger is incredibly naive.

Statement #1

I was thinking back to my interactions with "Chelsie"— aka April Rogers, an undercover police officer. And I thought of something. She had pretended for a while to be a sex worker in order to rationalize why she couldn't tell us much about what she did, that she had reason to be afraid of the police and didn't want us to ask her too many questions. She used this tactic to make herself seem like someone whose privacy needed careful protection, who we would see, by default, as someone who had too much reason to say they were afraid of the police to doubt their credibility.

Somewhere in our conversations, she ended up asking me for advice about guns. I told her I didn't really know very much about them, that I'd only bought one recently and was still learning how to use it safely. The topic kept coming up. She'd say things like, "I thought you knew a lot about guns!" Things like that. Eventually tried to convince me to buy a gun for her. I said no, but I thought it made sense for her to have a gun. I sent her pictures of guns at the gun store so she could see them, but recommended she get more advice before buying one. The intention was to manipulate me into committing a federal crime by using my sense of empathy and concern for her well-being, my solidarity for this person who had insisted they were a high-class escort who sometimes feared for her safety.

This police action had everything to do with the fact that I had started showing an interest in organizing, and that I had been outspoken about my belief in anarcho-communism. I had not done anything to hurt anyone—I was just seen as potential trouble. It was worth trying to target me, to try to trick me into giving them a reason to make an arrest, to try and force me to cooperate as an informant. This is a tactic the police will use. Even if you don't consider yourself an activist, if you end up profiled as the member of an organization, beware of anyone you've just met who starts asking if you can do illegal things for them. And don't use, "Well, I've done illegal things around this person before and they didn't throw out a badge and arrest me." They might hold it as leverage in the event they need something to justify further repressive actions. Especially in Colorado Springs, police approach anything politically left of Bernie Sanders as though it were potentially criminal, in need of surveillance, monitoring, and repression.

No matter what the group's stated intentions are—they'll send federal agents to sit in on leftist book clubs, and they targeted me only about a month after I started trying to help with organizing. A good idea to prepare everyone who is starting in activism for this—never take for granted that the police "have no

reason to monitor you.” If they want to find one, they will, and if you vocally oppose capitalism, if you seem like an anarchist or a communist, they will find a way to justify it.

Don't add strangers to group chats.

Don't be an asshole to people, but don't open up too much to people you haven't known for very long, especially if you've just started organizing.

Be wary of new “friends” who show up to an action “just wanting to help,” who have sympathetic back stories you feel like would be rude to ask more about.

Beware of people you don't know who start suddenly encouraging you to do crimes.

Vet people.

Build actual relationships with them and make sure you can trust them before you start talking to them about, I don't know, guns, or the amount of unpaid parking tickets you have, or your overdue library books.

Statement #2

Before continuing here, I wanted to preface this by saying I will be staying anonymous and attempting to change names whenever possible throughout this statement. I very much considered fully doxxing myself here, but after talking with some comrades about that, figured it wouldn't be a great idea for a variety of reasons, all of which I'll get to momentarily.

As a brief introduction, I was an active participant in the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. I was also involved with several of the mutual aid/leftist adjacent groups in the spring, most of which were mentioned in the aforementioned article. These groups include the Chinook Center, the General Assembly (GA), the Colorado Springs Mutual Aid Union, and most relevantly, the Protest Security Group. I was not a founding member of any of these groups, but I was there during their inception and growth. It is for that reason I believe I was targeted for a sting operation by April Rogers and the CSPD.

Before getting to that though, I'd like to clear the air on a very serious mistake in the *Indy* article. I tried to reach out to the author of the article to correct this mistake, but they refused due to no longer working at the *Indy*. The only other option would have been to directly reach out to the *Indy* for a clarifying statement, which more than likely would have required me to dox myself. The mistake in the article is as follows: *"When there was the Chinook Center/Mutual Aid Union split, [Rogers] was the one who was feeding us information about stuff that was happening in the Mutual Aid Union: 'It's so fucked up what they're doing,'" says Jon. "So was there any actual concern there or just an attempt to split groups? I heard that she was on the security team for the Colorado Springs Mutual Aid and Solidarity Union back when it was the Colorado Springs General Assembly or whatever. She actually wrote a public statement about why she didn't agree with the process of splitting and all this. She was very actively involved in the conflict."*

This statement is wrong for a variety of reasons. Without getting too in the weeds here, I'll be ignoring the misinfo about “Chinook Center/Mutual Aid Union” split, and instead focusing on the aforementioned “security team” and the supposed relation to the Mutual Aid Union.

The “Security Team” mentioned here was really called the “Protest Security Team,” and had absolutely nothing to do with the GA or the CSMAU by design. I would know, because I was one of four members of this team, and still regularly meet with 2 of the other members of said team.

This group was founded by the same individual as the CSMAU, but purposefully a separate entity. The CSMAU's goal from day one was to actively start a distribution for houseless neighbors. The Protest Security Team was designed to, you guessed it, protect protesters in Colorado Springs after several attacks,

acts of intimidation, and a few very close encounters. We would have an “armed team” and a “non-lethal team.” The non-lethal team would attempt to distract/de-escalate non life threatening situations, while the “armed team” would serve to make the group less of a soft target. The reason I speak so candidly about this is that both teams were dead fairly early on, as most of the protest momentum cleared up post-election. Officer April Rogers was a member of the non-lethal team, but that group very quickly fizzled out, so it would be more accurate to say she was “familiar” with the group. She was not in the armed teams group chat, since that was four people in a Signal chat. This is also where I met April personally, as we did do a couple training events. The one April was familiar with involved me getting pepper sprayed and stunned with a group of people, so we would know how to deal with chemical and physical irritants. April recorded the entire session from the sidelines, before “excusing herself” after we were finished. To date, that video has never surfaced, and I assume sits in an evidence drawer somewhere.

This was all very try-hard, and obviously went nowhere. This is why I’m confused about the inclusion in the *Indy* article. Name dropping a member of the Union, mentioning she has a felony, then proceeding to make claims of an armed wing of a Food not Bombs styled group is incredibly dangerous misinformation.

I’m hoping by writing this the *Indy* will correct the record, or at least I can help make clear that the CSMAU has no armed division and never will, as shooting guns doesn’t feed the houseless neighbors Colorado Springs has forgotten.

Segmenting this off since it is not relevant to the first portion of this statement, but not totally irrelevant either. The reason I decided to remain anonymous here is that about 7-8 months ago, Officer April Rogers reached out to me for the first time in a while. She requested we meet face to face and talk about something. I hadn’t seen her in a while, so was curious what this was even about. She refused to give me any information, which isn’t super uncommon in leftist circles. I agreed to meet her at her apartment and talk.

What follows was what I believe to be a serious attempt to manufacture a firearms trafficking conspiracy to implicate leftist groups in Colorado Springs.

When I showed up to the apartment building, I was originally very impressed with the interior. The building is a converted motel, but was surprisingly roomy and well built. This was contradicted by an empty kitchen (sans some pizza and beer), a beat-up old couch, a random assortment of chairs, a gross bathroom, and most noticeably two of the most police looking people I’ve ever met in my life. April introduced them as her half-brother and her friend from “back home.” The brother had a shaved head style haircut, was fairly bulky, and looked to be about double April’s age. Her friend was a middle-aged, skinny black man who she barely spoke to the whole time. April was there too, but to say the situation felt off is an understatement. Being a decently personable guy, I made conversation and talked with the two men. I talked with April about some of the memories from protesting and organizing and just had a fairly normal conversation with a very abnormal group of people.

Eventually, the conversation flipped to firearms. We talked about a lot of random firearm related topics, and eventually the conversation flipped to illegal firearms. April told me the two men were some sort of criminal element, and were curious about moving their business to firearms. I discussed how trafficking ghost guns was a thing, how auto-sears work, how most firearm crimes were committed by stolen firearms, etc. Spicy topics for sure, but all very easily available information you can find online.

April asked me for three things in my (semi-hazy) recollection.

The first was if I had any interest in selling guns illegally with her friends. This wasn’t directly asked, but was heavily implied. I declined for obvious reasons.

The second was if I could get her a firearm, specifically a P365XL, and take her shooting with the former members of the protest security group. I offered to find her someone to legally purchase a firearm from, and that I could run her through a basic pistol class. She wasn't very interested in either, and that was that.

The final request was if I had any interest in creating another type of leftist armed group, specifically a 'militia.' April mentioned she knew a lot of people who were interested in that type of group. I expressed my support for community defense, and offered to teach anyone to shoot for free (something I offer everyone), but that I had no interest in creating that type of group.

After that conversation, I smoked a cigar with the two guys and went on my way. It was only when the *Indy* article came out that I realized what had happened.

Officer April Rodgers and the CSPD put on an elaborate sting operation to bust several groups of leftists for a crime they manufactured. April was attempting to get me to participate in a straw purchase and god knows what else. Based off some other people I've talked to; I was not the only one who the CSPD targeted. It appears the goal was to create a firearms trafficking group from Colorado Springs to Denver in order to bust every leftist with firearm ties in both cities. Either that, or it was an attempt to pressure me into becoming an informant.

I believe it is very important to document and publicly share these types of COINTELPRO tactics whenever they pop up. I work a boring desk job and shoot guns with friends once every two weeks, yet I was specifically sought out and targeted. Be careful y'all, and remember if the vibes are off, leave.

Last but not least, fuck CSPD. Over a third of the city of Colorado Springs' budget goes to them so they can carry out failed political vendettas against anyone who dares not be a conservative christian.

Correcting The Record

The original *Colorado Springs Independent* article that broke the story of CSPD's infiltration contains a number of factual and ethical errors, including the false claim that Officer April Rogers had also infiltrated Colorado Springs Mutual Aid & Solidarity Union. The reality is, Officer April Rogers publicly criticized COSMASU in a now-deleted Facebook rant defending Chinook Center leadership for harboring and protecting abuser Shaun Walls who targeted Black women and femmes and espoused rape apologism.

The *Colorado Springs Independent* article also falsely names rapist and snitch Lloyd Porche who was ousted from leftist organizing the fall/winter of 2020 as a member of Colorado Springs Mutual Aid and Solidarity Union. We decided to actually speak to one of the founding members about this because the *Colorado Springs Independent* journalist failed to reach out to anyone from COSMASU. According to this founding member, Lloyd Porche was never in any stretch of the imagination even close to being a member. Another fabricated claim in the *Colorado Springs Independent* article is that COSMASU has a security team. Not only is this false, but is an incredibly dangerous claim to throw around knowing how seriously CSPD (and LE in general) responds to armed left-wingers. What COSMASU does is provides survival supplies to houseless people and anyone else in need.

10 Mar - Death of Black Panther leaves COINTELPRO-era questions unanswered

The death of former Black Panther Robert Cecil leaves questions about the conviction of Edward Poindexter for a 1970 bombing murder unanswered.

MORE:

I first met Elmer Robert Cecil when we were both teenagers. The introduction was by our mutual friend David Rice, just inside the city council chambers at Omaha City Hall. We were all there to attend a council meeting. Cecil was conservatively dressed, soft-spoken, and extremely polite. I would not see Cecil again for a half-century.

Robert Cecil broke decades of silence during my book tour for FRAMED: J. Edgar Hoover, COINTELPRO & the Omaha Two story and stepped forward to declare the Omaha Two were really the Omaha Three. The Omaha Two were Edward Poindexter and David Rice, later Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, who were convicted for the August 17, 1970 bombing murder of Patrolman Larry Minard. The Omaha Two were leaders of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a Black Panther affiliate group and consistently denied any role in the crime.

Cecil was a Black Panther member in Omaha during the group's brief existence in the Midwestern city. In 1969, when the local chapter was dissolved by the national office in Oakland, California. Cecil then joined up with the United Front Against Fascism, later renamed the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a target group of the FBI's infamous counterintelligence operation code-named COINTELPRO.

Cecil had been an activist at Technical High School and a founder of the BANTU student group. Cecil gained notoriety in 1969 when the Omaha World-Herald published a photo of him emerging from the police station toting a shotgun and wearing an ammo bandoleer. Cecil and others had been picked up for openly carrying firearms but released because it was then lawful to carry unconcealed weapons.

Cecil entered the police investigation of Minard's death when a search was made of NCCF headquarters shortly after the bombing. Cecil was on duty at the office and answered the door. Police Captain Bruce Hartford described the encounter.

"I pulled the door open and forced the hook in the lock and after someone told me, he has a gun in his hand, he has a shotgun, and we went in."

"I seen the shotgun in Cecil's hand after I entered the inside and there were rifles, numerous shells laying around in the front room and bandoleers or canvas belts and we proceeded then into the basement."

Hartford described using Cecil as a human shield. "Right ahead of me when I went in the baseme... Well, I figured if it was booby trapped, and it gave all this appearance, that I would sure as hell take him with me."

The shotgun had a shortened barrel which led to federal firearms charges against Cecil. At a book talk at the Great Plains Black History Museum in Omaha the long-silent Cecil came forward to tell part of his story. Cecil described being held by Hartford as the police searched the headquarters.

"The Omaha Two was really the Omaha Three. I got two years for a quarter inch. I served two years in a federal prison for a sawed-off shotgun. The legal length of the barrel was eighteen inches. They said my gun was seventeen and three-quarters in length."

Cecil also explained the newspaper photo of him carrying a shotgun outside the police station. A group of Black Panthers was stopped in traffic with a car full of legal weapons. "They took us downtown and after they held us a while, they had to let us go, we were breaking no law."

At a pretrial hearing in March 1971, Robert Cecil was called to testify about the search of NCCF headquarters. Cecil denied having a gun in his hands when Captain Hartford broke the lock on the front door. Cecil testified he was handcuffed before being used as a human shield.

Prosecutor Arthur O'Leary explained the police actions were because it was an emergency search. "What I am trying to get at, there were weapons, there were signs in the house indicating danger and so forth and the police were in a hurry to do what they had to do."

O'Leary then questioned Cecil about the term "racist pig" but Cecil turned the taunt back. "But we used fascist pig. We don't use racist pig."

In April 1972, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit upheld Cecil's conviction for a sawed-off shotgun seized during the raid of the headquarters in Omaha. However, the court was critical of police search tactics.

"Hartford pulled the screen door open, breaking the lock, and the officers entered in a rush....The search, subsequent to the seizure of the gun and the defendant's arrest, is not pertinent here and we say no more in that regard than that we disapprove of the manner in which it was conducted."

Circuit Judge Heaney dissented, arguing that police lacked probable cause to arrest Cecil and provided more details of the search which used Cecil as a human shield. "I fail to understand why a temporary seizure of the defendant and the weapon would not have sufficiently protected the officers."

"Instead, the police handcuffed the defendant and used him as a human shield to protect them as they searched the house, on the theory that if any occupants of the house fired on the police, Cecil would take the brunt of it."

Robert Cecil was well known to the Intelligence Squad of the Omaha Police Department and made it onto detective Jack Swanson's list of 39 suspects in the Minard case. Before his death in prison in March 2016, Mondo wrote that the testimony and evidence at trial could have led to charges against four other individuals besides himself and Ed Poindexter. Mondo said that Raleigh House, Donald Peak, Jr., Robert Cecil and Frank Peak could have all been charged.

Duane Peak, the confessed bomber, testified that Raleigh House supplied the suitcase and dynamite to make the bomb. One of Donald Peak's sisters identified the voice on the 911 tape, which lured Minard to his death, as Donald's and put him and Duane with the suitcase together hours before the bombing. Frank Peak, a cousin of Duane and Donald, was purportedly at a planning session for the crime according to Duane. Cecil's possible role came from reports of the crime laboratory at the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Division in Washington.

According to Maynard Pro, the assistant chief of the ATF laboratory, dynamite particles were found in the trousers of Cecil. ATF chemist Kenneth Snow testified at trial that hand swabs from Cecil tested positive for dynamite. Cecil declined to discuss the dynamite evidence beyond a short statement.

"I'm sure it was part of the fabrication of their evidence if the other two were found not guilty. I told you I was the lucky one. They wanted us off the street, one way or another."

"I still feel that it is not time to talk about what has happened to me. I do not talk about those days; I am reluctant as to how I was treated by both sides. Perhaps in the future."

Now there is no future for Cecil to unburden himself of the painful past. The time to talk has passed and longstanding questions have gone to the grave unanswered.

So how did dynamite traces show up on Cecil's pants and hand swabs? Dynamite particles were also allegedly found in clothing of Poindexter and Mondo by the ATF lab. The clothing had been transported to Washington by ATF agent Thomas Sledge, along with three vials of dynamite particles, for testing. Sledge's brother James, an Omaha policeman, had been injured in the bombing and Sledge is suspected of salting the clothing with dynamite particles. Sledge may have done the same with the hand swabs, cotton balls stored in a plastic bag. However, hand swabs from Poindexter and Mondo turned up negative for dynamite raising a question about Cecil's swab test results.

Ed Poindexter, serving a life sentence at the Nebraska State Penitentiary for the fatal bombing, says he first learned of Cecil's hand swabs from the witness stand at his trial. Poindexter, who steadfastly maintains his innocence, is quick to point out his hand swabs came out negative for dynamite.

Cecil's name emerged again in 1980 during post-trial proceedings. Attorney William Cunningham, representing Mondo, disclosed that the Omaha ATF office sought conspiracy charges against twenty-two black activists in four states, including Cecil, for bombings in the 1970's. United States Attorney Richard Dier refused to bring charges against the group, dubbed the Midwest 22, ending federal attempts to further imprison Cecil.

Robert Cecil did his time for the sawed-off shotgun and after prison returned to Omaha, abandoning the activism that marked his time as a Black Panther. The COINTELPRO program was terminated ten days after the Omaha Two trial ended in April 1971. Duane Peak, the confessed bomber, made a deal with the Douglas County Attorney and never spend a day in prison for the bombing death of Larry Minard. Ed Poindexter remains in prison, trapped by wrongs of the past that many do not want to correct or remember.

March 20th - Take Action for Ed Poindexter: Support the Nebraska Medical Parole Bill

Terrell McKinney's bill LB 980 <nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=47504> would allow prisoners, including those with life sentences, to be released on medical parole.

Please write to the Judiciary Committee to support this bill.

Nebraskans for Prison reform made a tool kit with information about LB 980 with all the email addresses for the Judiciary Committee: bit.ly/3AzWfYR

Terrell said he would like LB 980 to get voted out of committee and discussed on the floor so letters to the Judiciary Committee members are very helpful.

This medical parole bill could help get Ed Poindexter released.

He has been in prison since 1971, is on dialysis, and has other medical issues.

14 Mar - Albums Against the Invasion by the ABC Musical Solidarity Group

Shortly after the first bombs started falling on Ukrainian cities in the invasion by Russian forces, anti-authoritarian musicians around the world began collaborating with members of Anarchist Black Cross collectives to respond.

MORE:

Now, two compilation albums have been released to raise money for anarchists fighting the invasion on the front lines in Ukraine, and behind the lines in Russia: abcmusicalsolidarity.bandcamp.com

The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian military requires Putin to direct violence on both sides of the battle lines. As his bombers and artillery shell Ukrainian cities, and his tanks roll over Ukrainian fields and wallow in the springtime mud, the Russian state maintains the discipline of war at home. The OMON and FSB target anti-war protestors. The media shut down under threats of prison for speaking truth about the war. When conscripts refuse to participate in this imperialist war, they face threats and punishments from their officers.

In Kyiv and other cities, the Ukrainian anarchist movement—which includes many exiled Russian and Belarusian comrades, has taken up arms. They are fighting to defend their communities, their comrades, and a liberatory vision of the future of Ukraine, separate from the aspirations of the Right or of the state. Meanwhile, across Russia, our comrades take to the street whether by day in mass marches, or by night to spread the truth about the war through creative means, or to take more direct actions. One draft office has already been burned near Moscow. In the words of that heroic arsonist, "Let [the oligarchs] know their own people hate them and we will extinguish them. Soon the earth will start to burn under their feet. Hell awaits at home."

By supporting the fight against the invasion at both the front and behind the lines, we hope to nurture the seeds of the movement that can turn this war between nations into a revolution against the ruling class—a new spring of autonomy and solidarity sweeping across the steppe.

The first album, "The Deserter", is fund-raising for the Anarchist Black Cross in Moscow. It will support the legal defense and general protection of those within the Russian Federation who are resisting the war and fighting back against the clampdown by the Russian state. Featuring a black poppy and the crossed-out "Z" of the anti-war movement on its cover, the album features songs about political prisoners, inflation, soldiers' mothers, barricades, and of course, desertion.

The second album, "Mother Anarchy," is raising money for the Anarchist Black Cross Dresden, to be directed towards their ongoing support work for the Committee of Resistance, an anarchist unit within the Territorial Defense forces, formed by anti-authoritarian activists in Ukraine. Beginning with the song "Mother Anarchy" written by Nestor Makhno, the album takes us on a journey through South African hip hop, lo-fi, German punk, ska, and Makhnovist rewrites of Cossack ballads.

The artist lineup includes such acts as Soundz of the South, Darryl Cherney, the Window Smashing Job Creators, Maske, Soho, and a folk collective formed for this project going by the pseudonym Tachanka.

The albums are being sold at the ABC Musical Solidarity Bandcamp for at least \$8 each, with the option to pay more to support the cause.

14 Mar - Congressional Team Finds "Cultural rot" at FCI Dublin

On March 14th, a trio of Congressional leaders toured a federal Dublin prison embroiled in a national scandal after four correctional officers – including the former warden – were charged with sex crimes and one of the formerly incarcerated women is now alleging that one of guards preyed on her by digging into her confidential files, too.

MORE:

by Lisa Fernandez (KTVU)

U.S. Congress members Eric Swalwell, Jackie Speier and Karen Bass – all Democrats from California – got a private walk-through of the federal all-women's prison, located next to Santa Rita Jail, about 40 miles east of San Francisco. They wanted to see for themselves what is going on.

Swalwell said that on the short trip, they were able to interview some staff members and speak to some women inside.

"I was here a month ago," Speier told reporters outside the prison. "And I was prevented from speaking privately with inmates. I made it very clear we would return. And we returned. This prison is a cultural, toxic environment. You have got a cultural rot in this institution that must be addressed."

Speier also addressed the reprisals that incarcerated people and staffers have reported receiving for speaking out about abuses. And she noted that on the day of the tour, there were "surprisingly, cameras being installed where they had been blind spots and where many of these sexual assaults have occurred."

Speier said that after speaking with the incarcerated prison, they told her that FCI Dublin is "the worst one" out of the seven all-women's prisons in the country by far.

And Speier vowed it would change.

"It's under the microscope now," Speier said.

Congresswoman Karen Bass also spoke, saying she planned to introduce legislation that would help rehabilitate women instead of punish them.

"The criminal justice system is not designed for women," Bass said.

John Kostelnik, the Western region vice president for the correctional workers union, also spoke to reporters.

He said the misconduct at FBCI Dublin has "been going on for years" and he fully supported the oversight by Congress. He said his union has been trying to replace guards who don't take these problems seriously.

"We have a great staff here," he said. "Unfortunately, there are bad eggs who disgraced us."

Kostelnik said that overall "negligence" led FCI Dublin to where it is today. And he said he wants the heinous situation to change, mostly with more staff.

"More eyes on us is a good thing," he said. "Help is on the way."

Their comments come after an Associated Press investigation uncovered that FCI Dublin has been nicknamed the "rape club" and that complaints by women and whistleblower employees have not only fallen on deaf ears, but that these people have also been retaliated against.

The tour also came on the same day that *KTVU* reported the story of Andrea Reyes, 34, who has come forward with an explosive new claim: Not only did a correctional officer have an inappropriate sexual relationship with her – but he also dug into her private medical records to uncover her mental frailties and then used those triggers to prey on her.

In an exclusive interview with *KTVU*, Reyes said that former correctional officer Ross Klinger obtained access to her private health files to manipulate her mentally as well as physically. Klinger has since pleaded guilty to having sex with three incarcerated women at the Dublin prison.

"I feel like he literally would pick the ones he felt were weak," Reyes said. "I believed him. I was alone and I was vulnerable."

In addition to Congress, 100 groups – from Centro Legal de la Raza in Oakland and the ACLU in San Francisco – have fired off a letter to the Department of Justice and the Attorney General's Civil Rights division, among others, demanding not only a deeper investigation into this prison, but also releasing women who have "survived staff abuse."

Among the other demands: Establish unmonitored lines of communication for incarcerated women to report staff misconduct to an independent body; ensure that officers accused of abuse cannot have any direct contact with incarcerated women; and immediately dismiss staff who are found to have abused incarcerated women.

At least one of those demands was addressed by the Congressional team.

Swalwell said that it would be "unacceptable" if officers who were accused of sexual misconduct were still working in the same facility as the woman who accused them – they should at least be put on leave during an internal investigation.

Swalwell also noted that the Bureau of Prisons has used COVID as an excuse for many things, such as not being able to put up cameras, not allowing women to congregate and not allowing them educational access.

But that's a "disgrace," Swalwell said, adding that COVID can no longer be used as a valid excuse not to protect women's rights or try to rehabilitate them.

16 Mar - Calling all freedom fighters to protect bail reform!

As you might know, special interest groups are using every tool at their disposal and creating some, to influence legislators and the populace in an all-out effort to roll back bail reform.

MORE:

Just about every daily periodical is reporting that the bail reforms are responsible for the most horrendous crimes and the so-called crime surge in general. While RAPP's work centers the release of people from NY State prisons, we support decarceration at any phase of the criminal legal system and believe this moment requires all of us to come together for the common cause of protecting bail reform. The urgency of the moment and the implications for all future reforms compels us to take a more active role in the campaign to do everything we can to prevent bail reform roll backs.

I am personally asking you, your organization, and the entire criminal legal reform and prison abolition community to join us in the fight against roll-backs to bail reform, if you are not already involved. Many groups have been pushing back in many ways, but the ruthless opposition by the carceral state is overwhelming. All of us must come together to preserve our gains for freedom and justice and continue to chart a path forward for more reforms and the ultimate dismantling of this system. It will not be easy, and we may not win, but in the name and spirit of righteousness, we must come together in this moment, all of us, and fight like hell.

We're asking you to join us and other organizations in support of bail reform over the next two weeks. On the dates below, we're going to work to support pre-trial freedom, coordinating logistics for our own staff and community leaders, and ask you to join us in doing the same.

March 24: Rally with many other organizations in NYC supporting bail reform and real solutions to stopping violence

March 28: Large-scale lobby day in support of bail reform in Albany

If you have any questions about any of these action items, please email vlpsaldana@gmail.com

17 Mar - Doug Wright is free

It's official! Doug Wright, the last of the Cleveland 4 to still be imprisoned, has been released.

MORE:

All of the guys are out & free. 3606 days of support, letters, and care. ❤️ Welcome home, Doug. Donate to Doug's release fund at [Donate at tinyurl.com/doug-wright](https://www.donateurl.com/doug-wright)

19 Mar - Witness the violence of the NYPD's anti-protest unit

The NYPD's Strategic Response Group (SRG) is a notoriously violent rapid response unit that threatens, attacks, and arrests protesters.

MORE:

Witness the SRG in action in video and newly-released audio testimonies recorded and compiled by the NYCLU and our volunteers <[tiny.cc/NYPD_SRG](https://www.tiny.cc/NYPD_SRG)>. The screams of protesters, the panicked voices of randomly targeted marchers, and the chaos created by the SRG are all vividly captured in these recordings.

Despite promises from the NYPD that the SRG would not be deployed at protests, the unit has become one of the primary tools the department uses to suppress free speech. When SRG arrives on the scene, officers escalate situations and injure New Yorkers who are exercising their First Amendment rights – especially those fighting for racial justice.

The SRG's exact budget is opaque. But we know it has ballooned from around \$13 million to an estimated \$90 million, even though most of the unit's responsibilities are already performed by other NYPD agencies.

We need real solutions that drive public safety, like violence interruption programs, expanded mental health care resources, supportive housing, and jobs programs. What we don't need is a militarized police unit trained to treat protesters like enemy combatants.

Tell leaders to disband the SRG, reinvest in communities: tiny.cc/Disband_SRG

21 Mar - Guards let Patrick Rogers die here by Dan Baker

We are always happy to share words and writing by the political prisoners we support. Below is the latest by anti-fascist Dan Baker.

MORE:

Last month on February 4th guards at FCI Memphis allowed our friend Patrick Rogers to die. Sources in here tell me that he had regularly medical emergencies, falling down unconscious frequently. The staff became agitated with having to respond to these emergencies and the new Captain here accused him of faking and spread the rumor that he was faking medical emergencies and gave instructions to not respond to these incidents. As a result, his medical ailments went untreated for a long period of time. I have been told that he was hit by a truck before coming to this prison and had multiple medical conditions as a result. After falling down yet again he was taken to the Special Housing unit. Guards said this was because he “mouthed off to a guard” while witnesses claim he was taken away because he could not walk.

Shortly after being taken to the SHU the entire prison went on lockdown. On Friday the 4th of February, he died. His neighbors in Tennessee Unit A say that he was allowed to die by staff because they were concerned that he had a legitimate case for a lawsuit and they were legally vulnerable to legal action. Lt. King came into the unit after he died and callously remarked, “Well, I guess he wasn’t faking!” He was asked if he thought this was funny and unconvincingly replied no, that it was a potential lawsuit. Legal vulnerability and a fear of taking responsibility trumped this Lieutenant’s sense of what a human life is worth. I won’t speak of his sense of humor. Understandably this upset Big Pat’s friends, not to mention his family. I heard about this exchange from one of his friends in the chow hall today as the lockdown was lifted and lost my appetite. As fellow captives of the prison industrial complex we are all outraged within these walls.

Efforts to spread the word about this deadly medical negligence, deliberate indifference and fatal targeted harassment have been hampered by staff refusing to sell us paper, stationery and stamps during this lockdown. Thanks to sympathetic guards and our constitutional right to contact family the word has already gotten out. My defense committee has been notified and asked to contact Mr. Rogers’ family while raising awareness on various social medias, spreading pamphlets, articles and writing essays. That ball is already rolling. The cops reading this message may try to censor it, but that would be a useless gesture as the cat is already out of the bag. Any attempt to censor journalism and destroy evidence leaves government employees vulnerable to civil action. As a community we have the resources, the solidarity and the ability to take legal action and win. We will. I request everyone reading this to look into the situation and #RememberPat. Contact the American Civil Liberties Union, Prison Legal News and any other groups who you think can be helpful. We need to spread the word about the conditions here before anyone else dies. This can happen to any of us at any time. The current political climate is such that the prison industrial complex wants to incarcerate everyone in the U.\$. To be clear their goal is that all Amerikkans go to jail or prison at some point in their lives. As more laws are invented more and more people’s existences are criminalized and subject to abduction and extortion at the hands of authoritarian forces. On a long enough time frame more people will have been oppressed by unjust laws and dirty cops than people who have no criminal record. In this was the death of Patrick Rogers and people like him affect all of us. The political is personal. Don’t let them tell you that “that’s just how it is, that life is tough, that it’s just business”.

Take it personally whenever any authority figure makes policies that harm you, your loved ones, your neighbors and your friends. Because it is personal. The gears of justice grind slowly and the creatures of power who have money and power are not ground under these machines, they slide out of under them with a laugh, waving to us as we are destroyed. This machine does not serve us, it serves them.

They say we are faking it when we tell them that they are killing us. They say we are faking it when we tell them to get off our necks. They say we are faking it when we tell them that climate change is genocide for those too poor to migrate. They say we are faking it when we tell them an old prisoner is dying of preventable conditions as prisons are converted into eugenic hospice centers for the elderly poor. Fuck that, fuck them. Please help us raise awareness about these conditions.

24 Mar - Support: Inside & Out

WHAT: Webinar

WHEN: 6:00pm (EST), Thursday, March 24th

WHERE: The Internet (register at cldc.org/event/032422)

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) to learn about supporting movement participants through incarceration, release, and transition back home from people who have lived it. Former political prisoners will share their experiences of support as well as how they continue to support people held behind the walls.

Panelists will include Daniel McGowan, Michael “Rattler” Markus, Linda Evans, Ray Luc Levasseur and Luke O’Donovan.

25 Mar - PDX ABC Virtual Letter-Writing

WHAT: Letter-writing for Political Prisoners

WHEN: 9:00pm (EST), Friday, March 25th

WHERE: Jitsi (log in at meet.jit.si/ABCPDX)

COST: FREE

MORE:

It has been too long, and we have been low on bandwidth, but Portland ABC is rolling again!

26 Mar - Women Gather Words: Workshop for Kamau Sadiki

WHAT: Workshop

WHEN: 3:00pm, Saturday, March 26th

WHERE: ONLINE <tinyurl.com/womengather4kamau>

COST: FREE

MORE:

We women are standing up during Women's History Month for Kamau Sadiki. We invite our whole community to join us for a letter-writing workshop.

Sometimes it can be difficult to find the right words. Join us to gain some guidance on writing to captured Freedom Fighters like Kamau Sadiki.

Together we will be in and build community as we learn about Kamau Sadiki, the efforts to bring him home, and the fight for all US Held Political Prisoners.