



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for November 14th

29 Oct - Support Former Political Prisoner Zolo Azania

Former Black political prisoner and friend to many of us, Zolo Azania, needs our financial assistance to pay for important repairs on his car.

MORE:

via *The Final Straw*

He uses his car to drive to work. Details below. Please be generous.

Zolo recently had a new transmission installed in his car along with other necessary repairs. The total bill came out to \$4,659.51. He had put aside \$1,200 for car repairs; therefore he needs another \$3,459.51 in order to reclaim his car.

After spending nearly 37 years in Indiana prisons, Zolo has been free for nearly 7 years now. After facing many challenges on the outside, we're very happy to say Zolo now owns a house! Of course, he needs to pay a mortgage and pay for repairs and upkeep on the house. After working 5 years at low paying jobs, Zolo was recently able to obtain a better paying job with benefits. This job requires a commute which is difficult on public transportation.

Zolo would like to avoid excessive charges for the dealership to store his car. If Zolo cannot pay this repair bill he risks losing his car altogether.

Zolo appreciates any donation but please be as generous as you can.

You can send donations to him via Zelle, Venmo or Cash App (\$ZoloAzania5). His accounts are under "Zolo Azania"

29 Oct - Tell Biden: Leonard Peltier deserves freedom.

Native activist Leonard Peltier is the longest-serving political prisoner in the U.S. history.

MORE:

He is now 79 years old and in deteriorating health.

More than 48 years have been stolen from his life due to FBI misconduct, including coercing and threatening witnesses to make false statements (which were all later recanted), and withholding key evidence that exonerated him.

The fight for Leonard Peltier's freedom continues to this day. That's why we brought together a coalition of organizations to bring renewed pressure on the Biden Administration to act and it's why we're asking you to once again take action today.

Only President Biden has the power to release Peltier from federal prison, and he will only do it with enough public pressure. Please sign and send a direct message to the president calling for the release of Leonard Peltier now: actionnetwork.org/letters/free-leonard-peltier-2

30 Oct - Kansas City judge finds nuclear abolition activist "not guilty"

Shock. The courtroom, with about 25 supporters of the defendant, was steeled to hear Judge Anne LaBella say, "Guilty."

MORE:

by Jane Stoever (*PeaceWorks Kansas City*)

The case had been heard. All indicators were that Ann Suellentrop, who pleaded not guilty to committing the crime of trespass on May 29, Memorial Day, at the massive KC MO nuclear weapon production plant, would be declared guilty and most likely endure a lengthy appeal process. The prosecutor had repeatedly objected to Suellentrop's statements and those of her one witness, retired lawyer Henry Stoever, and only once did the judge not sustain the objections.

The judge made sure Suellentrop had no further comments. The city rested its case. Then, all of a sudden, the prosecutor saw fit to ask the judge to "amend the charge" against Suellentrop. The prosecutor asked that the name Honeywell be added to the charge, since the charge said she trespassed at the Kansas City National Security Campus without mentioning Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies, which administers the NSC. During the hour-long trial, the prosecutor's witness had identified himself as a Honeywell lieutenant, a guard. In effect, the complaining witness did not precisely match the charge.

LaBella calmly told the prosecutor concerning the charge, "No. It will stay as it is." The amendment request came too late. Labella firmly told Ann, "I find you not guilty," and advised, "You may go now."

A technicality? A thin thread the judge used because she had reason to believe no crime was committed?

We'll never know. The result: stunning.

During the trial, Suellentrop was able to bring up significant aspects of the case. "We all live under the threat of nuclear war, the threat of nuclear terrorism," she told LaBella. Giving her own background, Suellentrop said, "I am a pediatric nurse with a 45-year career. I am a Catholic. I have taken many seminars on Catholic social justice teaching. I am a follower of Father Charles Emmanuel McCarthy, who focuses on the nonviolence of Jesus."

The prosecutor objected, "This is all in the trial brief," a 36-page document Suellentrop submitted a week before the trial. Indeed, the trial brief notes that the US is revamping all the nuclear weapons in its arsenal. The judge sustained the prosecutor's objection, asking Suellentrop, "What happened that day?"

"I participated in the *PeaceWorks* events," said Suellentrop, a vice chair of *PeaceWorks*. "I walked one mile on the public sidewalk, participated in the prayers and songs, and did the die-in to mourn the sick workers and the people who died as a result of the toxins at the (old) plant." Suellentrop added, "I crossed the line to make known my objection to nuclear weapon production." She noted the plant is one of eight major US plants engaged in nuclear weapon production and maintenance.

"I did not have the mens rea, the criminal mind," she said. "I was doing it (crossing the line) as a protest."

As Suellentrop questioned her witness, Stoever, he said he contacts both the NSC guards and the local police in advance of the annual Memorial Day action so they will not be surprised. He goes early to the NSC road and shakes the officers' hands as they await the protesters. He assures them we will be nonviolent. "There are no hostilities," he told the court.

Supporters were asked to quietly leave the courtroom after the verdict and headed outside to celebrate. They congratulated Suellentrop, who said she knew she was not on the witness stand by herself—we were all with her. She thanked Stoever for his assistance in preparing for the trial. He reflected, "We can look at this in a narrow way, but the big picture is that we are all living on death row with the threat of extinction from these weapons. And by now, we have had about 175 instances of persons crossing the line in protest." Turning to the defendant, he said, "We applaud your courage, Ann!" And we all cheered.

One of the supporters, Ursuline Sister Angela Fitzpatrick, told Stoeber as they left the courthouse in surprise at the “not guilty” verdict, “God is good. God is great!”

Suellentrop later said we are living at a critical point in time with two hot wars (genocidal with civilians being targeted) involving nuclear weapons states and threats being made to use the nuclear weapons.

1 Nov - Denied Bail But The Fight Continues

We have an important and disappointing update to share with you about the federal case against Peppy and Krystal.

MORE:

We received the devastating news on Thursday, October 26th that the judge rejected an appeal regarding Peppy’s pre-trial incarceration. This means that Peppy is likely to remain locked up indefinitely, as the legal team prepares for trial.

Now that it seems clear that pre-trial detention is where he’ll remain for the foreseeable future, it’s time for us all to rally wholeheartedly behind Peppy and Krystal. There are many things we can do to keep building our loving network of support and keep light on this case to help influence the best possible outcome.

Here you can find the support flyer and poster to get the word out which is now more important than ever. This news comes as Peppy crosses the four-month mark of incarceration at a jail that offers prisoners no outdoor time whatsoever and no library. He needs your connection. It will absolutely help him get through this tough period. Please continue to write to Peppy and if you’re looking for ideas as to what to write this might help when you’re first putting pen-to-paper.

Krystal also continues to face serious political charges. We are grateful that she is not in any sort of pre-trial imprisonment, but she needs love too! Send her encouraging messages via email to freepeppyandkrystal@riseup.net and we will make sure she gets them, and if you’re directly connected with her and able to, please consider sending her a note by snail mail as well!

Also, as we begin to move toward a trial, there will be new and significant amounts of funds needed to support Peppy and Krystal’s legal defense. You can contribute to that fund directly through our website. Keep your eyes open for upcoming financial requests and please get in touch if you have any particular ideas of major donors who could help ease that burden. We’d be happy to answer any questions or explore easiest donation possibilities.

1 Nov - War Against the Fleas

Please read the latest by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

MORE:

Perhaps Israel’s most respected statesman, former diplomat, Abba Eban, once said, “Nobody does Israel any service by proclaiming its right to exist.” That was then, in 1981. The now is a new age, a new era. A time of Israel’s swing to the far-right wing. It is once again a time of war, but to say it’s a war of Hamas versus Israel is somewhat disingenuous.

For there has been a war between Palestine and Israel for, at the very least, 75 years, and at most, a century. And this is not a war around religion or between faiths or gods. It’s a war for that which is no longer being produced — land. Kudos to the authors of the Except for Palestine text, *The Limits of Progressive Politics*, Mark Lamont Hill and Mitchell Plitnick. The book, using history instead of myths, shows how the Palestinians received exceptions to the rules while Zionists got every break. They showed the emergence of the rightist Likud party and the ideas proposed by Ziv Javotinsky.

They led right to this moment in Israeli history of war and iron walls. The book, Except for Palestine, shows how U.S. foreign policy was driven by domestic policy. And how both major parties played bipartisan footsies to make Israel a regional superpower in the Middle East. And while Hamas may have used a few low tech hang gliders, have you ever seen one engage with an F-14? I don't think so.

What most US news agencies are loath to address is the realm of international law, especially when one considers the law of occupied territories and the right of the occupied to resist their occupation by any necessary means. The Palestinians are the indigenous people of the region.

They are thus equivalent to the Navajo, Apache, and Seminoles of the West, subjected to the settler colonialism of the invaders. It is they who have a right to exist. Is that not so? The indigenous of the U.S. were sent to the worst lands available, so called "reservations". The Palestinians have been ghettoized, walled off by walls that violate international law, humiliated, and subjected to a century of dispossession and military repression.

Their decades of negotiations have led to nothing but more of the same. They want what all people want, freedom.

5 Nov - Advocates concerned as AI monitors the communications of inmates

Securus Technologies, which has contracts with N.Y. prisons and more than a dozen county jails, has been sued for sharing privileged conversations

MORE:

by Molly Burke (Times Union)

A technology company that provides telephone services to thousands of inmates in New York's prison system — and also at more than a dozen county jails across the state — has been targeted in multiple lawsuits alleging it has violated their privacy rights, including recording privileged calls with attorneys.

Multiple courts have affirmed the right of correctional facilities to record and monitor the communications of inmates, who are informed that their calls and text messages are not private unless they are communicating with their attorney. But there have been many incidents nationwide in which the privileged calls with attorneys have been recorded, and in some instances were later shared with prosecutors.

Securus Technologies — a Texas company that has a \$70 million contract with New York's Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to provide telephone and texting services to thousands of inmates in state prisons — has defended its monitoring practices and the telephone technology that state prison officials said is providing inmates and their families with some of the lowest caller rates in the country.

The company's software records phone conversations and uses artificial intelligence to monitor and transcribe them. Suspicious words and phrases within conversations are flagged by the technology, further analyzed and then forwarded to jail and prison administrators for review, according to law enforcement officials.

In some instances, the information has been used to thwart contraband smuggling, avert witness tampering or served as evidence in alleged crimes, those officials said.

Some defense attorneys and advocates, however, have voiced privacy and civil rights concerns with the operations of Securus within New York's prisons and jails.

Privacy violations

In a class-action lawsuit filed seven years ago in U.S. District Court in southern California, Securus Technologies agreed to a \$900,000 settlement in the case that was filed on behalf of two state prison

inmates and an attorney who accused the company of violating their privacy rights and other unlawful activity for illegally recording their calls. Most of that money — \$870,000 — went to the attorneys who filed the litigation.

An investigation by The Maine Monitor revealed that 837 calls between at least 161 inmates and attorneys from 34 law firms were recorded by jails that contract with Securus Technologies in 2019 and 2020.

A federal class-action lawsuit filed in that state against the company for recording privileged conversations was later dismissed in U.S. District Court, where a judge ruled the plaintiffs' attorneys had failed to show Securus Technologies intended to record those calls.

Securus Technologies also settled a case in Kansas after 500 people were identified as having their privileged calls recorded in a private prison. The technology company and CoreCivic, the private operator of the prison, agreed to pay a \$3.7 million settlement in 2020, after paying \$1.6 million to the same affected incarcerated individuals in 2019.

“Since 2014, they have been sued year after year, in jurisdiction after jurisdiction, for this same problem and the same practice and they’re not doing anything to effectively end the issue,” said Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez, a counsel at Brooklyn Defender Services.

Vasquez researches data, science and technology to assist incarcerated individuals and their families. The organization found recordings of their own conversations with clients through pre-trial discovery when that evidence had been provided by prosecutors, leading to an investigation by the New York City Department of Investigation.

The department’s report, released in May, identified that from late 2020 to early 2021, Securus recorded the calls of 324 attorneys and their incarcerated clients.

The report said that the breach of privacy in the privileged calls “did not appear to have been intentional” and that only about 1 in every 833 attorneys in the city’s Securus “Do Not Record” list was affected.

Following the investigation into the recorded calls, Securus and the city’s Department of Correction changed the “Do Not Record” status of phone numbers across the city’s correctional system. That included setting up a website for attorneys to check if their numbers were listed as private and added the phone numbers of attorneys from a list obtained by the state Office of Court Administration.

That endeavor sought to prevent any recordings of calls between attorneys and their clients.

'Can't be trusted'

On the state level, the department of corrections provides dedicated legal phone lines outside of the Securus system for incarcerated people to use for privileged conversations. If they use Securus, staff listening to the call must immediately stop if they realize it is a legal conversation, according to department policy.

“Any legal call made on the Securus platform remains confidential and cannot be used as part of any investigation as they are subject to attorney-client privilege,” the agency said in a statement.

The department still records the call, however, and does not delete the recording of the privileged call.

For Meghna Philip, a former special litigation attorney with the Neighborhood Defender Service in Harlem, that is a concern.

“Attorney-client calls just shouldn’t be recorded — period,” said Philip, who is now with The Bronx Defenders organization.

The attorney said that the recordings are out of the state agency's control when they are recorded on the Securus platform and that the company's history shows a history of sharing privileged conversations.

"Securus, as a company, should not have access to that data and can't be trusted with it," Philip said.

Securus Technologies said they prioritize protecting privileged conversations, while also focusing on surveillance as a central part of jail and prison safety. The company said it does not comment on legal or financial matters.

"Facilities require monitoring and recording of outbound calls, except for attorney communication, to create a safer environment by preventing and detecting suspicious or coordinated criminal activity," the company said in a statement. "Securus Technologies takes privacy and security extremely seriously, which is why we have worked diligently to protect the rights of our product users, including incarcerated individuals, correctional staff, and the public."

Aventiv Technologies, which is the parent company of Securus Technologies, also operates JPay, the company contracted to run commissary services in New York prisons. The companies have ventured into other technology services in prisons and jails, including providing tablets to incarcerated people.

The devices allow individuals to email, text and make video calls to family members and others throughout the day. Securus also advertises the tablets as a tool for educational and employment resources to reduce recidivism.

For incarcerated people, the tablets have brought more communication opportunities than traditional telecommunications systems have allowed in the past.

Securus Technologies claims that opening up communication between incarcerated populations and their families can also reduce recidivism.

Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple said he has seen mental health and behavior within the jail improve since the introduction of the tablets. With incarcerated people being able to communicate regularly with their loved ones, the overall environment has improved significantly, Apple said. The sheriff also noted the program came at no cost to taxpayers.

Albany County has also instituted a mail-scanning system by Securus Technologies that has the company send a digital copy of mail to incarcerated individuals' tablets rather than the actual physical mail. The company stores the mail for individuals' collection upon their release from jail, Apple said.

Apple said that before the mail-scanning program was implemented, mail was coming from fake law firm addresses to try to prevent law enforcement from opening the letters and packages, where were falsely marked as legal correspondence. The contraband mail often contained suboxone-soaked papers, Apple said, which were then smoked or combined with water for opioid consumption.

The "deceptive" contraband was complex for the sheriff's department to deal with, Apple said. Securus Technologies' program filled in and made it easier on corrections staff, verifying actual legal mail and rooting out other mail by sending only a digital copy.

New York City Department of Correction Commissioner Louis Molina also said that fentanyl-soaked paper had been sent in mail and distributed in their jails when he asked the city's Board of Correction to implement a mail-scanning program by Securus.

The board denied bringing the issue to a vote at their March meeting. The issue has yet to resurface, but Philip, with The Bronx Defenders, is confident that the plan will eventually be implemented.

Wanda Bertram, a spokeswoman for the Prison Policy Initiative, said that the claim that mail scanning will reduce contraband does not address the bigger problem with drug use in jails and prisons. Bertram noted that staff are often a significant source of contraband in the facilities.

Apple said that the claim that contraband falls primarily on staff is “ridiculous.” For Albany County, mail and visitations were the primary entry points of drugs and other contraband, the sheriff said. With mail scanning now implemented, Apple said that the vast majority of contraband problems come from visitations at the jail, though he did not rule out the potential for some corrections staff to play a role in bringing in contraband.

Securus Technologies has also expanded into other services with acquisitions of companies. The company and its main competitor, ViaPath Technologies (formerly known as Global Tel Link) operated an estimated 65.2 percent of the prison and jail telecommunications market in 2021, according to a Prison Policy Initiative study.

Securus launched a product in 2018 that brought together all of the data the company collected onto a single platform to be shared with law enforcement. Their comprehensive NexGen Secure Communications Platform allows law enforcement to search for all of the company’s data points on any individual in the system.

Included in the database are the unique “voiceprints” of individuals, which are generated as unique biometric identifiers with machine learning. Advocates have claimed that voiceprints are captured for non-incarcerated people calling into the Securus system, but the company disputes the allegation.

“All calls are stored on NexGen SCP, however our investigatory software does not create, store, or use voiceprints for the non-incarcerated parties,” the company said in a statement. “Our software allows an investigator to detect for suspicious or coordinated criminal activity, which is done without associating the voice sound with any personally identifiable information.”

The company marketed the platform as “a new way to investigate” in a promotional video from 2018.

“This is not just a calling platform,” the NexGen video said. “It’s a single interface that allows you to manage any inmate interaction and gain more intelligence than ever before.”

The company highlighted that the platform would give data and details on every call, video call, activity and contraband cellphone use that an incarcerated person participated in, giving law enforcement access to “hundreds of thousands of data records in less than a second.”

Reducing recidivism

Securus Technologies has also expanded the insights from NexGen with their data sharing product, THREADS, which allows jurisdictions to opt in to sharing information with other law enforcement agencies.

“Both products deliver on our commitment to provide products and services that balance the security needs of corrections agencies and consumer privacy,” Securus Technologies said in a statement. “We believe technology is a force multiplier and our investigative solutions support secure usage of tablet technology, bridging the digital divide for incarcerated individuals and helping reduce the nation’s current 70 percent recidivism rate.”

The technology company said in promotional materials that the purpose of the two products is to enhance safety in facilities and to aid investigators.

Some, including Vasquez, who is with Neighborhood Defender Services, are skeptical about the breadth of data access the company has enabled.

“This sort of expansion into all of these different areas is really just expansion into a bunch of different data sharing because what Securus is really about is collecting as much data as it can on the individuals that are incarcerated and the social networks that are connected with them,” Vasquez said.

The technology company countered that they are committed to protecting the civil liberties of users while using products to keep incarcerated people, correctional officers and the public “safe and secure.”

“With that in mind, we have not, and will never, sell data generated by our public-safety software or services,” Securus said.

Securus Technologies also promoted a product that tracked the locations of cellphones at the beginning and end of calls made to prisons and jails, according to company documents from 2018.

The geo-locating of non-incarcerated people with the Location Based Services product faced scrutiny from prison reform advocates, who believe that the technology violated civil liberties. Securus Technologies stopped offering the product five years ago and “will never offer it again under any circumstance,” the company said.

Phone calls made on the Securus platform begin with a disclaimer that the call is not private and is recorded. The disclaimer states that the conversation can be monitored and the caller has to accept or reject the call to continue.

Bianca Tylek, the founder and executive director of Worth Rises, an advocacy group seeking to dismantle the prison industry, said that the disclaimer does not make the surveillance of incarcerated people’s loved ones permissible.

“It doesn’t matter because there’s no other option for people,” Tylek said. “This is not a consensual agreement to be recorded, to be voiceprinted, to be surveilled in this way, let alone to be turned into a global product.”

Others have noted the populations most subject to the monitoring by Securus are incarcerated and those that can afford bail are not subject to the same level of surveilled communications.

Securus Technologies provides the services in correctional facilities in 46 states and the District of Columbia, and has an additional \$35 million contract with New York’s corrections department that was approved in late September for “inmate kiosks and related services for correctional facilities statewide.”

Last year, Cedric Reid, who was held in a New York City jail before his trial, sued the city and Securus Technologies for recording his calls to friends and family and turning them over to the prosecution. The recordings were used as evidence in his case, in which Reid was ultimately convicted.

Reid argued that the facility recorded calls that the facility claimed were “aimed at ensuring jail security, but in fact motivated by a desire to uncover evidence of crimes and facilitate criminal prosecutions.” Reid’s argument that the jail did not have a right to record his calls ultimately failed and the lawsuit was dismissed.

Tylek and other advocates also expressed concern that the disproportionate imprisonment of marginalized groups makes them more subject to surveillance by Securus Technologies.

“Black and brown people are disproportionately represented in the system,” said Alice Green, the director of the Center for Law and Justice in Albany. “All these abuses are going to fall pretty much on them, so something needs to be done to guarantee privacy and constitutional rights.”

5 Nov - Russian Activist Found in Moscow Jail After Disappearing in Kyrgyzstan

Russian anarchist Lev Skoryakin has been found inside a Moscow detention center weeks after going missing in the Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Memorial human rights group said Friday.

MORE:

from *The Moscow Times*

Skoryakin was allegedly tortured at Moscow’s Butyrka detention center after being abducted from a Kyrgyz jail on Oct. 17 and flown to Moscow the next day, Memorial said without specifying who was behind the activist’s forcible transfer.

He faces charges of armed “hooliganism” in Russia for staging a protest with fellow activist Ruslan Abasov against the Federal Security Service (FSB) in 2021 with the use of a flare gun.

Both had managed to flee Russia after serving more than six months in detention.

Kyrgyz authorities initially refused to extradite Skoryakin because he had applied for political asylum.

“Skoryakin was most likely pressured to say that he had allegedly decided to return to Russia independently and of his own free will,” Memorial said.

Skoryakin’s plans to travel from Kyrgyzstan to Germany — where he received a humanitarian visa — were foiled after the Kyrgyz authorities confiscated his Russian passport, according to the human rights group.

Kyrgyz authorities previously detained Skoryakin in June and held him in detention until September.

Memorial has recognized both Skoryakin and Abasov as political prisoners over violations of their freedom of assembly.

A number of anti-Kremlin activists have been extradited from or refused entry to countries neighboring Russia since Moscow invaded Ukraine in early 2022.

Russian authorities have cracked down on domestic critics with a range of criminal prosecutions in their effort to stifle dissent.

9 Nov - STATEMENT FROM 12 OF 61 RICO CO-DEFENDANTS: Anarchism Must Not Be Criminalized

From Scenes from the Atlanta Forest...

MORE:

This statement was written before the Al-aqsa Flood, during which Palestinian fighters broke through the fence around the open-air prison known as the Gaza strip in 29 locations. We condemn Israel in the strongest terms, & support the liberation of the Palestinian people. We know that the same weapons and tactics that have been and continue to be used to colonize Palestine have been and continue to be used to colonize Turtle Island, as we can see in the GILEE Program (Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange) where the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) soldiers share “best practices” with police in Georgia. The proposed Cop City [in Atlanta] will be the military base from which the occupation of Atlanta is furthered, and we oppose their progression of the genocidal project known as the United States.

This RICO indictment is an attempt by the state to not only criminalize dissent, but a specific set of ideas which leads to dissent and offers an alternative framework to the state and capitalism. Anarchism, solidarity, mutual aid, and collectivism are specifically named in the indictment to make people afraid of these ideas, when the only people who are actually afraid of these collective ways of organizing are the politicians, cops, and corporations who seek to preserve their absolute power over humanity. If we had ways of living more collectively, satisfied our needs through mutual aid, and had solidarity with each other, people may realize they don't need the state or capitalism, and they may realize that the greatest causes of human suffering and barriers to freedom and security are the state and capitalism. The state wants us to be atomized consumers who cannot survive without selling ourselves to someone wealthier than us, who rely on alienating, impersonal judicial systems and violence from a gang of armed outsiders to resolve our conflicts, who outsource the production of our food to invisibilized, mostly non-white, non-citizen laborers, and who outsource our decisions to a corrupt, unaccountable politician class. The state wants us to be terrified and paralyzed into allowing the continuation of its sordid legacy through the land grab, the plantation, and the prison farm which haunts the Weelaunee forest and all the state's territories to this day. This critical analysis of the state is an important part of anarchism, and it is what the state and corporate media want to scare us away from and criminalize.

Acting autonomously and directly to shape our world is a good thing. Solidarity means seeing our siblings in the human species as people with the same intrinsic value as ourselves. A society which depends on endlessly competing, undercutting, exploiting, dominating, and selling each other out is going to be scrutinized and resisted by anyone who believes in solidarity. Mutual aid means providing for each other and collectively gaining from the construction of mutually beneficial interpersonal/inter-community relationships. A society which depends on depriving us of the ability to meet our needs for food, water, shelter, and healthcare and then selling them back to us is going to be seen as unjust and worth changing/rejecting by anyone who believes in mutual aid. Fowler's description of collectivism is a bogeyman meant to imply that anarchists intend to force everyone to give up their personal autonomy and sacrifice their needs for the collective, but in fact a core goal of anarchism is to empower people to have more autonomy, and a core goal of the state to force everyone to sacrifice some or all of their autonomy for the continuation of systems which enrich a shocking few and are making the Earth uninhabitable. Do you feel free when you go to work? When you pay taxes? When you pay rent? When you pay for health insurance? When you pay for groceries? If people had more solidarity maybe they wouldn't allow the US to invade and exploit other countries with impunity. Maybe they wouldn't allow the US to imprison millions of people, tear apart families at the border, or let people starve to death while throwing away half of all the food. If people learned about mutual aid maybe they would start to solve these problems themselves, start to mitigate the damage done by the state, and demonstrate that none of it is necessary.

If the state succeeds in prosecuting this case it will do lasting harm to all of us. Just as the RICO law was ostensibly written to take down the mafia and has expanded to taking down anarchists, it will expand to take down any social movement which demands substantive change from the state. The law does not need to find you guilty of any crime, only of "conspiring" with people who are, with "conspiring" now meaning as little as sharing beliefs or goals. If you believe the state is doing something wrong or have a goal of making it stop doing that thing, you could be guilty of conspiracy, even if you never met anyone who committed a crime in furtherance of that belief or goal.

There is no "Defend the Atlanta Forest" or "Stop Cop City" organization, only the goal of defending the Weelaunee forest from destruction and opposition to the construction of a military base for police. People have chosen a myriad of ways of achieving these goals, but nobody was receiving orders, nobody was initiated into any group, and there was never a singular plan. The fascism of the Georgia RICO statute lies in its enclosure of free social relations into its definition of an enterprise, to include "any unchartered union, association, or group of individuals associated in fact although not a legal entity." By this logic, a group of friends can be a criminal enterprise — or a group of strangers. "Governmental as well as other entities," "licit as well as illicit"? Anyone and anything, then, can be demarcated as existing within the Georgia police state's cage of "the enterprise" — it just depends on what the state wishes to domesticate. Under the Georgia police state, "it shall be unlawful to participate," "directly or indirectly," in the fight for life,

shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, with those who share our fight inextricably. We cannot be disentangled, and we won't be. Mutual aid and solidarity are intrinsic to how our Earth and its inhabitants survive – in spite of systems of permanent suffocation, we all breathe the same air – a conspiracy with the trees. Loving one another is how we live and fight in tandem. We don't need a centralized “organization,” “entity,” or “enterprise” for our fight, because it belongs to all of us. We are all forest defenders.

The struggle that each of us is taking part in is the struggle against imperialist, white supremacist, cis-normative heteropatriarchy. This struggle may feel chosen, depending on the privileges each of us has. To stand tall in solidarity is to contend with the history of this struggle. The state is attempting to equate any individual's personal actions and definition of anarchy, collectivism, mutual aid, social solidarity as either domestic terrorism or racketeering. By doing so the state intends to sow division among individuals that all desire to stop cop city for whatever personal reason each of us has. This strategy has been used time and time again by oppressors.

Instead of lying low & keeping our heads down in hopes that the state will, “go easy on us,” we are choosing to stand tall in our solidarity with each other as well as the idea, lifestyle, & practices of anarchy, & life-supporting actions of mutual aid.

Mutual aid is what we do & solidarity is how we relate. Fear is the mind-killer. Solidarity is our shield, anarchy is our sword. Solidarity From so-called Atlanta to Palestine!

10 Nov - Verdict against Mónica Caballero & Francisco Solar

On November 7th, while a demonstration in solidarity took place outside, the court gave the verdict against Mónica and Francisco after four months on trial.

MORE:

Francisco was convicted as the perpetrator of:

- Two counts of sending parcel bombs (54 Precinct and Hinzpeter)
- One count of attempted homicide of carabineros
- One count of serious injury to a carabinero
- One count of a less serious injury
- Five counts of minor injuries
- One count of qualified damages (Precinct)
- One count of attempted homicide of Hinzpeter
- Two counts of placing an explosive device (Tánica)

Acquitted of: Identity theft

Mónica was convicted as an accomplice of:

- Two counts of placing an explosive device (Tánica)

Acquitted of: Possession of marijuana.

In short, the court accepted much of the prosecution's charges, but in the case of Francisco, one count of attempted homicide was downgraded to injuries, and he was acquitted of identity by theft. In the case of Mónica, she was downgraded from perpetrator, to accomplice, in addition to rejecting some aggravating factors proposed by the prosecutors.

The court is expected to hand over the final sentence on 7 December 2023 with the number of specific years of sentence weighing on each.

We salute those black hearts that strike those in power. Love and anarchy to Mónica y Francisco.

10 Nov - Help the defendants of the "Tyumen case" in their fight for freedom

Six anarchists from Russia have been held in pre-trial detention for a year on spurious charges of creating a "terrorist community."

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from *firefund*

According to Russian law, our comrades face a total of 5 to 15 years of imprisonment for the charged articles, and 15 to 30 years of life imprisonment for organizing or leading a "terrorist community". The main proof of guilt is a confession given under torture.

Firefund.net calls everyone to support the crowdfunding to pay the lawyers for the defendants in the "Tyumen case" **firefund.net/tumenskoedelo**

For centuries, the law has been the main instrument of repression. What is insane is how brazenly the state can use its ingenious schemes to rid society of "ideologically inconvenient" people. It is obvious to Russian anarchists that this case is a reprisal against libertarians whom the Putin regime sees as a threat. We know that all our comrades had a negative attitude towards the regime, but that doesn't give the regime the right to deprive them of their long years of life.

What happened:

At the end of August 2022, the police detained K. Brick and D. Aydyn in a forest on the outskirts of Tyumen. During the search, the guys were found homemade explosives. Less than a day later, under the influence of physical and psychological violence (the boys were beaten and threatened with rape), both signed confessions that they were members of a "terrorist community" of anarchists and were planning sabotage in military enlistment offices, police departments and railroads. Within a day after the detention of K. Brik and D. Aydyn, the law enforcers detained N. Oleinik, R. Paklin, Y. Neznamov, and D. Chertykov. During interrogation, all four gave confessions. The interrogation took place several days after the detention and all this time our comrades were tortured, here is what the detainees wrote about it in their lawyer's interviews:

«They took off my shoes and socks, soaked my feet in something, put some wires on the toes of both feet, and electrocuted me. I lost track of time, but it was very long. They said that I was a prisoner and that people like me should be shot. A man spoke to me without introducing himself. He started to give me a version of events, which I had to confirm when the investigator came.»

N. Oleynik

«I was confused and asked why they were mocking me. There was no answer, they switched on the current again, but already stronger. It was very painful, there were strong cramps in my legs and back. Again, the same man asked me if I felt good, but he didn't turn off the current»

R. Paklin

«After each electric shock, I had to shout that I loved Putin. They said that if I didn't die by morning, I would be crusted over. I can't describe what this pain can be compared to»

Y. Neznamov

«I was punched several times in the face, forced to squat, filming everything on a smartphone camera. I squatted about 150 times, while a man in a balaclava was hitting my ankle with a baton. They said, «Be thankful you're sitting down now and not wallowing in your own piss and shit.»

D. Chertykov

«First I was forced to strip naked and squatted. At the same time, they put my shoe on my head and told me that if the shoe fell down, they would use violent actions against me involving the insertion of objects into my rectum.»

D. Aydyn

A little about our comrades:

All detainees are ideological anarchists and anti-fascists.

- N. Oleinik and R. Paklin jointly organized a public library with literature on libertarian theory, the history of liberation movements, and grassroots self-help initiatives.
- D. Chertykov is a veterinarian and a roots folk band Rocker Balboa member.
- Y. Neznamov is a freelance designer, recently he has been doing 3D modeling and rendering models for games and cartoons.
- D. Aydyn worked as a sales consultant and picker in a construction store; in his spare time, he played in the Tyumen hardcore band Siberian Brigade and black metal band Rasputin.

The investigation has been going on for over a year.

During this year:

The Investigative Committee of Russia conducted an investigation into complaints of torture. As a result of the investigation (interviews with law enforcement officers), it was revealed that there was no torture since the offices of law enforcement agencies are «not equipped with torture equipment»

At the trial on the extension of the measure of restraint (24.05.23) the lawyer of K. Brik informed the court that his client «admitted guilt in the incriminated crimes in full». Thus, the investigation had one more powerful lever for the realization of the plan. Later it turned out that Brick concluded a pre-trial agreement with the investigation. Neither we, nor the other defendants, nor their lawyers do not support the position of Brick and his defense. The funds collected in the company will not be used to help K.Brik!

Every two months the detention period is extended again and again. Very soon the main court hearings on the merits of the case will begin.

In addition, more than a dozen actions in support of our comrades have taken place around the world.

In this campaign, we ask for your financial assistance to pay for the work of lawyers of five of the six detainees who continue to fight for their freedom and do not compromise with the punitive hand of the law.