



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for December 26th

11 Dec - Leonard Peltier update

From Leonard's support committee: "ONCE again Leonard's protections from CRUEL AND UNUSUAL treatment afforded by the AMERICAN CONSTITUTION are being violated!"

MORE:

Please contact:

Senator John Ossoff ossoff.senate.gov

Senator Dick Durbin durbin.senate.gov

BOP Director Colette Peters bop.gov/contact/

December 11th, 2023: Leonard was let out of lockdown this morning. Coleman I was locked down the five days previous to Thanksgiving because the guards held -- a festival for themselves. The lockdown continued over Thanksgiving. Since that time, the inmates at Coleman 1 have only had two full days out of lockdown. They are locked down every weekend, and often out only one or two hours a day on weekdays.

State inmates are allowed email and phone on their tablets. Communication is monitored and not a security threat. Federal inmates are not allowed communication on their tablets. Our people are kept hideously isolated, going days, weeks at a time with no communication with their loved ones.

When they are allowed out of lockdown, they must wait in line for a chance at a phone call or email. People get short-changed, fights break out, often they are locked down again without making it to the phone.

Colette Peters could change this with one stroke of her pen. Please contact the above three people and demand that our people are allowed communication on their tablets and that the lockdowns end. Demand that our people are treated with basic human dignity, allowed communication and movement.

CRUCIAL: Do not reference Leonard Peltier when complaining about prison conditions. They will retaliate against Leonard. We are asking for our friends and loved ones to be treated with basic human dignity.

Communication being so limited also deprives us. Everyone should have the opportunity to have Leonard Peltier make them laugh. Despite living through almost five decades of literal torture, the man insists on laughter. It is impossible to come away from a conversation with Leonard without feeling enriched.

December 18th - End of Year Legal Fund drive for Leonard Peltier

We want to thank you for your support over this last year as we have worked to rebuild the Official Ad Hoc Committee that Leonard requested. (see website to hear Leonard's request). We want to share with you a few of our actions that have helped to raise Leonard's spirits and brought a smile to his voice.

We have a new website **FreeLeonardPeltierNow.org** and, with your donations, have a few items on our store page that I hope you will check out, and you might find something special to send a loved one in this holiday season. This year, we are offering beautiful greeting cards of Leonard's paintings. We now have a fiscal sponsor that allows you to donate and receive a tax write-off. *

We were able in Sept. to send some folks to Washington D.C for Leonard's 79th birthday celebration in front of the White House and we went back to D.C. in Nov. for the Black is Back March and conference. We also sent Dr. Michael Koch, director of our German support group, to Geneva, Switzerland to speak in

Leonard's name before the ICCPR 2023 Civil Society Consultation with the U.S. Delegation. Lenny Foster, Leonard's Spiritual Advisor, read Leonard's statement on Alcatraz during the gathering for the Day of Mourning.

We are working to raise funds for a few events in 2024. Per Leonard's request our first priority are funds for his legal team. Our legal team is convened by Lead Attorney, Jenipher R. Jones, Attorney Mike Kuzma, Attorney Moira Meltzer-Cohen, and Attorney LIFE Malcolm, and law professor and Attorney Audrey Bomse. Currently, Leonard's incarceration at UPS Coleman presents a grave risk to his long-neglected health, elderly age, and at violence maximum security level. Leonard's release from the custody of the BOP altogether is of the utmost priority. However, in the interim, Leonard's transfer to a safer facility, narrowly tailored to meet his medical needs is absolutely imperative.

Another project that the committee has been working on is "THE OUTCRY" A COMPILATION FOR LEONARD PELTIER!

Leonard thought a compilation featuring artists who stand with his struggle, using their voices to spread his message, would be a way to reach the youth. World music/Hip Hop artist, producer and activist Opium Sabbah, son of world music pioneer Cheb i Sabbah, a member of the Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Committee, is working with Leonard to support the project. This compilation will feature folk artists, native hip hop artists and traditional native artists and is due to drop late 2024.

We will also be having an art show of Leonard's work, as well as a few pieces of work donated by Friends of Leonard's, in Portland Or. at the Propulsion Zone Gallery, opening on March the 8th. We are looking forward to greeting all our Northwest supporters. And we are working with our Puerto Rican comrades to organize an art show in Chicago in the Spring!

We will be having a busy year and hope that you will be with us to help free Leonard. Your support is greatly needed and to help you get a tax write-off as you help us, **you must write the check to Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media & Education, Post Office Box 42671, Portland Oregon 97242 and in the For section put Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Comm.**

12 Dec - Rest Easy, Ed Poindexter.

NYC ABC is saddened by the death of Ed Poindexter, and angered that he died behind bars.

MORE:

A long time Black liberation militant, Ed was afforded neither the justice nor the health care he deserved by the truly criminal "justice system." This is unfortunately what we have to come to expect from the carceral state's treatment of Black, Brown and Indigenous political prisoners who are locked up for struggling for their communities. Ed's life and commitment to freedom and dignity for all is an example we will try harder to live by.

Until all are free.

12 Dec - Illustrated Guide Version 16.10.2 Available!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2023/12/12/guide_16_10_3

MORE:

We've finished the latest version of the NYC ABC "Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War" and it's available for viewing (and download) by visiting the link at the top of this post. This update includes updated mini-bios, photos, and address changes for several prisoners. Unfortunately, we are removing Ed Poindexter (deceased, REST IN POWER!). We are also excited to say we are removing Eric King (released to halfway house! Welcome home.).

13 Dec - The anarchist Ruslan Siddiqui is charged with railway sabotage and attacking a military airfield

At the end of November, the anarchist Ruslan Siddiqui was arrested on suspicion of organising the derailment of a goods train in Ryazan province.

MORE:

On 2 December, the Dorogomilovsky district court in Moscow sent Ruslan to pre-trial detention.

Acts of railway sabotage are now quite common in Russia. Partisans use these to block the delivery of military supplies to the armed forces operating on Ukrainian territory.

The derailment occurred on 11 November, 190 kilometres out from the Moscow terminal. Kommersant newspaper reported the details as follows: "Due to the detonation of improvised explosive devices (two bombs, each equivalent to 3kg of TNT, were placed 10 metres from each other on a bypass used by goods trains), a 300-metre stretch of track was damaged. A crater opened up, and the first 19 carriages of goods train no. 2018 fell into a ditch. The explosion broke the window of the train driver's cabin, and the driver sustained non-serious injuries".

The security services have also stated that Ruslan Siddiqui was involved in an attack on the military airport in Ryazan on 20 July. Four quadcopters, loaded with explosives, were flown on to the Dyagilevo base.

Ruslan has now been charged with a "terrorist act" (Article 205 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, parts 2.a and 2.v) and "possession of explosive material" (Article 222.1, part 3.a). He is threatened with between 12- and 30-years' imprisonment.

Ruslan's comrades have contacted the anti-war human rights initiative "Solidarity Zone". This is how they described him:

"As one mutual comrade said, 'Ruslan is a person of action'. And that's really it: Ruslan undertakes difficult tasks, without wasting words. He grasps the essence of any situation quickly and works out how to respond. As a friend he is always responsive, always ready to help. He loves adventure sports such as trekking and cycling marathons. He has travelled many times to the Chernobyl and Belarussian Exclusion Zones [established after the nuclear explosion in 1986, now uninhabited, richly forested areas].

Ruslan is a proponent of anarchist ideas, and the Russian military aggression against Ukraine distressed him greatly. All the more so because some of his friends and comrades died in that conflict, and people continue to die there. And now he himself has become a victim of state violence, and our support is important to him."

Address for letters: Russia, 109382 Moscow, ul. Verkhnie Polya 57, SIZO-7, Siddiqui Ruslan Kasemovich (d.o.b. 1988). You can send letters through the on-line service PrisonMail.online.

14 Dec - Eric King Released from Prison After 9+ Years as Political Prisoner

Political prisoner Eric King was released from prison December 12th after spending nearly 10 years behind bars.

MORE:

via *UNICORN RIOT*

As he walked off the Florence Federal Correctional Complex property toward a small crowd of friends and supporters, his wife and child ran up to him, embracing him tightly.

Eric King, his wife, and their child tucked behind them walked away from the Florence Federal Correctional Complex entrance toward a small crowd of friends and supporters on December 12, 2023.

King had been incarcerated since his arrest on September 16, 2014, five days after he attempted a firebombing of a congressman's office in Kansas City, Missouri in solidarity with the anti-police uprising

in Ferguson that year. Although no one was harmed (he made sure no one was in the building) and the molotov cocktails never ignited, he was charged with one count of using “explosive materials to commit arson of property used in or affecting interstate commerce” (18 U.S.C. § 844).

Nearly three months later, he was sentenced to ten years in federal prison.

Throughout King’s prison sentence, he spent time teaching yoga, practicing mindfulness, writing poems and letters, doing legal work for himself and others, going to the chapel, and taking classes. Despite keeping busy and trying to steer clear of trouble, he was repeatedly attacked and threatened by white supremacists and correctional officers because of his outspoken antifascist and anarchist political beliefs.

To say King is relieved to be out of prison is an understatement. As the vehicle that King, his family and supporters were in began driving away from the prison complex, King said aloud: “I can’t wait to get out of this fucking city.” He’d been held in different prisons in various states throughout his sentence, but while being held at FCI Florence in 2018, he was attacked by a lieutenant correctional officer and forcibly tied to a concrete four-point restraint for over seven hours.

King was eventually charged with assault on a federal officer causing bodily injury, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1), (b). The trial began 4.5 years after the attack, lasted four days, and ended with the jury finding Eric King not guilty on March 18, 2022.

The night before King’s release from prison, he was transferred from the ADX facility — the highest security prison in America, where he lived for over a year — to the USP building (both of which are on the Florence Complex), because it’s against the Bureau of Prison rules to release a prisoner directly from the SuperMax.

However, according to King, the guards told him there were no cells available, so they instead placed him in a cell that had a 4-point restraint in it, exactly like the one where he was forcibly restrained after being attacked at the FCI building at the same complex in 2018.

Throughout the two-hour car ride north to Denver, King got acquainted with his new cell phone — a smartphone — which he hadn’t ever used before. He played music on it and sang along to songs by Taylor Swift, Pat The Bunny, Against Me! and others. His wife and daughter spent time going over items they were leaving with him in his two suitcases for the halfway house, where he’ll be spending between two weeks to two months living.

The car ride was full of jokes, laughter, snacks King missed, “real” coffee which tasted incredibly strong to King, braiding of his long hair by his daughter, and hugs, many, many hugs.

Gifts were also shared with King from his wife — most of which had important political meaning to both of them, such as a ‘Free Palestine’ shirt printed in rainbow-colored font, a beaded bracelet resembling the Palestinian flag, and a baseball hat inscribed with ‘No War But Class War.’

King walked out of prison wearing a bright red t-shirt with ‘Protect Trans Kids’ printed on it, which he also wore to the halfway house. “I got to walk out of prison wearing clothes that represent who I am, and so that felt really great.”

Eric King, his wife and child held hands as they walked into a store to get some extra items King needed for his time at the halfway house on December 12, 2023.

Unicorn Riot will be publishing more about Eric King’s release and his life outside prison walls, so stay tuned.

17 Dec - Letter from Toby Shone for comrade Alfredo M. Bonanno

Farewell, Alfredo.

MORE:

via Dark Nights

I heard today by telephone as the morning winter sun shone through grey clouds into the confines of my cell that our comrade Alfredo Bonanno passed away during sleep surrounded by the love of his close ones. I too send my incendiary embrace to all those who feel his loss and assert that a combative memory will remain. Alfredo's contributions to the anarchist movement are undeniable, critical, insightful, and prescient. One of Alfredo's texts, 'What are Anarchists?' had appeared in an investigation file against me for which I was accused of distributing. His booklet published under the title 'Locked Up' by Elephant Editions is one of the most important documents on the topic of imprisonment in my opinion. Alfredo's writings for which he was investigated and incarcerated are never mere collections of words but emerge directly from lived experiences, his own and that of the comrades that participate in our struggle for freedom. Affinity groups, informal organization, direct action and the critique of technology and systems: these concepts form the most potent section of today's Anarchy, let's put them into practice!

"Hurry Comrade"

24 Dec - Nikos Maziotis on his 4th rejection of parole

Text of N. Maziotis convicted for the action of the Revolutionary Struggle for the 4th rejection of parole

MORE:

Via Act for freedom now!

The last board of misdemeanors of Lamia (29/9/2023) rejected my request (for the 4th time) for parole on the same grounds as the 3 previous ones, i.e. the disciplinary records for which I have been punished in the past have been deleted and should not normally count under the penal code for parole. But this time the board of misdemeanors of Lamia, in the reasoning of the rejection, went a step further than the previous boards by proving that it has the same logic that the institutions of the bribe-taking state, the post-conflict state and the junta used to have, when they asked for statements of repentance and renunciation from fighters as it also proves to have the same logic of the Inquisition.

I am quoting the contested passage of the decision verbatim:

[...] "However, the repeated commission of serious misdemeanors that also constitute criminal offences demonstrates the applicant's lack of self-discipline and compliance with the basic rules of the penal system, his constant tendency to commit criminal acts and therefore his insufficient imprisonment and his lack of moral improvement, for the purpose of his conversion and the possibility of his smooth reintegration into society in the event of his release from the detention centre. In addition, during the applicant's personal appearance at the council remotely, through technological means, the latter showed particularly aggressive behaviour towards the council, as well as complete disrespect for justice and the penal system, and stated that he considers himself a political prisoner, while at the same time, he did not show that he had realized particular disrespect for the criminal acts he had committed.

Moreover, according to his statement before the council, confinement is only a punishment and cannot serve any other purpose, such as the imprisonment of prisoners. From the above it follows that the conduct of the applicant during the serving of his sentence makes it necessary to continue his detention in order to prevent him from committing new criminal acts. In particular, the above-mentioned prisoner has repeatedly committed disciplinary offences which he does not seem to recognize as wrong, which suggests that any good behaviour he has been showing lately while serving his sentence is pretentious and only apparently good, apparently awaiting his conditional release, and it testifies to his inability to comply with the rules of the prison and, by extension, social coexistence, as an element of his character, but also a constant tendency towards delinquent behaviour. With this behaviour, the applicant demonstrated that the purpose of the legislator was not fulfilled in his case by introducing him to the institution of conditional release, which is

nothing more than a strong psychological motivation for the convict for his intended moral improvement , because for the time of his stay in prison, he has an interest in living according to the law, expecting his conditional release, and during the time of probation, he also has an interest in living according to the law, fearing his re-incarceration in prison. This is how his moral conformity and improvement is achieved, as he becomes addicted to the philanthropic life and becomes the creator of his own honest life. All the above objectives were not fulfilled in the case of the present convict, that is to say, he proved, with his behaviour detailed above, that he has not been sufficiently punished, a fact that he himself admitted before the council, and does not present the guarantees that he will lead an honest life as a dismissed person and will not commit new criminal acts. The repeated commission of disciplinary offences during the time of his detention demonstrates a lack of penal improvement and a real desire for law-abiding living and his lack of integration, despite his many years of stay in detention facilities...”, concluding that for all these reasons my request for parole to prevent the alleged commission of further criminal acts. What exactly does this “monument” of inquisitive argumentation say? I am not being released on parole because:

- I declare – after their own question – that I am a political prisoner.
- I do not perceive the particular iniquity of the criminal acts that I have committed, meaning of course the action of the Revolutionary Struggle, which I do not consider to be either criminal or “terrorism”.
- I think as I stated to the board that imprisonment is purely a punishment and that it does not ‘rehabilitate’, adding something which they do not state in the reasoning of the decision, that they should be satisfied that I have served the greater part of my sentence and that I will not change character and be “imprisoned” not in a million years.

I had publicly stated in the past, when the Lamia misdemeanor board rejected my request for the 3rd time, that the disciplinary charges cited are a pretext and that the real reason is political, i.e. what I am in prison for, because I have been convicted about the action of Revolutionary Struggle and why I have not revised, renounced or repented of the action of the organization. Now comes the recent board of misdemeanors of Lamia to solemnly confirm this, when in its reasoning now, going a step further than the previous ones, it invokes prudential reasons, that I stated in the skype hearing, that I am a political prisoner, that I do not perceive “the special iniquity of the criminal acts” that I have committed, namely the action of Revolutionary Struggle and that I refuse to be “imprisoned”.

It is known throughout Greece and to those who read my political positions in the courts of the Revolutionary Struggle on the internet – and the judges are aware of them – that I defended the action of the organization as a political action and that I consider myself a political prisoner regardless of whether this is recognized by the State. So, what did he expect from me? That I would renounce who I am? And since I remain consistent in my political defence of Revolutionary Struggle action, what do they expect from me? To perceive “the special discredit of the criminal acts” that I am supposed to have committed, i.e., the action of the organization which I do not consider at all – and it is not, as for a large part of society – criminal action nor “terrorism” but political action?

I have never pled as a criminal, nor have I ever felt guilty about any crime. The fact that they have made such demands from me, I could say offends me, but their arguments actually expose them because they are drawn either from the time when the Greek state of dosilogs asked the militants for statements of repentance, or from the time of the Inquisition. I had stated in my previous text that the bribe-taking Greek state has a continuity and consistency in dealing with its fighters and political opponents from the time of the Metaxas dictatorship, the occupation, the civil war and after or the junta of 1967-'74.

What the state and its organs, e.g., the judges, have always wanted is to break the minds of the fighters, deny their political identity, their struggle itself and their ideas, of course, from which their action also stems. That is why they asked for statements of repentance and renunciation as a criterion and guarantee of “punishment” and “moral improvement” for the release of the fighters, such as the well-known statement, “I renounce communism as a destroyer of the homeland...”. This was also done in Makronisos, the then new “Parthenon” where through torture they sought the “moral improvement”, “revival”, “reformation”,

“imprisonment” of the prisoners of “robber gangs” and “anti-national elements” so that they would reintegrate as sane citizens in society. There were many cases when military judges or civil judges told the prisoner “Make a statement of repentance, go home, to your family”! Too many refused to make this humiliating statement and remained in prison while many others chose the firing squad for the same reason.

The same logic existed during the time of the Inquisition, which either burned “heretics” after first trying to get them to confess with torture about the error of their opinions, or asked others to die at the stake (e.g., Galileo), to admit the errors of their opinions. In the more recent past, in past decades, the state asked prisoners of the Western European guerrilla city to renounce not their ideological beliefs but the organization they belonged to and the practice of armed struggle in exchange for various benefits (e.g., less prison, better conditions of detention). In Italy there was even a special law for the deceased. There were also similar cases in Greece. But both in Western Europe and Latin America many of those who took part in the guerrilla movements and were imprisoned remained unrepentant of their choices and of these the most heavily sentenced, mainly lifers, served dozens of years in prison ranging from 15 to 30 years while several others died in prison unrepentant. Today, Georges Ibrahim Abdullah, the longest-serving political prisoner in Europe, is still in prison from that time, having been imprisoned in France for 39 years, since 1984 and while he could have been released many years ago – after the 20 years’ detention – he remains in prison because he is unrepentant.

Today, the members of the judicial councils of Lamia are asking me, in order to be released on parole, to admit that I committed crimes and accept their worthlessness, that I am not a political prisoner, that I admit that the disciplinary actions were wrong, etc., etc. Obviously, this is the criterion of “punishment”: revision, repentance, forgiveness. But something like this is NEVER going to happen.

But the fact that not long-ago comrade Pola Roupa was released on parole proves that not all judicial councils have the same inquisitive perspective as those of Lamia who judge my case. Comrade Roupa was paroled on her first application when she served the statutory limit of 12 years gross, i.e., 8.5 years net in prison plus 4 years of beneficial work credit and having the exact same sentence as me, 20 years by merger. And although she had 2 disciplinary inactives – as are mine – she had a positive recommendation from the competent prosecutor, he did not even pass a skype hearing by the judicial council of Thebes and there were not even issues of a prudential nature such as those invoked by the judicial council of Lamia in my case, about ‘imprisonment’, ‘change of character’ and the political nature of the acts for which I am in prison.

Comrade Roupa’s attitude was no different from mine. Together we took political responsibility for our participation in Revolutionary Struggle, together we defended the organization’s action as political action in and out of court, and we remained consistent throughout our detention. Neither can it be intellectually claimed that Comrade Roupa “transformed” her character in prison, nor did she change her political beliefs and views and was released unrepentant with her head held high. This is actually our own political victory against the state. In the case of the comrade the judicial council of Thebes, adopting the positive recommendation of the prosecutor, decided not with criteria of a prudential-political nature but exclusively with the criterion set by the law, that on the one hand, with the formal conditions, she has served most of her sentence the 3/5, and on the other hand with the essential conditions, that the disciplinary offences for which she has been punished have been deleted as non-existent, they do not count for the granting of parole and she has not committed any other disciplinary offences in recent years. In fact, the public prosecutor, in her positive recommendation for the conditional release of the comrade, makes special reference to the problematic use and interpretation of the term “apparently good behaviour” used by the judicial councils to reject – as in my case – the applications for parole, stressing that drawing a conclusion on the conduct of the convict “must not be a process of ascertaining the innermost thoughts and opinions of the convict [...], for the judge to dive into the so-called “abyss” of their convict soul in order to diagnose whether their behaviour was actually or apparently good [...] and that it is possible to slip in the formulation of judicial judgments which will be governed by personal-prudential criteria while in addition the prisoner will be required to demonstrate moral values each time complying with the judge’s personal scale of values...”.

That is, exactly what the judicial councils of Lamia, who have the ambition and delusion to change my mind, my character and my ideas, are asking of me. Contrary to the argument of “apparent good behaviour” being invoked in my case, I have never made any pretense about my political positions in court in disregard of the criminal consequences nor have I done the same now to get out of prison, nor have I pretended to be anything other than that which I have been throughout my sentence. I have never “played it” to the beliefs of the members of the judicial councils, which are light years away from my own beliefs nor have I shown any “flexibility” in my principles and attitude. On the contrary, all my attitude, my political positions in the tribunals of Revolutionary Struggle, my political consequence, and what I have heretofore stated in the suspension boards, have only been to my detriment with full awareness. Because I have learned to pay the price of my political choices and have the right to be parsimonious about discounting. In fact, based on their intellectual-political criteria and arbitrary invocation of “apparent good behaviour” despite the fact that I have taken 10 regular leaves and the 11th has been approved, and have served 14 out of 20 years of my sentence with labour, the judicial councils of Lamia are excluding me from the institution of parole. Even if I had no past disciplinary infractions, they would still reject my request for parole based on intellectual-political criteria.

I should point out that in the draft law revising the criminal code that will be passed shortly, it is foreseen that conditional suspension will not be given only on the basis of the alleged behaviour of the prisoner during the serving of the sentence but also on the basis of the acts for which he was convicted, “... the dangerousness of the crime for society as a whole...”, while such a criterion for conditional dismissal has not been applied until now. What they have been doing to me informally so far, they are now legislating officially from now on, even though changes to the criminal code are not supposed to be applied retroactively. However, based on the spirit of the new law, it is confirmed once again that the main reason they are rejecting my request for parole is the actions for which I was convicted, the action of Revolutionary Struggle.

Probably their purpose is to serve the entire sentence, 5/5, i.e., 20 years, which in my case will be completed in almost 3 years together with work. But as I have already made clear, my position is not changing, not at the next suspension board, not in 1, 2 or 3 years, not in 1 million years!

25 Dec - PRISON TIME IS NOT A HOLIDAY – PRISONER SOLIDARITY

Being locked up in prison can be a really lonely time. Especially over the so-called holidays.

MORE:

via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

Receiving or answering letters can therefore be very important in these dark days, for our comrades in prison. Why don't you bring some light and write!

If you have a friend in prison, you can send them a postcard to let them know they are not forgotten. If this is the first time you are writing to a prisoner, we have a list of prisoners to send letters to. Over the coming weeks, we'll be highlighting various prisoners that may need some attention.

First out is our friends in the SUSARON4. You could simply write an email to the following address, specifying which one of them you are sending it to:

SOLIDARIDAD.ANTIESPECISTA4@GMAIL.COM.

Write to:

RU/GATO is an anarcho-nihilist, vegan, straight edge prisoner. He is 28 years old, loves animals and hates drugs. He maintains his belief in illegal direct action as the tool to fight for animal and total liberation. He considers himself a proud political prisoner against the business that controls the Chilean territory.

PANDA is a straight edge, vegan anarchist prisoner. He is 26 years old. Enemy of the law and order forcefully imposed by the capitalist system. Loves nature, ecosystems, animals and simplicity. Proud

political prisoner, honest with his politics and vehemently in favour of animal and human liberation from the business-territory so-called Chile.

ITA is a vegan, straight edge prisoner. She is 23 years old. She loves nature, animals and specially colours and cats! She opposed the system and the so-called law and order. Proud antispeciesist political prisoner. She feels calm and patient with the consequences of the illegal fight against speciesism.

TORTU is a vegan, anarcho-nihilist, straight edge political prisoner. Hates the system, loves nature, animals and freedom for all. Proud political prisoner for animal liberation.

Find out more about SUSARON4's case at unoffensiveanimal.is/prisoner-support

25 Dec - MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE ACTIVIST INCARCERATED

Last week, a pipeline fighter was sentenced to three months in jail for stopping construction on a Mountain Valley Pipeline drill site as part of a mass action in October.

MORE:

via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

A Montgomery County judge imposed this sentence after the land defender took their case to trial rather than pleading guilty to the misdemeanor charges. During their first week in jail, they released this statement:

“In considering the prosecution’s plea offer, I felt how much the state threatens you by fear- fear of loss, fear of the unknown, attachment interrupted. The threat isn’t necessarily in the months or convictions, it’s in the assurance that they could do it even worse. Jail is made to make people fearful, yet people endure it all the time. In recent weeks, I’ve experienced how people come to know their own strengths and how they handle their fear.

For ‘brave people’, fear still comes up. It’s a feeling that comes and goes like all other feelings. Fear is mixed in with feelings of freedom, empowerment, aliveness. These feelings can all exist in the same cell, considering the same plea offer, anticipating the same unknown futures. But a lot can change in how we relate to the feelings.

Nothing is guaranteed in the jail/legal system, etc. There are “rights” granted to defendants/prisoners, and then there is reality. Jail seeks to objectify us and detach us from ourselves, from our strength. By way of overt abuses to simple ignoring, COs and all their kin (***REDACTED***) aim to disappoint, to assert that they are in charge of this building/reality, and to claim they are in charge of us. By way of fear, we learn to manage our behaviors to do what they want, even if we don’t want to.

We have some say in how much we lose track of ourselves. Following their procedures to play the game is different than believing it’ll work. The game is set up to pit you against yourself, use your expectations and attachments against you, turning them into losses, again reinforcing fear of the unknown.

Of course, we have human vulnerabilities, mental health shit, trauma shit, all of which is exacerbated in jail. But we need to be careful to not overstate our vulnerabilities and limitations. I’ve lived through many hells and I know shit can get dark. I’m also not an expert on these kinds of moments for myself in a jail context. Inside, it’s acute activation.

It’s times of living in the abusive relationship, not the times of healing from it.

It’s also the times of endurance, compassion, commitment, caring for each other, and dignity in a place that’s actively trying to break all that.

I feel very lucky. While my problems are personal and difficult to me, they are relatively minimal. I'm surrounded by people who have shown tons of kindness and support, in this pod and outside these walls. People are making sure I'm sufficiently fed, caffeinated, entertained, and avoiding petty fuck ups. The vibe is caring for each other and keeping spirits high, or at least calm. The environment I came from into jail is full of wild, cackling laughter. Laughter of strength and freedom and defiance. I feel lucky to experience the same here. In both places it interrupts my sleep, and in both it makes me smile.

I hope my time in jail inspires others to be a little braver in whatever ways make sense for them. Kill the cop in your head, let's be stronger together. End all settler colonialism and extractive industries. Doom to the pipeline. Defend the forest everywhere.”

31 Dec - Noise Demo Against the Prison Industrial Complex, In Solidarity with PPs and POWs

WHAT: Noise Demo

WHEN: 9:00pm, Sunday, December 31st

WHERE: Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC, the federal prison in Brooklyn); 29th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, Brooklyn, New York 11232 (D/N/R to 36th Street or R to 25th Street).

BRING: Noisemakers, air horns, drums, anything that is loud!

MORE:

On the noisiest night of the year in New York City, come help us remind folks locked up that they are not alone. NYC Anarchist Black Cross, in response to an international call for noise demonstrations outside of prisons, is asking folks to join us outside of the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Come, not to appeal to authority, speak truth to power, or any other contrivance, but rather to stand with comrades, at a safe distance, and show direct solidarity to those on the other side of the wall.

The state, writ large, is targeting anarchists all across the United States and abroad. This will be both protest and celebration.