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Updates for April 2nd

17 Mar - Judge Orders Appointment of Special Master to Oversee FCI Dublin

In a critical decision that condemns Federal Corrections Institute (FCI) Dublin as a "dysfunctional mess," Federal Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers ordered the unprecedented appointment of a special master to oversee the facility, where dozens of incarcerated people have survived sexual assault, rape, extreme retaliation, threats of deportation, medical neglect and a host of other forms of violence at the hands of Bureau of Prison officials for decades.

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The order also grants plaintiffs' motion for class certification, making every incarcerated person held at FCI Dublin - including anyone sent there from now on - part of the class. Judge Gonzalez Rogers made it clear that she considers there are still serious concerns with FCI Dublin, including ongoing sexual abuse, retaliation, and inadequate medical and mental care. The lawsuit was filed by survivors of sexual assault at FCI Dublin and the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), who are represented by Rights Behind Bars (RBB), the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice and Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP (RBGG).

"We are encouraged that the court has taken the systemic issues at FCI Dublin seriously and ordered relief," said Amaris Montes, attorney at Rights Behind Bars representing the plaintiffs, "There's never been a facility like FCI Dublin, that's why this first of its kind relief is necessary but only the first step to bringing justice for survivors. The only way to truly protect people is to bring them home."

"This unprecedented decision on the need for oversight shows that courageous incarcerated people, community and dedicated lawyers can collectively challenge the impunity of the federal government and Bureau of Prisons," said Emily Shapiro, a member of California Coalition for Women Prisoners. "We need to bring people home where they can heal, receive reliable healthcare, get away from the mold and asbestos in the prison, and be free from abusers."

The order states that "without injunctive relief, plaintiffs will face ongoing retaliation, including internal transfer to the SHU or external transfer to an outside facility, for filing allegations of sexual abuse" and that staffing shortages mean that "plaintiffs risk imminent and serious medical injury, including lack of treatment for serious medical ailments, psychological distress, and risk of suicide," and that "the situation can no longer be tolerated."

The exact timeline for the appointment of the special master and the scope of their access and responsibilities is yet to be determined, but another hearing has been scheduled for March 27, 2024.

18 Mar - This Is America #194: Jeremy White on San Diego 'Antifa' Case

On episode 194, the hosts feature an interview with Jeremy White, a long-time community organizer in Southern California who is currently facing felony charges stemming from a counter-protest against violent far-Right gangs in San Diego in 2017.

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Listen at tiny.cc/TIA_SDAFA | We talk about how Jeremy and other activists were selectively targeted by the State and law enforcement, while fascist groups like the Proud Boys and American Guard were allowed to run wild and openly attack members of the public.

18 Mar - Letter from Anarchist Prisoner Jorge "Yorch" Esquivel

Mexico: Letter from Mexican anarchist political prisoner Jorge “Yorch” Esquivel from inside the Reclusorio Oriente prison in Mexico City.

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Hi compas, how are you? I’m here and a little bit stressed out with so much uncertainty. After one year and three months of imprisonment, I ask myself: how have I been able to resist in this place?

Well, I feel that I have been able to resist because of the people who visit me. Visits are very important because it is the day that you see the people who you love and those who care about you. They make you feel like it’s a different day because here all of the days are the same, and they are hard. With visits, we prisoners can forget about the situation we face every day.

Also, the food that various collectives and individuals send to me by way of the visits, like that delicious honey that was sent to me. Also, the nutritious greens and vegetables that come from the floating gardens of Xochimilco. This reminds me of a time a few months ago when I shared some quelites (wild edible herbs such as amaranth greens) that I had cooked with another prisoner who has been in here for a long time. When he ate the quelites, it reminded him of the community he is from. That made me feel good because it’s one of those little things that I wasn’t really aware of when I was on the outside. These kinds of things have allowed me to resist during this time inside.

Another thing that has also helped me a lot are the letters. I have been able to read letters from various friends, and also people who I don’t know but who are supporting me. Thank you for writing because in this environment, it’s difficult to know what’s going on with my friends. We don’t have email so letters are the way we communicate with people and they are what breaks down these prison walls. They also help me to not forget about the people who are with me, and they help them to not forget about me.

What has also helped me has been knowing about the things that have been organized in different countries such as in Spain, Canada, Germany, England, Italy, Australia, Minneapolis, Los Angeles. Seeing the flyers and posters, and knowing what folks are doing to support me, fills me with strength to keep resisting as long as is necessary.

I can’t forget to mention the graphic art, posters, movies, and books. They have been very important to me, and graphic/artwork can say many things to me that sometimes words cannot.

Thank you very much, friends. Keep applying the pressure because that is the only way to free me from prison.

19 Mar - Revealed: FBI sent several informants to Standing Rock protests

Up to 10 informants managed by the FBI were embedded in anti-pipeline resistance camps near the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation at the height of mass protests against the Dakota Access pipeline in 2016.

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by Alleen Brown (*Raw Story*)

The new details about federal law enforcement surveillance of an Indigenous environmental movement were released as part of a legal fight between North Dakota and the federal government over who should pay for policing the pipeline fight. Until now, the existence of only one other federal informant in the camps had been confirmed.

The FBI also regularly sent agents wearing civilian clothing into the camps, one former agent told Grist in an interview. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or BIA, operated undercover narcotics officers out of the reservation's Prairie Knights Casino, where many pipeline opponents rented rooms, according to one of the depositions.

The operations were part of a wider surveillance strategy that included drones, social media monitoring, and radio eavesdropping by an array of state, local, and federal agencies, according to attorneys' interviews with law enforcement. The FBI infiltration fits into a longer history in the region. In the 1970s, the FBI infiltrated the highest levels of the American Indian Movement, or AIM.

The Indigenous-led uprising against Energy Transfer Partners' Dakota Access oil pipeline drew thousands of people seeking to protect water, the climate, and Indigenous sovereignty. For seven months, participants protested to stop construction of the pipeline and were met by militarized law enforcement, at times facing tear gas, rubber bullets, and water hoses in below-freezing weather.

After the pipeline was completed and demonstrators left, North Dakota sued the federal government for more than \$38 million — the cost the state claims to have spent on police and other emergency responders, and for property and environmental damage. Central to North Dakota's complaints are the existence of anti-pipeline camps on federal land managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The state argues that by failing to enforce trespass laws on that land, the Army Corps allowed the camps to grow to up to 8,000 people and serve as a "safe haven" for those who participated in illegal activity during protests and caused property damage.

In an effort to prove that the federal government failed to provide sufficient support, attorneys deposed officials leading several law enforcement agencies during the protests. The depositions provide unusually detailed information about the way that federal security agencies intervene in climate and Indigenous movements.

Until the lawsuit, the existence of only one federal informant in the camps was known: Heath Harmon was working as an FBI informant when he entered into a romantic relationship with water protector Red Fawn Fallis. A judge eventually sentenced Fallis to nearly five years in prison after a gun went off when she was tackled by police during a protest. The gun belonged to Harmon.

Manape LaMere, a member of the Bdewakantowan Isanti and Ihanktowan bands, who is also Winnebago Ho-chunk and spent months in the camps, said he and others anticipated the presence of FBI agents, because of the agency's history. Camp security kicked out several suspected infiltrators. "We were already cynical, because we've had our heart broke before by our own relatives," he explained.

"The culture of paranoia and fear created around informants and infiltration is so deleterious to social movements, because these movements for Indigenous people are typically based on kinship networks and forms of relationality," said Nick Estes, a historian and member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe who spent time at the Standing Rock resistance camps and has extensively researched the infiltration of the AIM movement by the FBI. Beyond his relationship with Fallis, Harmon had close familial ties with community leaders and had participated in important ceremonies. Infiltration, Estes said, "turns relatives against relatives."

Less widely known than the FBI's undercover operations are those of the BIA, which serves as the primary police force on Standing Rock and other reservations. During the NoDAPL movement, the BIA had "a couple" of narcotics officers operating undercover at the Prairie Knights Casino, according to the deposition of Darren Cruzan, a member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma who was the director of the BIA's Office of Justice Services at the time.

It's not unusual for the BIA to use undercover officers in its drug busts. However, the intelligence collected by the Standing Rock undercovers went beyond narcotics. "It was part of our effort to gather intel on, you know, what was happening within the boundaries of the reservation and if there were any plans to move camps or add camps or those sorts of things," Cruzan said.

A spokesperson for Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who oversees the BIA, also declined to comment.

According to the deposition of Jacob O'Connell, the FBI's supervisor for the western half of North Dakota during the Standing Rock protests, the FBI was infiltrating the NoDAPL movement weeks before the protests gained international media attention and attracted thousands. By August 16, 2016, the FBI had tasked at least one "confidential human source" with gathering information. The FBI eventually had five to 10 informants in the protest camps — "probably closer to 10," said Bob Perry, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Minneapolis field office, which oversees operations in the Dakotas, in another deposition. The number of FBI informants at Standing Rock was first reported by the North Dakota Monitor.

According to Perry, FBI agents told recruits what to collect and what not to collect, saying, "We don't want to know about constitutionally protected activity." Perry added, "We would give them essentially a list: 'Violence, potential violence, criminal activity.' To some point it was health and safety as well, because, you know, we had an informant placed and in position where they could report on that."

The deposition of U.S. Marshal Paul Ward said that the FBI also sent agents into the camps undercover. O'Connell denied the claim. "There were no undercover agents used at all, ever." He confirmed, however, that he and other agents did visit the camps routinely. For the first couple months of the protests, O'Connell himself arrived at the camps soon after dawn most days, wearing outdoorsy clothing from REI or Dick's Sporting Goods. "Being plainclothes, we could kind of slink around and, you know, do what we had to do," he said. O'Connell would chat with whomever he ran into. Although he sometimes handed out his card, he didn't always identify himself as FBI. "If people didn't ask, I didn't tell them," he said.

He said two of the agents he worked with avoided confrontations with protesters, and Ward's deposition indicates that the pair raised concerns with the U.S. marshal about the safety of entering the camps without local police knowing. Despite its efforts, the FBI uncovered no widespread criminal activity beyond personal drug use and "misdemeanor-type activity," O'Connell said in his deposition.

The U.S. Marshals Service, as well as Ward, declined to comment, citing ongoing litigation. A spokesperson for the FBI said the press office does not comment on litigation.

Infiltration wasn't the only activity carried out by federal law enforcement. Customs and Border Protection responded to the protests with its MQ-9 Reaper drone, a model best known for remote airstrikes in Iraq and Afghanistan, which was flying above the encampments by August 22, supplying video footage known as the "Bigpipe Feed." The drone flew nearly 281 hours over six months, costing the agency \$1.5 million. Customs and Border Protection declined a request for comment, citing the litigation.

The biggest beneficiary of federal law enforcement's spending was Energy Transfer Partners. In fact, the company donated \$15 million to North Dakota to help foot the bill for the state's parallel efforts to quell the disruptions. During the protests, the company's private security contractor, TigerSwan, coordinated with local law enforcement and passed along information collected by its own undercover and eavesdropping operations.

Energy Transfer Partners also sought to influence the FBI. It was the FBI, however, that initiated its relationship with the company. In his deposition, O'Connell said he showed up at Energy Transfer Partners' office within a day or two of beginning to investigate the movement and was soon meeting and communicating with executive vice president Joey Mahmoud.

At one point, Mahmoud pointed the FBI toward Indigenous activist and actor Dallas Goldtooth, saying that "he's the ring leader making this violent," according to an email an attorney described.

Throughout the protests, federal law enforcement officials pushed to obtain more resources to police the anti-pipeline movement. Perry wanted drones that could zoom in on faces and license plates, and O'Connell

thought the FBI should investigate crowd-sourced funding, which could have ties to North Korea, he claimed in his deposition. Both requests were denied.

O'Connell clarified that he was more concerned about China or Russia than North Korea, and it was not just state actors that worried him. "If somebody like George Soros or some of these other well-heeled activists are trying to disrupt things in my turf, I want to know what's going on," he explained, referring to the billionaire philanthropist, who conspiracists theorize controls progressive causes.

To the federal law enforcement officials working on the ground at Standing Rock, there was no reason they shouldn't be able to use all the resources at the federal government's disposal to confront this latest Indigenous uprising.

"That shit should have been crushed like immediately," O'Connell said.

20 Mar - Campaign for Legal Expenses of Persecuted Militants

*Greece: Financial support campaign for covering legal expenses of persecuted militants:
firefund.net/patrasolidarity*

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In recent years, and especially after the change in political power from the social democracy of SYRIZA - which led the movements to retreat and regress - to the neoliberal and far-right government of New Democracy, repression has become a central issue on the political agenda. In order to implement the anti-labor and anti-social plans of the state and capital, it has been set as a precondition to crush social-class resistance, dissolve fronts and spaces of struggle, strike all forms of political, social, and trade union organization and action, and overturn centuries of workers' achievements.

The New Democracy government, following its re-election, aims to intensify its far-right and neoliberal policies even further. It continues in the same direction, attacking the majority of society with a new round of restructuring, once again targeting essential aspects of people's daily lives and social life.

In particular, over the past few months, this attack has become even more pronounced, slowly but steadily implementing a decades-old strategic planning from the side of the ruling class and the state, especially in sectors where it was previously impossible to implement due to fierce social-class conflicts that were taking place. The depth and extent of the strategic-historical nature of the attack can also be seen through the series of bills that have been passed recently or are being launched. The Greek state is moving forward with reactionary measures, attempting to legally validate existing social-class relations, further fortifying its policies.

In this context, the targeting of militants and the attempt to eradicate them through persecutions cannot be seen separately from the broader attack on the struggle community. A prominent position on the state's agenda is the attempt to impose a cemetery-like silence on society and exterminate what it defines as the "internal enemy".

In the city of Patras, the expression of strong social-class-political resistance across various fronts, already since the period of the covid-19 pandemic and the attempt to impose prohibitive policies by the state, has led to numerous arrests and persecutions of militants, among whom are also members of our anarchist group, placing them in a state of permanent hostage by the police and judicial mechanisms and creating increasingly pressing financial needs to cover the excessive expenses required by the trials scheduled for the near future. At the same time, there is targeting of our comrades by local media aiming at wider social discrediting of our actions, as well as targeting them even in their workplaces, a tactic that, obviously in combination with the state's other repressive methods, aims to create a suffocating framework around the social militants that could even affect their way of making a living, with the ultimate goal of their political, moral, and material annihilation

Below we mention the cases for which members of our collective are being prosecuted, either individually or along with other activists:

- The 9 arrests during the occupation of the political offices of the governing party of New Democracy in solidarity with the hunger strike of political prisoner, a member of the Revolutionary Organization 17 November, Dimitris Koufodinas.
- The arrests of 3 activists and the prosecutions of another 8 who participated in a solidarity march for Koufodinas, which was prohibited by the police and clashed with the police outside the squat of Parartima.
- The prosecutions of 3 activists following an attack with red paint on the political offices of New Democracy as a sign of solidarity with the squat “Ntougrou” in Larissa, which was evacuated by the police on the same day.
- The prosecutions of 17 activists during mobilizations against the installation of wind turbines in the Agrafa mountains.
- The prosecutions of 2 activists for their participation in a mobilization in Tympa against the installation of wind turbines.
- The prosecution of a comrade for writing a slogan on a riot police van in front of the railway station of Patras during a protest condemning the state-capitalist crime in Tempi, which resulted in the death of 57 train passengers.
- The arrest of two activists during this year's march commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Polytechnic uprising of 1973.
- The arrest of a comrade during a protest against the government's bill regarding private universities. In this case, the police and judicial methods are particularly notable for inflating the indictments with a felony charge based on unsubstantiated, false evidence provided by the police.

Assessing that the repression will intensify in the next period, given that the state will be called upon to manage the criminal consequences of the restructuring it imposes, and social resistance will escalate, the needs of our group, as well as of the broader movement, will increase materially as several activists are already burdened with exorbitant legal expenses of more than 5 thousand euros. This is alongside with the daily needs arising from the political defense of our structures and struggles.

For this reason, we appeal for support from the community of struggle on both local and international scales, in order to cope with the additional burdens imposed by state repression.

21 Mar - Anarchist D. Chatzivasiliadis in solitary confinement

Greece: Anarchist prisoner D. Chatzivasiliadis in solitary confinement because he remained consistent with his registered refusals.

MORE:

via Act for freedom now!

Today 19/3, Dimitris Hatzivasiliadis was transferred to the prison of Diavata, to the manor of chief torturer Valsamis, for the appeal court of the expropriation of the bank in Thessaloniki (2021).

The comrade, as always in the dozens of transfers for courts that have been made in the two and a half years of his captivity, refused to be taken of his clothes complicitly. This is a refusal won by political prisoners long ago and has been consolidated over the last 15 years. Before the investigation the comrade asked to have access to a payphone like every other prisoner, and a minimum of time in the yard, as provided by the penal code.

In his previous passage through Diavata for the expropriation trial, he had been excluded from these elementary activities.

The bodyguards' response was to lock the political prisoner in a disciplinary isolation cell.

We won't give them back anything that has been hard-won.

25 Mar - Activist Acquitted After uncovering Zoophilia Case

SWEDEN: The verdict has come for an activists charged with gross slander, in a trial in Sweden.

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via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

The activist was accused of spreading a video clip in which a farmer talks about sex with non-human animals.

The farmer took the case to trial, saying that he was offended and wanted SEK 100,000 in damages. The prosecutor demanded six months in prison for the activist. The court acquitted the activist due to lack of evidence. It remains to be seen whether the verdict will be appealed.

27 Mar - Impunity & Cover-up: Correctional Officers Hang Nooses in SCI Rockview

On November 24th, 2023, imprisoned people at SCI Rockview found two nooses hanging in the CO's office, displayed visibly for many prisoners to see.

MORE:

via *Dreaming Freedom, Practicing Abolition*

When the prisoners asked the staff why the nooses were hung, they were told it was a joke. By December 4th, prisoners filed a grievance to document what they saw, noting that the hanging of the nooses was “unethical, racially motivated, hateful, [a] deliberate debasement of black inmates” and “unsafe for inmates, staff, [and] the whole prison in general.” In the grievance, they demanded that Sgt. Mosser and CO Richard be fired and investigated for a hate crime, and for CO Kirchner to get therapy. Captain Andrews, the head of security, denied the grievance over two months later by February 5, 2024 under the guise that it was “being investigated.” However, the sergeant and COs are still working in the prison to this day, with no repercussions for this racist act.

As of March 10th, prisoners have reached out to Pennsylvania officials at the Dept. of Corrections in a letter campaign, sending 100 copies of the grievance. Copies of the letter also were mailed to Governor Shapiro, Senator Fetterman, Senator Street, and various advocacy groups. The demands for relief in the original grievance have now become the platform of demands for this campaign. About 20 of the 100 letters were withheld by the prison. Activists on the outside are joining forces with prisoners to elevate their demands, flooding the phone lines of DOC offices, assisting with outreach to media, and circulating the stories of prisoners who have found unity in opposition to the facility’s virulent institutional racism.

In any other workplace, hanging a noose would be grounds for immediate termination. However, Nicki Paul, the superintendent’s assistant and “grievance coordinator” informed the public that they self-investigated their staff and found they did nothing wrong. When family and friends of prisoners in the facility called en mass between March 18th and 25th to voice their concern, Paul was flippant, dishonest, and dismissive to nearly every caller. Several family members of prisoners felt incredibly disrespected by the behavior of Paul and other staff who answered their calls. In the process of calling in, it also became known that Paul holds several other titles within the prison, including “staff officer,” “lieutenant’s assistant,” and “community liaison.” Samuel Condo, a PA-DOC official responsible for overseeing SCI Rockview, was called over a dozen of times to no avail. When contact was finally made with Condo, he simply would redirect calls back to Nicki Paul whose multiple roles on the prison staff create severe conflicts of interest.

Paul admits that SCI Rockview does indeed have video footage, yet the reasons why they refuse to make this footage public has not been given any reasonable justification. As of the week of March 18th, SCI Rockview has closed the internal investigation, choosing to protect the guards who did this hateful and racist act over the safety and well-being of the prisoners. In the meantime, the administration removed two prisoners from general population who brought the situation to public light. One was transferred out of the

prison, and the other one is still in administrative custody, aka “the hole” under accusations of “encouraging group activity.”

This incident is coming after a year that saw 11 prisoners die in custody. Seven people died amidst an outbreak of legionnaires disease, and four people died while in administrative custody (punitive solitary units with very little public oversight and severely limited communication access). Unfortunately, there is a well-known pattern of premature death and racist discriminatory practices (including beatings and verbal harassment) at SCI Rockview.

There is a resistance campaign that has emerged from the persistent actions of prisoners and outside supporters, who together are demanding an external investigation of the facility & its staff for the cover-up of hanging the nooses. The severity of retaliation for speaking out must also be considered a central object of investigation. We believe the inaction of officials at this facility is symptomatic of a deeper condition of antiBlackness, white supremacy, and class warfare that PA-DOC legally sanctions and politically condones. On both sides of the wall, people most impacted by the racism of SCI Rockview continue to uplift the demands of prisoners to investigate the noose incident as a hate crime, to terminate Sgt. Mosser and CO Richard, and to require mandatory therapy for CO Kirchner. While a grassroots campaign is indeed growing, and as PA-DOC slides further into dissonant inaction, the call for popular resistance to SCI Rockview’s lethal conditions rings louder by the day.

27 Mar - The High Costs of Free Prison Tablet Programs

In 2021 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) announced a new tablet contract with Securus Technologies, a subsidiary of Aventiv Technologies (which also owns JPay).

MORE:

by Valerie Surrect (*The Appeal*)

As in most free tablet contracts, Securus agrees to provide tablets for all eligible people incarcerated in Texas jails and prisons at no cost to incarcerated people or the state. In exchange, Securus will charge users a fee to send or receive emails, phone calls, and video calls or download premium content, such as movies, games, and music. The tablets, which use a secure internal network and do not have internet access, will include some free content, such as religious, educational, and law resources, and a limited selection of ebooks.

Texas is the latest in a growing number of states to implement "free" tablet programs in recent years. From the TDCJs' perspective, the partnership with Securus is a win-win. In addition to providing tablets at no cost to the TDCJ, Securus shoulders the total cost of installation and maintenance as well as any infrastructure upgrades needed to accommodate the widespread use of secure-network tablets. Bryan Collier, executive director of the TDCJ, identifies several potential benefits of the tablet program to incarcerated users, including expanded access to resources and educational materials, more frequent contact with the outside world, and increased technological literacy. Each of these benefits correlates with lower recidivism rates and suggests the program is congruent with nationwide prison reform efforts. TDCJ representatives are also optimistic that increased access to email will relieve pressure on overstrained and understaffed prison mailrooms, reducing the occurrence of contraband items entering prisons and jails through the mail. Users can also file grievances through tablets, and tablets open the possibility of telehealth programs and increased access to online higher education programs in the future.

At first glance, free tablet programs seem like a step forward, finally pushing antiquated incarceration practices into the twenty-first century at the mutual benefit of the incarcerated, departments of corrections, and prison industries—all with the oh-so-appealing tagline: "at no cost to taxpayers." Advocates of free tablet programs have a point; the introduction of tablets could bring life-changing benefits to incarcerated people. Unfortunately, current free tablet programs rely on predatory contracts between Departments of Corrections (DOCs) and two juggernauts of prison industry, Aventiv (Securus and JPay) and Global Tel Link (GTL). These companies have long histories in prison communications, histories checkered by

charges of exploitative practices. Tablets do offer the incarcerated unprecedented access to their loved ones as well as new ways to fill time inside, but these benefits come with steep prices to the incarcerated and their families. The tablets may be free, but using them isn't. Users are charged exorbitant rates for technologies and services that are usually free for citizens who aren't locked up, and prices for games, movies, and music are often much higher than fair market value. Seeing as the average wage range for non-industry prison labor is \$0.14–0.63 per hour in states that pay incarcerated people for the work they do (Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Arkansas do not pay wages), free tablet programs divert the costs to the families of the incarcerated.

The Price of Free

Tablet contracts between DOCs and prison communications companies vary by state, making it difficult to assess overall costs to the incarcerated; however, most contracts share a set of common features. The Prison Policy Initiative studied twelve free tablet contracts since 2017 and concluded that most "guarantee the Department of Corrections a portion of tablet revenue," "allow tablet providers to alter the prices of services—such as email, music and money transfer—without state approval," "allow providers to terminate tablet services if the tablets aren't profitable enough," and "exempt providers from replacing a broken tablet if they think it was 'willfully' damaged—a loophole ripe for exploitation, as prison tablets are cheaply made and break easily."

Commissions paid to DOCs vary widely by state. For example, Colorado DOC (GTL contract) receives an annual flat payment of \$800,000; Connecticut DOC (JPay contract) receives a 10–35 percent commission on replacement technology, accessory sales, email fees, media downloads, and subscriptions; Missouri DOC (JPay contract) earns a 20 percent commission on entertainment media purchases; and West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) and Indiana DOC (GTL contracts) receive a commission on all gross revenue, 5 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Contracts that include revenue sharing funnel money paid by the incarcerated and their families back into the systems that incarcerate them. Such contracts also discourage DOCs from advocating for fair pricing on behalf of incarcerated people. The higher the rates for emails, video calls, and movies, the more commission the DOC receives. Revenue-sharing contracts that also allow the contractor to terminate the contract if expected profits aren't met place DOCs in a bit of a double bind in which low revenues threaten their ability to make any commission.

Prices for email and video chat services also vary by contract. According to JPay's website, sending and receiving emails cost one "stamp" per page of text. The average cost of a stamp is \$0.35. Adding a picture to an email costs one additional stamp. Adding a "videogram" costs an additional three stamps. A thirty-minute video call costs \$3.95. GTL contracts include prices for emails ranging from \$0.25 to \$0.47. Unsurprisingly, media download prices vary as well. Song download prices can range from \$0.99 to \$9.99 and audiobooks from \$0.99–19.99. Some GTL contracts offer media subscription services, such as a music-streaming service for \$24.99 per month, but as noted by Prison Legal News: "GTL's music service costs twice as much as Spotify or iTunes for less than one-tenth the number of available songs. And with video games usually available outside prison for no more than \$8 each, two months' worth of GTL's gaming fees could pay for all eight of the most popular games available from the Google app store." JPay has recently introduced a \$5.00 monthly subscription for its SecureView tablet, and the free tablet contract between Securus and Dallas County lists a \$5.00/month rental fee for tablet use.

Most contracts mention the availability of e-books, and both Securus/JPay and GTL reference generous e-book offerings on their websites. Both companies have also expanded access to a limited number of free e-books in the face of public pressure to curb the steep cost of book downloads and price-per-minute reading charges on prison tablets. However, neither company is forthcoming about what books are available and how many. While some GTL press releases boast availability of thousands of free e-books, stories have emerged, such as a story from Allegheny County (Pennsylvania) Jail, of jails banning physical books completely and limiting incarcerated people's access to reading materials to the 241 free e-books and 49 free religious texts available on GTL tablets.

29 Mar - Anarchist Political Prisoner Bill Dunne Transferred for Cancer Treatment

Bill Dunne is an anarchist political prisoner who has been incarcerated for almost 45 years now; since 1979.

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Bill was sentenced to 90 years for aiding in an escape attempt in downtown Seattle and since that arrest he has lived in some of the most draconian prisons in the United States.

In 1982 he was sent from the Washington state system to the federal system and landed in the United States Penitentiary (USP) in Lewisburg, PA. The following year he tried to escape from that particular USP and was given an additional 15 years onto his sentence and 7 and a half were to be spent in the control units at USP Marion, IL. After he did his time at Marion and up until recently, he has been in quite a few maximum-security penitentiaries in the federal prison system, until 2014 when he was transferred to medium security facilities in California.

Bill was recently diagnosed with cancer. Due to his condition, he was recently transferred from Victorville FCI in southern California to the federal prison systems medical facility in Butner, NC. He has been demanding for over a year to be transferred to get treatment, so him being moved there is a success. However, it is still unclear when the treatment will begin.

Anarchist and all revolutionaries have a responsibility to support our political prisoners, particularly when they are going through difficult times. Bill, however, is a unique and special example. In 2000, after serving 21 years in prison Bill the parole board gave Bill another 15 years. Then, in an exceptional act of cruelty, in 2014 he was given another 15-year hit. Even in December the Biden regime denied Bill's appeal for clemency. The reason cited for this barbaric treatment was that Bill continues to maintain communication and is "continuing association and affiliation with anarchist organizations," which was, "evidence [he] still harbor anti-authoritarian views."

We are encouraging comrades to write to Bill and send him revolutionary greetings. We have to keep our political captives on our shoulders and let the world know that their struggles are ours and we rise and fall together.