

The Dragons Fire

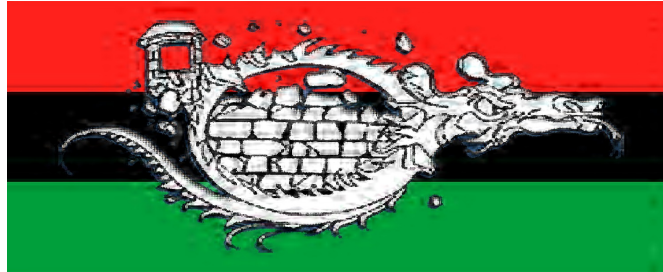
THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

in Fierce Determination Since 1996

Vol.(9), September/October 2018

<http://www.thejerichomovement.com>

P.O. Box 2164 Chesterfield, Virginia 23832



“When the prison doors are opened, the real dragon will fly out”

Ho Chi Minh

Revolutionary Greetings,

Welcome to our National Jericho Movement Newsletter. Thank you to all of our members and affiliations who contribute critical information regarding our Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War as well as updates on activities, events and actions.

Moving forward, we stand in fierce determination and solidarity to free our remaining Political Prisoner's and Prisoner's of War still languishing behind the dungeon walls. Much work has been done by Jericho and other organizations, and there is still much more work to do.

With 20 years behind us and much work ahead, Jericho is growing and is taking on new projects and missions. Our shared vision is that we will reach a time in this country (and others) wherein there will be no more Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War. We envision the day when they **all** will walk free and into their families arms-who have been waiting for decades. We hope you join us in making this a reality.

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are dying who could be saved, that generations more will live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution."

George Jackson

Jericho Tributes & Announcements



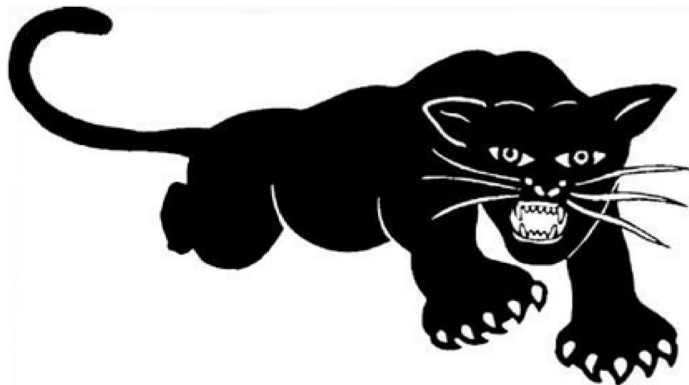
JERICO CELEBRATES THE 10TH ANNUAL BLACK PANTHER FILM FESTIVAL 2018

The National Jericho Movement sends its sincere salutations and greetings to all Black Panther Party members, Black Liberation Army Comrades, and freedom fighters from other formations and organizations; and further, extends its prayers to all those Comrades who have been slain or who have passed away over the years. The 10th Annual Film Festival highlights the establishment, existence and history of one of the most profound revolutionary organizations of our time.

Servants of the people!

Free All Political Prisoners!

Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Sundiata Acoli, Kojo Bomani Sababu, Kamau Sadiki, Imam Jamil Al-Amin, Veronza Bowers, Imam Abdullah Malik Ka'bah, Mumia Abu Jamal, Larry Hoover, Ruchell Cinque Magee, Ed Poindexter, Russell Maroon Shoatz, Janet Holloway Africa, Janine Phillips Africa, Charles Simms Africa, Delbert Orr Africa, Michael Davis Africa, Edward Goodman Africa, Abdul Aziz, Hanif Shabazz Bey, Malik Smith, Thomas Manning, Bill Dunne, Leonard Peltier, Alvaro Luna Hernandez (Xinatchli), Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, Oso Blanco, Jaan Karl Laaman, Dr. Tarek Mehanna, Dr. Aafia Siddiqui



www.thejerichomovement.com

**The National Jericho Movement
Welcomes President Miguel Díaz-Canel
and The Cuban Delegation to
The United Nations 73rd General Assembly**

The Jericho Movement thanks the Cuban people for their generosity in offering political asylum to our sister Assata Shakur, our brother Guillermo Morales, and many others whose lives were at risk for confronting U.S. imperialism in the belly of the beast.

**Long Live
International Solidarity!**

**Long Live
the Cuban Revolution!**

**Free All
Political Prisoners!**



Assata Shakur

**National Jericho Movement
P.O. Box 2164, Chesterfield, VA 23832
www.thejerichomovement.com
[JihadAbdulMumit@gmail.com](mailto: JihadAbdulMumit@gmail.com)**

-Acknowledging those who Deserve it. By Jericho Member/Comrade AbdudDharr Abdullah

“In the spirit of unity, intensifying our struggle for Justice, liberation, independence and self-determination and in an effort to enhance our ability to reach those objectives; the following is presented as constructive criticism.

This is not to denigrate, disparage nor vilify those who are to be commended for challenging the system and all of its institutionalized, systemic injustices that are a threat to the human rights of us all. It is, however, a call for a long overdue gesture to be forthcoming from those who are at the forefront of today’s campaign for ‘social-justice’!

This author, along with a large host of others, has been calling for the issue of U.S. held Political Prisoners and P.O.W.’s to be included in the narrative of the many ‘social-justice’ topics raised in discussions and protests that have taken, and continue to take, place all across the country. It is with much dismay and disappointment that, for whatever reason, our pleas, thus far, seem to ‘fall-on-deaf-ears’.

These Political Prisoners and P.O.W.'s embody, personify and represent; through their practical examples, efforts and work; the essence of the struggle for Justice. It is unacceptable that the call for their freedom and unconditional release continues to be diminished, ignored and overlooked by those who, in these contemporary times, claim to be waging the fight for the same cause. These Political Prisoners, who are being held due to their political associations, activities and views, are the undisputed forerunners of today's call for 'social-justice'. How can today's activists claim to love Assata Shakur while they ignore, and refuse to champion the call for the release of, her liberators? How can they claim endearment to the Cause of Truth and Justice while they discount, and fail to demand the release of, those whom have languished behind bars, some for 40+ and 50 years, for waging the struggle around many of the exact same issues which, half a century later, continue to go unresolved?

The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was formed to end the indiscriminate murder of People by the police which is the main issue lying at the center of today's 'social-justice' campaign. Yet, there is no mention of its members who languish behind bars for the sacrifices they made on behalf of those who 'take-to-the-streets' today in pursuit of the same basic rights that were at the center of the revolutionary struggle that has laid dormant for the past four decades.

Those of BYP100 and Black Lives Matter and other youth based groups, initiatives and organizations; by their failure, refusal and/or reluctance to make the imprisonment and plight of U.S. held Political Prisoners central in their narrative surrounding the issues they so fervently promote; are proving themselves to be somewhat disingenuous, insincere and lacking any serious resolve to usher in an era of real change: an era of change that can **only** come about through the sort of revolutionary, liberation struggle that these Political Prisoners initiated in the mid 60's.

It is regretful, at best, that they fail to support the demand for the release of these revolutionaries and 'servants-of-the-People' who, unselfishly, 'put-their-lives-on-the-line' and have sacrificed their freedom in efforts to bring an end to the exact same 'state-sanctioned' policies that allow the police to continue killing our People with impunity. There is no reasonable excuse for the continued failure and reluctance, on the part of today's activists, to neglect using their platform to familiarize, popularize and publicize the American People of the fact that this government holds Political Prisoners who had the dignity, honor, self-respect and self-worth to put 'their-lives-on-the-line' in open defiance of the numerous travesties of Justice committed by the government against People of Afrikan descent and their First Nation and Latino counterparts.

Those who aspire to be political-activists and revolutionaries must shun the moderate, safe posture of 'reformers'. Instead they must develop, embrace and promote an uncompromising, unflinching revolutionary platform that prioritizes the unconditional release of all COINTELPRO era Political Prisoners, in particular, and the entire collective of U.S. held P.P.'s, in general.

This is an open call, to all who advocate for Truth and Justice, to include the plight of U.S. held Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in your conversations, demands, negotiations and speeches. These men and women embody and personify the very essence of the 'spirit of struggle' that has been embraced and exhibited by our Champions throughout our sojourn in these territories. It is imperative that their Cause become our Cause; so that we can build upon the work they started and carry-on the revolutionary struggle they initiated to a satisfactory end. "

**"To overlook or ignore our Political Prisoners/POWs plea's for Freedom,
is akin to Betrayal"**

..A.M.

Jericho continues to follow the US resolution of reuniting kidnapped children with their parents. Have these children become our our youngest Political Prisoner's?

“As Months Pass in Chicago Shelters, Immigrant Children Contemplate Escape, Even Suicide”

Internal documents reveal despair and tedium in one of the nation’s largest shelter networks for unaccompanied minors. By Melissa Sanchez, [Duaa Eldeib](#) and [Jodi S. Cohen](#) Sept. 6, 4 a.m. CDT



Lydia Fu for ProPublica -picture obtained from: <https://www.propublica.org/article/chicago-immigrant-shelters-heartland-internal-documents>

"ProPublica Illinois has obtained thousands of confidential records about the nine federally funded shelters in the Chicago area for immigrant youth operated by the nonprofit Heartland Human Care Services — some dating back years, others from as recently as last week. The documents provide a sweeping overview of the inner workings and life inside one of the country’s largest shelter networks for unaccompanied minors, including children separated from their parents under the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance policy. While the records focus on Illinois shelters, they provide a rare glimpse of a secretive detention system that holds children at more than 100 sites across the country. They include descriptions of serious incident reports filed with the federal government, caseworkers’ notes on family reunifications, employee schedules, daily rosters, internal emails and more. The documents reveal the routines of life inside the shelters, days punctuated by tedium and fear as children wait and wait and wait to leave. They spend their days taking English lessons and learning about such peculiarities as American slang, St. Patrick’s Day, the NFL and the red carpet fashions at the Academy Awards. They complain about the food and mistreatment by staff. And they cry and write letters and hurt themselves in despair..." See full article at: <https://www.propublica.org/article/chicago-immigrant-shelters-heartland-internal-documents>

“Here’s What Happened to the 99 Immigrant Children Separated From Their Parents and Sent to Chicago: Confidential records reveal details about struggles to find parents and traumatic experiences during the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance crackdown.” By Jodi S. Cohen, [Melissa Sanchez](#) and [Duaa Eldeib](#) Sept. 10, 5 a.m. CDT



Lydia Fu for ProPublica -picture obtained from:

<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-zero-tolerance-separated-immigrant-children-chicago>

“They were as young as 10 months, as old as almost 18. About one-third of the children who ended up in Chicago came from Guatemala. Others had fled Brazil, Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Romania and India. All had at least one parent locked up, often hundreds of miles away. Months after the plight of children separated from their parents under the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance immigration crackdown sparked outrage, prompting a reversal of the policy, those children’s identities and experiences in detention remain largely unknown. But ProPublica Illinois has obtained confidential records about the 99 children sent to Illinois shelters run by the nonprofit Heartland Human Care Services, which has a federal contract to house immigrant children at nine facilities in the Chicago area. The records are part of a larger set of documents that shed light on the inner workings of the country’s secretive detention system for children, revealed in a ProPublica Illinois investigation last week...” For full article please see: <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-zero-tolerance-separated-immigrant-children-chicago>

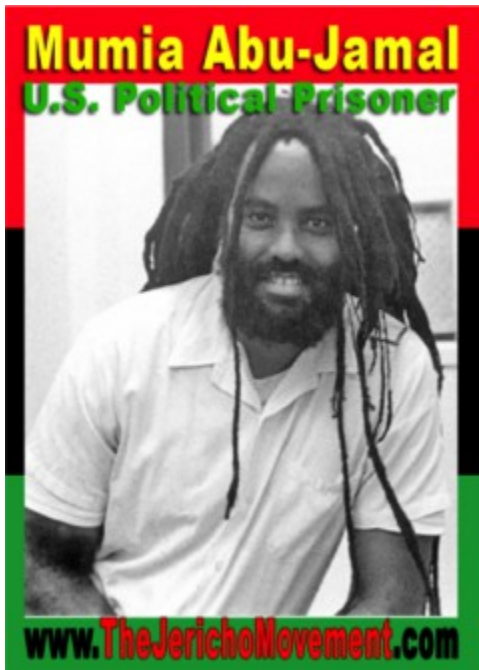
Chairman's Corner

No news this month, please check back!

Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War

POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE MONTH

Mumia Abu-Jamal



Black Panther Party - Move

Contact Information

Prison Address

#AM 8335 SCI- Mahanoy

Frackville, PA 17932

United States

Affiliation: Black Panther Party, MOVE

Captured: 1981-Life without parole

“Very few people in prison have voices that go beyond the wall. It's my job to do the work for them because they have no one.”

FreeMumia.com Author U.S. Prisoner

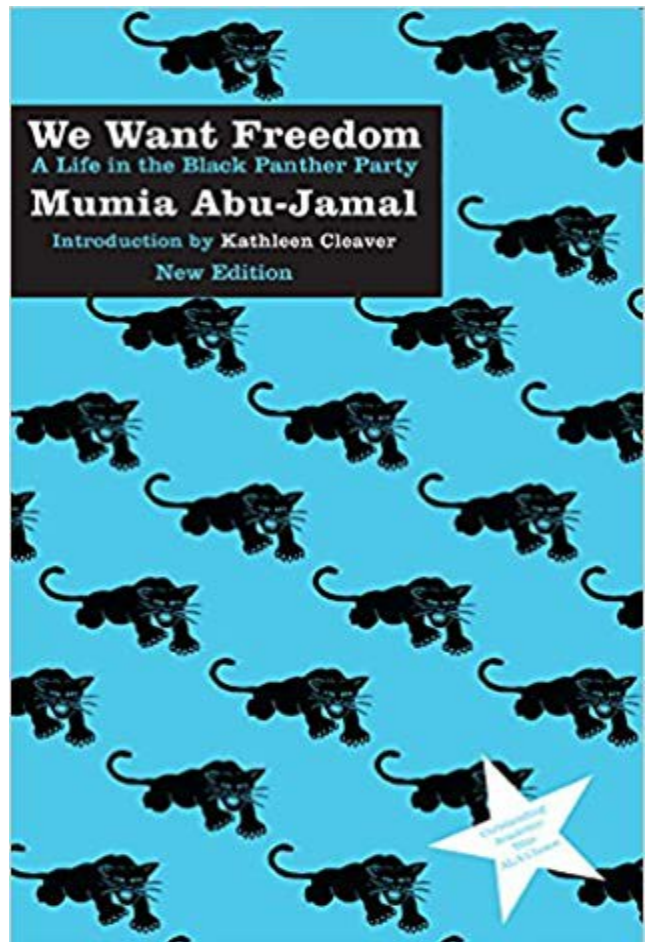
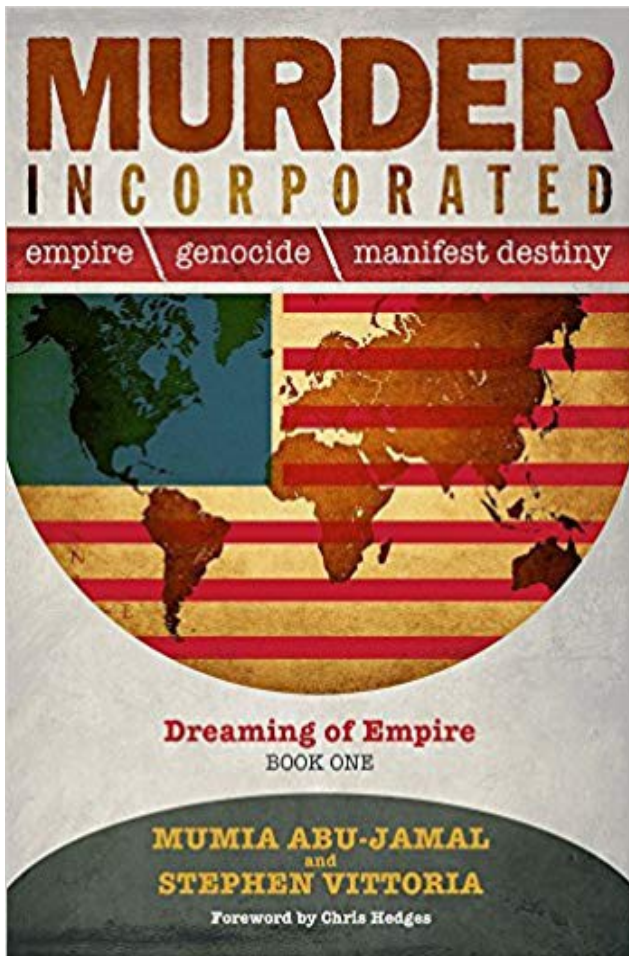
"A world wide movement stopped Mumia Abu-Jamal from being executed, getting him off death row. Mumia is ill but PA officials, in denying him adequate medical care, could cause his death unless we win his

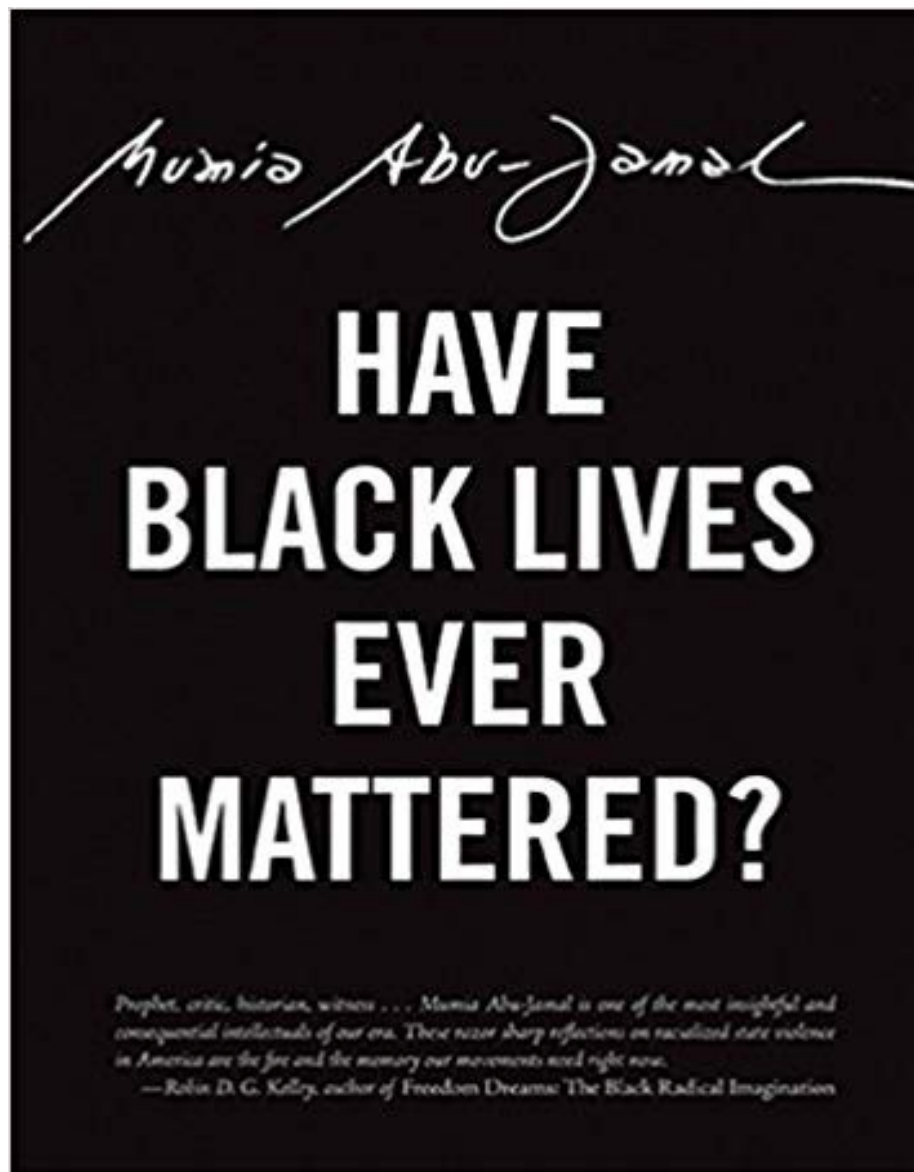
freedom soon. Why was Mumia framed? Check out the facts": <http://www.freemumia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/MumiaFactSheet20180321.pdf>

"Mumia Abu-Jamal is: an internationally celebrated black writer and radio journalist, author of six books and hundreds of columns and articles, organizer and inspiration for the prison lawyers movement former member of the Black Panther Party and supporter of Philadelphia's radical MOVE organization who has spent the last 30 years in prison, almost all of it in solitary confinement on Pennsylvania's Death Row.

His demand for a new trial and freedom is supported by: heads of state and prominent politicians worldwide (France, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and elsewhere); Nobel laureates Nelson Mandela, Toni Morrison, Desmond Tutu, the European and Japanese Parliaments, city governments from San Francisco to Detroit to Paris and its suburbs, distinguished human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, the Congressional Black Caucus and other members of the U.S. Congress prominent civil rights groups such as the NAACP, numerous labor unions such as and by scholars, religious leaders, artists, scientists and countless others who cherish democracy, human rights and justice."

<http://www.freemumia.com/who-is-mumia-abu-jamal/> "Mumia Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist. He spent more than 28 years on death row for allegedly killing a white police officer in Philadelphia. Despite his three-decade imprisonment, most of which was spent in solitary confinement on Death Row, Abu-Jamal has relentlessly fought for his freedom and for his profession. He is the author of nine books, including "Death Blossoms" and "Live from Death Row," and thousands of radio commentaries" <https://www.amazon.com/Mumia-Abu-Jamal/e/B000APLSDS>





Mumia's Next Court Date: October 29, 2018 "September 1—Additional demands for discovery made by Mumia's lawyers at the August 30 court proceeding led to Judge Tucker granting a 60-day continuance. The new date for oral argument that Mumia's appeal denial should be vacated and new appeal rights granted is now scheduled for October 29, 2018. Two weeks ago, Mumia's lawyers were told by the DA's office that they discovered close to 200 boxes of capital case files that had not been reviewed. A half-dozen were still not found. Last Monday, just days before the scheduled final arguments, a May 25, 1988 letter from DA Castille's office to PA State Senator Fisher (a virulent proponent of expediting executions) naming Mumia Abu-Jamal and 8 other capital defendants was turned over to the defense.

Krasner's assistant DA Tracey Kavanaugh said the letter was meaningless and opposed the postponement, insisting there is no evidence that Castille had anything to do with Mumia's appeals. Mumia's lawyers argued that finding the background to this communication would likely support their central argument that DA Ronald Castille actively and personally was developing policy to speed up executions, and that he was particularly focused on convicted "police killers." Mumia Abu-Jamal was unquestionably the capital prisoner who was most zealously targeted for execution by the Fraternal Order of Police. Judge Tucker agreed with Mumia's lawyers that a search is needed to establish whether Castille was personally involved in this communication. Additional discovery was ordered with Judge Tucker's

rhetorical question, "What else hasn't been disclosed?" But the Judge narrowed the required search to particulars around the May 25, 1988 letter.

Not brought out in court is the fact that Mumia's appeal of his trial conviction and death sentence was still pending in May 1988. The PA Supreme Court didn't issue its denial of this first appeal of Mumia until March 1989. This makes any reference of Mumia's case as a subject of an execution warrant highly suspect and extraordinary, because his death sentence was not "final" unless and until the PA Supreme Court affirmed. [The lawyers have not publicly released a copy of the May 25, 1988 letter, so analysis is limited.] Mumia's lawyers said they would discuss discovery issues with the prosecution and might file a further amended petition with the intention of proceeding to oral argument on the next court date, October 29. On Judge Tucker—He is the chief administrative judge overseeing post-conviction proceedings. On August 30 and previously on April 30 opened his courtroom early to for Maureen Faulkner and the Fraternal Order of Police to occupy half of the small courtroom. Not surprising, no consideration was given to Mumia's family including his brother Keith Cook, international supporters from France and the dozens of other supporters who had lined up before 8AM to get into the courtroom. Even press reps suggested that the press be given seats in the jury box to open up space for even lawyers working with Mumia. Even that small consideration was rejected by Judge Tucker.

A more in-depth piece on DA Larry Krasner's opposition to Mumia's petition will be sent out soon. In the meantime, go to: www.RachelWolkenstein.net.

<http://www.laboractionmumia.org/2018/09/02/court-evidence-to-free-mumia-to-be-continued/>

Medical Updates

-Ramona Africa-Still Sick & in need of Assistance

"The MOVE Organization is informing our supporters, sympathizers and all those in solidarity with the cause of revolution, that our much beloved Ramona Africa, MOVE's Minister of Communication, survivor of the May 13, 1985, holocaust, has been hospitalized as a result of health complications coming from a condition called PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). A direct result of the ongoing war waged on our Move Family by this government (we've lost 24 members to date). Two died in prison under suspicious circumstances termed "cancer." Now Ramona is diagnosed with "cancer" and she's again battling to be a survivor. Ramona needs funds for a hospital bed, therapy to be able to walk again, skilled nursing full-time care and many other health needs. Please donate to her Go Fund Me page at

<https://www.gofundme.com/helpsaveramonaafrica>. Please share this information widely.

If there's any questions or concerns people want to address please contact Alberta Africa or Sue Africa at these numbers: (215) 387-4107 or helpramonaafrica@gmail.com. " <http://onamove.com/help-ramona-fight-for-her-life/>

Legal Updates

-Mumia Abu Jamal: Next Court Date: October 29, 2018

-Jalil Muntaqim



-Let's Bring Jalil Muntaqim Home on Parole in 2018!

“Since Jalil's parole hearing has been postponed until November 2018 due to a factual error on his COMPAS Risk Assessment Report, there is still time for friends and supporters to write letters for him.

To write a letter in you own words in support of parole for Jalil, address to:
Senior Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator
Sullivan Correctional Facility
325 Riverside Drive
Fallsburg, New York 12733

BUT SEND TO:

Nora Carroll
The Parole Preparation Project
168 Canal Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10013
The subject line should be "Anthony Bottom 77-A-4283"

We are making an effort to include letters of support for Jalil that are personalized and from people who are familiar with him and his work. If you want further instructions for how to write a strong, personalized letter of support, please email carroll.nora@gmail.com. “
Also, please send a copy of your letter to Jalil for his files: Anthony Bottom #77A4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 116, Fallsburg, NY 12733-0116

October Birthdays Please Send a Card!

Imam Jamil Al-Amin- Birthday: October 4, 1943



Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee

Contact Information

Prison Address

#99974-555 USP Tucson

P.O. Box 24550

Tucson, AZ 85734

United States

Affiliation: Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee

Captured: 2000- Life No Parole (Georgia to Federal custody)

"The prosecutor in the Atlanta case after the conviction said, "After 24 years we've finally gotten him," which means the prosecutor was counting back to the day when Jamil walked out of a prison in New York City. So this case in Atlanta...was and is an extension of the targeting."

<http://imamjamilactionnetwork.weebly.com/>

<https://twitter.com/imamjamilamin>

Michael Davis Africa- Birthday: October 6, 1955



MOVE POLITICAL PRISONER

Contact Information

Prison Address

#AM4973--SCI Phoenix

P.O. Box 244

Collegeville, PA 19426-0244

United States

Affiliations: MOVE

Captured: 1978.

"To quote JOHN AFRICA, it is past time for all poor people to release themselves from the deceptive strangulation of society, realize that society has failed you, for to attempt to ignore this system of deception now is to delay you the need to protest this failure later, the system has failed you yesterday, failed you today and has created the condition for failure tomorrow..."

David Gilbert- Birthday: October 6th 1944



Contact Information

Prison Address

#83A6158 -Wende Correctional Facility

3040 Wende Rd.

Alden, NY 14004

United States

Affiliation: ANTI-IMPERIALIST POLITICAL PRISONER
Captured: October 20, 1981. Sentence: 75 years to life.

"The starting point for me is identifying with other people. That solidarity, that tenderness, mandates standing with the oppressed---the vast majority---against the power structure...The Civil Rights Movement also showed me more of a sense of humanity and nobility of purpose than I found in the white suburbs where I grew up."*

Political Autobiography, David Gilbert - 10/13/08

"The starting point for me is a deep identification with other people. That solidarity, that tenderness, means always standing with the oppressed. The children suffering malnutrition in Africa, the women and girls sold into sexual bondage in Thailand, the orphans scavenging in the streets of Sao Paulo, the gay man beaten to death in Wyoming, those still homeless in New Orleans due to the man-made disaster that followed hurricane Katrina ... they are all precious human beings whose lives matter. Reality burst into my consciousness with the Greensboro sit-in of February 1960, when I was 15. I guess I had been unusually naive in fervently believing in America's rhetoric about democracy and equality. That promise was totally belied by the blatant racism, as well as the U.S. practice of imposing brutal dictatorships on Third World nations around the globe. The Civil Rights Movement also showed me a more profound sense of humanity and nobility of purpose than anything I'd found in the white suburbs where I'd grown up.

In 1962 I joined the Congress of Racial Equality, and in 1965 I started the Committee to End the War in Vietnam at Columbia University. I was a founding member of the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) chapter there in 1965, wrote the first national SDS pamphlet to name the system as "U.S. Imperialism" in 1967, and participated in the Columbia strike of 1968. By the late 1960's, the rise of the women's movement combined with firm, constructive efforts by women comrades showed me the importance of opposing sexism and of striving to live our humanist values in our personal relationships. In 1970, responding to the murderous government assault on the Black Liberation Movement and on the unending, massive bombings of Vietnam, some of us went underground to raise the level of resistance, forming the Weather Underground Organization, which functioned for 7 years. By the end of the 1970s, after the WUO dissolved, I tried to work more directly as an ally of the black liberation struggle. On 10/20/81 I was captured when a unit of the Black Liberation Army and allied white revolutionaries attempted to take funds from a Brinks truck, with the tragic results of a shoot-out in which a guard and two policemen were killed. Subsequently, Mtayari Shabaka Sundiata was killed by police, while many other comrades were captured and given long sentences. I was convicted under New York's "Felony Murder" law. That means that even with no allegations of doing any shooting, any participant in a robbery bears full legal responsibility for all the deaths that occur. I was given 75 years to life and cannot even be considered for parole before 2056. Any hope for my eventual release is totally bound up with qualitative social change for all, advances big enough to lead to the recognition of PPs in the U.S. and/or major reform of draconian sentencing structures.

In prison, I've tried to continue to contribute to the struggle through my political writings and through correspondence with younger generation activists. Also, after my co-defendant Kuwasi Balagoon died of AIDS on 12/13/86, I became a pioneer in initiating peer AIDS education programs in prisons and did intense AIDS counseling and education work for the next 13 years. Kathy Boudin and I have a son, Chesa, who was only 14 months old when we were busted. He was raised as part of the family of our close friends and has grown to be an accomplished, caring and thoughtful young man. Thanks to him and also the many fine family and friends who've stood by me, I'm blessed with a tremendous amount of love in my life. Recently family and friends have formed a group to provide support and look out for my legal interests. They can be reached at: Friends of David Gilbert, P0 BOX 7326, Capitol Station, Albany, NY 12224 or freedavidgilbert@gmail.com.

Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom)- Birthday: October 18, 1951



BLACK PANTHER PARTY-BLACK LIBERATION ARMY

Contact Information

Prison Address

Anthony Bottom

#77A4283 Sullivan Correctional Facility,

P.O. Box 116

Fallsburg, NY 12733-0116

United States

(845) 434-2080

Affiliations: Black Panther Party, Black Liberation Army

Captured: AUGUST 28, 1971: 25 years to Life

“Given the fact, neither the capitalist economic system or electoral politics benefits the majority of Americans, but rather serves the interest of corporate entities that according to law are persons, as Americans are considered commerce property, there is no wonder there is a need for a new American Revolution!”

Jalil was 19 years old when he was arrested. He is a former member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. For the past 45 years, Jalil has been a political prisoner, and one of the New York Three (NY3), in retaliation for his activism in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Many of Jalil's writing can be found on his website <http://freejalil.com/>

<http://www.kersplebedeb.com/mystuff/profiles/ny3.html>

Author

U.S. Prisoner

Edward Goodman Africa-Birthday: October 31, 1949



MOVE POLITICAL PRISONER

Contact Information

Prison Address

#AM4974--301 Morea Road,

Frackville, PA 17932

United States

Affiliation: MOVE Captured: 1978.

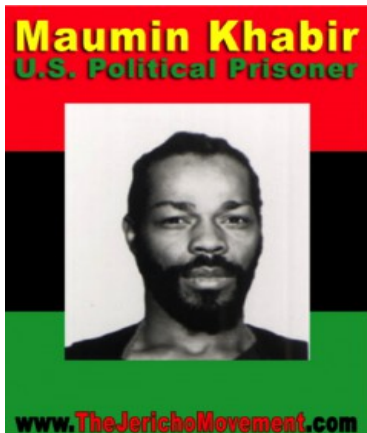
“I am now a committed MOVE member and disciple of JOHN AFRICA. I want to say that I had no intention of becoming a revolutionary, this system encouraged me, pushed me to become a revolutionary, JOHN AFRICA provided the direction. ONTHEMOVE”

For more information on the MOVE 9 see <http://onamove.com> and <http://move9parole.blogspot.com>

U.S. Prisoner

September Birthdays **It's never to late to send a card!**

KHABIR, MAUMIN (AKA MELVIN MAYES) Birthday: September 15



Muslim- Republic of New Afrika

Affiliation:El Rukin- Republic of New Afrika

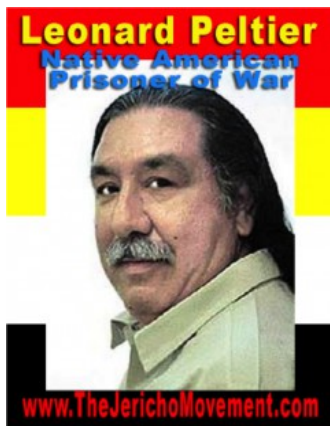
Prison Address

#09891-000--Federal Medical Center Rochester
P.O. Box 4000
Rochester, MN 55903 United States
Captured:1986: In Exile 9 yrs. Captured 1995: Life sentence

"Mayes claims that he has been "A citizen of the sovereign Republic of New Afrika" and that his "secession from the United States of America is the motivating factor behind the government's prosecution" and has no criminal basis. Mayes asks the court to recognize him "as a political prisoner in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol 1."

U.S. Prisoner

PELTIER, LEONARD (ANISHINAABE/LAKOTA) Birthday: September 12, 1944



Affiliation: American Indian Movement

Prison Address

Leonard Peltier
#89637-132 USP Coleman I
P.O. Box 1033
Coleman, FL 33521
United States
Captured: Feb. 6, 1976- 2 life sentences

"You do not have the ability to see that the Government must suppress the fact that there is a growing anger amongst Indian people and that native Americans will resist any further encroachment by the military forces of the capitalist Americans."

<http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info>

Author

U.S. Prisoner

**The National Jericho Movement sends our Beloved PP's/POW's
Love, Respect, and Honor as we Celebrate your Birthday with continued hope and
Determination for Freedom-Now!**

Political Prisoners/POW's Art, Writings, Statements, Interview

None this Month, Please Check Back!

Community Calls for Action

-Joy Powell



“Joy Powell is an anti-police brutality activist from Rochester, NY. She was framed up on false charges and is actively working on legal documents to bring her case to court. In addition to suffering from diabetes, Joy is also hearing impaired and needs to read lips. The first incident occurred on August 22nd, when Officer Olivio was closing the cell doors. Joy did not hear him announce this, and her hand was stuck when the cell door closed on it. Joy said she would not write him up, since this was apparently an accident. The second incident occurred on August 30th, once again when C.O. Olivio was closing the cell doors. Since Joy is not in a cell designed for the hearing impaired, she was standing in the doorway and once again did not hear the announcement that the cell doors were being closed. The door was coming right at her, so she put up her right hand to block the impact. The other women were screaming at C.O. Olivio to open the gates, since Joy was stuck in the door. His response was to sit there and laugh. Now Joy's right arm is broken and in a "soft" cast, since a hard cast is considered a security risk. The prison doctor told her it was good she had put her hand out, otherwise her ribs might have been smashed, which can easily cause punctured lungs.

Joy is asking us to call Commissioner Anthony Annucci's office at 518-457-8134 to demand that C.O. Olivio be removed from his post.

People should also call the Office of the Inspector General at 800-367-4448 and Governor Cuomo at 518-474-8390.

This situation is urgent! Our sisters behind the walls should not have to suffer this kind of cruelty and sadism at the hands of the C.O.'s! "

For more information on Joy, please visit <https://www.freejoypowell.org>

-The campaign to free the Virgin Island 3

The campaign to free the Virgin Island 3, who have been locked up for 46 years, is kicking into high gear. Like many aging prisoners, they are experiencing increasing health problems and pose NO RISK to the society they've been locked away from for nearly half a century. Because Governor Mapp's term is ending and he is up for re-election this November, *now* is the time to contact him to urge for commutation of their sentences. This is it; all hands on deck!

How you can help:

1) Write a letter [ideally mail it the first week of October]

Please start by writing a letter to the Governor. This is also a good time to urge folks you know who care about social justice to get on board with this campaign!

Suggested letter format:

Governor Kenneth Mapp

Government House 21-22 Kongens Gade Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: Warren Ballantine, Meral Smith, and Beaumont Gereau

Introduce yourself. This could include comments about your job, family or work in the community, and give respect to the Governor's Office.

Explain how you know their cases and/or how you may know them personally.

Explain why you are concerned (if you are from the VI, explain how this affects your vote and if you are from elsewhere explain how commuting their sentences would positively influence society or your view of the VI).

Some Issues are:

1. Length of time in prison
2. Their deteriorating medical conditions
3. Aging and getting old
4. No community threat (example: while they were housed in the St. Croix, they were actually allowed to go out in the community to religious services, sometimes unsupervised, with no issues)

Implore the Governor to commute their sentences. Explain that you understand that he eluded to this before he was elected and at the beginning of his term.

Respectfully end your letter.

2) Fax your letter [ideally the second week of October]:

Fax the letter you wrote to the Governor's office at:

(340) 693-4374

If you do not have a fax machine, you can send a free online fax using faxzero.com.

3) Email your letter [ideally the third week of October]:

<https://www.vi.gov/contact.html>

4) Call the Governor's office [as much and as often as possible until further notice] to ask if they received your letter/fax/email:

Phone: (340) 774-0001 Leave messages urging Governor Mapp to make good on his promise to free the Virgin Island 3 – Warren Ballantine, Meral Smith and Beaumont Gereau (these are the names the state recognizes them under)- by commuting their sentences and releasing them with time served.

A few talking points if desired, but feel free to keep it short and sweet:

- After 46 years of incarceration, they are of seriously ailing health and are extremely unlikely to re-offend... Warren alone is on 6 different types of medication after a massive heart attack a year ago.
 - It is costing the state a TON of money to continue to house them and pay for medical care.
- Keep up the pressure throughout November or until their sentences are commuted! When you can, drop one or all of the Virgin Island 3 a note telling them about the actions you took on their behalf.

Warren Ballentine #16-047
 Tallahatchie Correctional Facility
 415 US Highway 49N
 Tutwiler, MS 38963
 Beaumont Gereau #16-001
 Tallahatchie Correctional Facility
 415 US Highway 49N
 Tutwiler, MS 38963
 Meral Smith #16-024
 Tallahatchie Correctional Facility
 415 US Highway 49N
 Tutwiler, MS 38963

-URGENT CALL FOR RAMONA AFRICA:

“Kindly endorse and sign on as a sponsor ASAP

If you are a Poet or Jazz Musician or Hip Hop artist come join us Call (917-853-9759) or (323-546-7983) to sign up”



Join with us to help raise funds for Ramona Africa's healthcare on:

Ramona Africa, MOVE's Minister of Communication, a Philadelphia-based organizer with the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and the only living survivor of the May 13, 1985, fire bombing of a MOVE home in Philadelphia, has been hospitalized as result of health complications from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).

Her serious condition is a direct result of the on-going government war waged on the MOVE Family.

Once again, Ramona Africa is battling to survive. She is being denied urgently needed healthcare coverage!

**SATURDAY
 OCT 13**
 5-7 pm POETRY & JAZZ SLAM
 7- 10 pm PARTY WITH
 LIVE DJ SET
 WHERE: People's Forum
 320 West 37th St. NYC

To help sponsor this event to raise funds for Ramona Africa's care or for more information on how you can help: Contact Imani, Friend of bring Mumia home • 323.546.7983 or Ralph Poynter.Lynne Stewart.com • 917.853.9759 • ralph.poynter@gmail.com

Sponsors: Oric Lumumba • Friend of Bring Mumia home • The New Abolitionist Movement • International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal & Suzanne Ross • Henry Hagins, The Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition-NYC • The International Action Center

-Ramona Africa NEEDS Us! Sign Petition Against Wilson Goode Street Name!

<https://www.gofundme.com/helpsaveramonaafrica> We're only \$900 from our goal of \$40,000 goal Please donate however possible and share far & wide. We need our revolutionary sister, comrade, friend, mentor well again! Also, say NO! to Philly planning to name a street after the mayor, Wilson Goode, who

authorized the bombing of MOVE <https://www.change.org/p/philadelphia-city-council-the-people-say-no-street-named-wilson-goode-way>
Many thanks!

-OCT 27: Int'l Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico / Tribunal Internacional de Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico

"PuertoRicoTribunal.org https://solidarityweb.com/uploads/A_fbsquare100.jpg

En EL Espanol

From Buffalo, New York, to Portland, Oregon; Los Angeles to New York City; Philadelphia to Boston, Chicago, Durham and elsewhere, thousands filled the streets in solidarity with the long struggle of the Puerto Rican people for decolonization this week. Actions from coast to coast marked the one year anniversary of the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria and the ongoing U.S. colonial rule over Puerto Rico and the 150th anniversary of the uprising for independence – El Grito de Lares. These demonstrations helped to expose the role of the U.S. and the PROMESA fiscal control board in overseeing the looting, privatization, and destruction of Puerto Rico.

During the Decolonize Puerto Rico week of actions - which began on the solemn anniversary of Hurricane Maria and concluded today - numerous calls were made and tweets were sent to Puerto Rican Education Secretary Julia Keleher to demand hands off public education, and petition signatures were gathered online and in communities around the country. Throughout the week, Puerto Rican organizations were joined by activists from a wide range of social movements to broaden solidarity with Puerto Rico at a critical juncture for the longstanding struggle for freedom." For full article please see:

PuertoRicoTribunal.org https://solidarityweb.com/uploads/A_fbsquare100.jpg

En EL Espanol



-Join Jericho Boston on Mon., Oct. 8, 2018 to Run Down the Walls! Sign Up/Sponsor:
bit.ly/RunDownTheWalls



JERICHO BOSTON PRESENTS

RUN DOWN THE WALLS: 5K RUN

JOIN JERICHO BOSTON TO REMEMBER THE DAY OF THE HEROIC GUERRILLA

OCT. 8, 2018 AT 11AM
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY
(SO-CALLED "COLUMBUS" DAY)

PROCEEDS SUPPORT POLITICAL PRISONERS
There will be poetry, music, and speeches at the beginning, followed by the 5k. Run yourself or sponsor someone else! We're running against imperialism, injustice, and mass incarceration. What's the call? **FREE 'EM ALL!**

JP POND BOATHOUSE
507 JAMAICAWAY, JP, 02130

SIGN UP / SPONSOR
bit.ly/RunDownTheWalls

-RAPP Coalition

"NYS Senator Gallivan and other Republican Senators recently announced they will hold two hearings on Monday, October 1st, in Albany and Tuesday, October 2nd, on Long Island, to hear testimony on the Parole Board's conduct and the Governor's restoration of voting rights to more than 24,000 people on parole. Unsurprisingly, Republican Senators have expressed repeated opposition to increases in Parole Board release rates and voting rights for people on parole, citing "public safety" concerns and the rights of victims, as well as a host of other racist and dehumanizing narratives. The demands of our strong community must be heard over the racist dog whistles of Senate Republicans who are attacking currently and formerly incarcerated people for political purposes and before the November elections.

COMMUNITY PRESS CONFERENCE

In addition to organizing testimony, we will hold a community press conference on October 1st at 11am. Here are the details: Community Press Conference Monday, October 1st at 11am LCA Press Room, Legislative Office Building Rm. 130 Albany JOIN US IN ALBANY

We are organizing free transportation from NYC. If you would like to attend, RSVP here and spread the word using this Facebook event page. PLEASE WEAR WHITE if you come to Albany!

Rally to Support National Prison Strikers

In the aftermath of the national prison strike, public support for the incarcerated strikers is critical to helping prevent reprisals and brutality in the prisons. So we will rally at the opening of the regional conference of the Association of State Correctional Administrators on Friday, September 28, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Loews Regency Hotel, Park Avenue and 61st Street (540 Park Ave, New York, NY 10065). Our focus will be on meeting the prison strike demands, no reprisals, and ending prison slavery now. RAPP, IWOC, CAIC, and other groups are organizing this rally OFF social media - by direct email and phone calls. Please feel free to bring people with you to the rally.

Attend Our Upcoming Coalition Meeting

Join us at our upcoming coalition meeting on Wednesday, October 3, 6pm-8:15pm at the Correctional Association of New York: 22 Cortlandt Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY. We'll provide updates, strategize and plan for our work this fall to #FreeOurElders. Please see and share the flyer below. We look forward to seeing you Wednesday."

**RELEASE AGING PEOPLE IN
PRISON/RAPP COALITION MEETING**

Join the movement to end the mass
incarceration of older people in New
York State

**#FREE OUR ELDERS
#SUPPORT OUR ELDERS**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT 6PM
CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NY
22 Cortlandt Street, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10007**

**The meeting will begin with pizza &
new member orientation (6pm-6:20pm)**

For more info contact:
Dave George at (631) 885-3565

Visit rappcampaign.com
& email us at:
nyrappcampaign@gmail.com

-Second Mass Call-In Against New Dehumanizing PA DOC Policies



**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 21
9 AM-4 PM**

**SECOND
CALL IN
AGAINST
THE NEW
DOC
POLICIES**

Let Governor Wolf
and DOC Secretary
Wetzel know that
they must respect the
rights of prisoners
and their families.

***Make Your
Voice Heard!***

**FOR CALL SCRIPT AND MORE
INFO: GOO.GL/G1519P**

"9.24: Second Mass Call-In Against New Dehumanizing PA DOC Policies

Hosted by Amistad Law Project

<https://www.facebook.com/AmistadLaw/>

This past Friday September 14th hundreds of us took to the phones to stand up for the rights of people in PA prisons. Let's keep up the pressure! Join us for a second mass call-in on Monday September 24th and then on October 2nd join us as take the capitol for Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration's 'Day of Action Against Death By Incarceration' where we will speak out for parole eligibility for lifers and against these horrible policies.

Recently DOC Secretary John Wetzel and Governor Wolf announced a number of new punitive DOC policies that will violate prisoner's rights and those of their families. Governor Wolf and the Department of Corrections want to censor and restrict books, increase surveillance of prisoners' mail, violate attorney-client privilege and institute cruel, restrictive visiting room policies which violate the American Disabilities Act and further discourage contact between prisoners, their loved ones and those professionals who work with them. On Monday, September 24th we are getting mobilized again. **JOIN US AS CALL ON OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND CANCEL THESE PUNITIVE POLICIES.**"Please see full article at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1859229667524489/>

-Prison Strike Solidarity Update: Newsletter Released and Striking Continues: Call for Action

Hello Endorsers and Coalition Members,

JLS is currently continuing to focus energy on supporting strikers who're suffering from retaliation, raising awareness of those who continue to strike and educating policymakers of striker's demands. These will be our primary focuses in this season.

Newsletter Issue #6 Released: <http://sawarimi.org/npsnewsletter>

We can continue to send support to strikers by sending them mail. Mailing is one of prisoners' primary and most reliable forms of communication. With you're letters of support I encourage you to include our most recent copy of the National Prison Strike's Newsletter. This past weekend the last edition of Solid Black Fist's Issue #6 has been released. This issue includes an updated map of all of the participating regions who've released confirmed actions in solidarity with the National Prison Strike. This issue also

includes letters of solidarity from incarcerated prisoners in Greece and Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Of all the news letters to make sure get out to as many prisoners as possible in your networks this is going to be the most important one as it rounds off the strike's conclusion.

Some States Still Striking, Retaliation Continues

While the symbolic end date for the National Prison Strike has passed on September 9 with the 45th anniversary of the Attica Uprising, prisoners in multiple States have continued to demonstrate. We urge prisoners to establish their own end dates depending on their own individual circumstances in their state and at their specific institutions. Some prisoners have chosen to engage in strike actions like boycotts indefinitely. So far we know of at least two states continuing to demonstrate. At California State Prison in Lancaster prisoners have continued to hunger strike just finishing up a fourth week and at Toledo Correctional Institution in Ohio both David Easy and James Ward have reinitiated their hunger strike. We know that prisoner resistance will continue for as long as there are prisons and as endorsers of the National Prison Strike it is our responsibility to support strikers, especially those who've made the brave choice to continue striking. So when people say that it ended, tell them that the strike is not over until the prisoners have said so.

While we anticipate the release of a statement from JLS we must be aware that hundreds of prisoners in South Carolina are under the threat of hurricane Florence. The oncoming hurricane and the lack of an appropriate response from Gov. Henry McMaster further highlights why prisoners strike. Prisoners have been able to use this blatant form of dehumanization of prisoners by the state in order to further raise awareness about the crucial need to address all 10 of the strike's demands. I've argued that officials failure to remove all of the prisoners in the path of the hurricane is a form of not only dehumanization but also retaliation by officials on strike organizers. As the injustices of of criminal justice system continue to reveal themselves we must call out officials and point to the related demand. The lack of effort taken in protecting prisoners from the storm directly relates to demand #1.

Future-The online petition that has been circulating in support of prisoners demands now has well over 17,000 signatures so far and thousands of letters have been sent to members of Congress supporting prisoners demands and urging them to respond. Please continue to circulate this petition in your circles. This is a national effort being sent to federal policymakers therefore we should be well over a hundred thousand signatures before the end of the month. Continuing to spread the petition in order to effectively educate legislators and the public is the primary priority of JLS at this stage.

In addition to circulating the petition supporters can directly contribute to JLS prisoner initiatives here and for tax deductible donations contributors can click here.

In addition to spreading the petition, supporters are eager to know about more next steps. While JLS is committed to continued resistance and has expressed their interest in events for next year's actions no plans have been solidified and no dates have been released for a National Prison Strike next year. Its critical that prisoners are given the space to take the lead in planning and while we are excited for future actions we must also be sensitive to the instability of their environment. At this stage prisoners want to educate policymakers and the masses about the success of the 2018 National Prison Strike which broke ground and was effective in the following ways:

Prisoners demonstrated their ability to organize across state and international borders

Prisoners participating in actions across 17+ regions in 30+ prisons in the united states

Prisoners showed solidarity overseas in Palestine, Greece and Canada

The national narrative surrounding prisoner resistance has dramatically transformed in support of prisoners seeking prevailing wages, rehabilitation and access to education

Mainstream media has caught on to the strike and regularly follows prisoner resistance as a legitimate pathway towards policy reform. Criminal Justice Reform and the protection of prisoners' basic human rights is quickly growing towards becoming a national priority

Action Points-Print and distribute Issue #6 of Solid Black Fist, Support prisoners still striking, raise awareness that the National Prison Strike continues in Ohio and California, Circulate the online petition (<https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/letters/sign-and-send-the-petition-demand-basic-human-rights-for-incarcerated-people>) to Congress demanding prisoners basic human rights needs be met, Spread links for those interested in directly contributing to JLS prisoner initiatives (

[jailhouse-lawyers-speak-prisoners-initiatives#](#)) and for tax deductible donations contributors can click here [https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/prisonstrike?](https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/prisonstrike?refcode=20180905rdPrisonStrikeDemands&express_lane=true&amount=10)

refcode=20180905rdPrisonStrikeDemands&express_lane=true&amount=10

Remember no plans have been solidified and no dates have been released for a National Prison Strike next year, prisoners main focus is on educating legislators and seeking their response

Knowing the success that the strike has had in the minds and hearts of citizens thus far fuels my passion for us to continue and I'm grateful to everyone standing in solidarity with prisoners leading this critical movement towards a transformational change in our criminal justice system.

Solidarity!!"

-March With The Freedom Fighters Contingent In Harlem's 49th Annual African American Day Parade

SAVE THE DATE IN HARLEM

BECAUSE IT'S GOING DOWN ON SEPTEMBER 16th!

COME WEAR YOUR BLACK FREEDOM FIGHTER SHERO/HERO T-SHIRTS; BRING YOUR BLACK LIBERATION FLAGS; CARRY YOUR BANNERS & JOIN US IN MARCHING WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS CONTINGENT

@ HARLEM'S 49TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN DAY PARADE

One Punch, Twice the Damage:or Black Liberation Flag. One Punch, Twice the Damage:



COME & MARCH WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS CONTINGENT ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018 AT HARLEM'S 49th ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN DAY PARADE On SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018 @ 1:00 PM MARCH WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS CONTINGENT WE LINE UP @ 12:00 NOON ON THE WEST SIDE OF W. 111th STREET BETWEEN FREDERICK DOUGLASS & ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR. BLVD. (*ENTER OUR LINE UP BLOCK FROM FREDERICK DOUGLASS BLVD)

*Honoring Our Fallen Black Sheroes and Heroes

*Freedom For All U.S. Held Political Prisoners/Exiles

* Showcase of Positive Black Achievements

* Black Dignitaries and Celebrities

* Kings & Queens and Organizations Reflecting African Culture

* Salute to Black Colleges

* Floats and Marching Bands from 12 States

* Stop Racism and Racial Profiling

Freedom Fighters Information: Panthershepcat@aol.com

-Brooklyn Freedom March/El Grito de Lares NYC

BROOKLYN FREEDOM MARCH FOR ANA AND NINA!

FREE THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!

**WE FREED OSCAR LOPEZ
RIVERA BECAUSE WE TOOK HIS
IMAGE AND STORY TO THE
STREETS!**

**WE MUST DO THE SAME FOR
ANA BELEN MONTES AND
NINA DROZ FRANCO! JOIN US
IN BROOKLYN AS WE BUILD A
MASS MOVEMENT!**

Join the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign as
we march in Brooklyn calling for the
release of our Puerto Rican Political
Prisoners/Prisoner of Consciences.

Join us as we denounce PROMESA/The Fiscal
Control Board; demand reparations and
hurricane relief; and call for an end to
U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico!

**Saturday, October 6th, 2018 at
1pm-2pm at 5th Avenue and 50th
St. in Sunset Park, Brooklyn**

Take the N or R to 53rd St.

*Bring your flags, banners, placards, signs,
and noise makers!*



The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

For more information contact us at ProLibertad@Hotmail.com or 718-601-4751.

Website: www.ProLibertad.org Facebook: [Facebook.com/ProLibertadFC](https://www.facebook.com/ProLibertadFC)

Twitter: [@ProLibertad](https://twitter.com/ProLibertad) Instagram: [@ProLibertad](https://www.instagram.com/ProLibertad)



SEPT 23

150 AÑOS / YEARS

GRITO DE LARES

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD

11AM—2PM

**MARCHING ON LEXINGTON AVE.
FROM 125TH ST. TO 106TH ST.**

"We demand independence and the end of the Fiscal Board. We ask respect for the living and the dead in Puerto Rico. We demand justice and freedom now! Mobilize!"



An invitation of

FRENTE INDEPENDENTISTA BORICUA

Frente Independentista Boricua is integrated by A Call to Action on Puerto Rico, Comités de la Resistencia Boricua, ProLibertad, Patria y Cultura, Comité Boricua en la Diáspora (COMBO), Partido Nacionalista, Junta de NY y NJ, Comité Oscar-Mandela, Frente Socialista NY, Comité del PIP de Nueva York, Virtual Boricua, Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores Puertorriqueños (PRTP - Macheteros) and other individuals.

-Call for Imam Hasan, Silenced on Death Row in Ohio!

"Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan, an outspoken prisoner leader on death row at a supermax prison was pre-emptively silenced by a corrupt Serious Misconduct Panel prior to the strike. He is appealing the panel's decision, but is still being targeted with unusual communication and property restrictions. Call 330-743-0700 and ask to speak to Warden Richard Bowen.

Call in script: "My name is _____. I am calling in support of Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan. Since July 27 you have had him on irregular restrictions in an exaggerated response to a bogus conduct report brought from central office. I am calling to demand that you restore all of Hasan's property, his JPay kiosk access, and remove the barricades from his cell."

You can also email richard.bowen@odrc.state.oh.us or fax the facility at (330-743-0841). "

Status : Ongoing

-Kershaw, SC: Stop Using Food as Punishment!

"Kershaw Warden Gary Lane 803-896-3301 or 803-475-5770

Deputy Director of South Carolina Prisons Michael McCall 803-896-8540

Please call day and night and read the following script and let them know what you think about using food as punishment:

"Prison officials at Kershaw Institution are consistently withholding meals from prisoners in lock up as a form of mass punishment. Their reasoning for this practice stems from an inmate refusing to allow officials to close his feeding flap. Prisoners on lock up at Kershaw are in single man cells. Each time an inmate refuse to get off their feeding flap, prison officials stop feeding and just leave the remainder of the food sitting to get cold. Each time this happens, the inmate stagnates on the flap until his need is met. Ultimately, the remaining prisoners who hasn't ate are deprived of food until the issue is resolved with that particular inmate.

This practice has become widespread in South Carolina of dragging prisoners on the meals, or making excuses why meals are served hours late and cold. We overstand these actions are directly related to the ongoing spotlight on SCDC due to the national prison strike.

Captain Davis and Officer Brown are primarily punishing prisoners with food delays at Kershaw on lock up. We are asking people to call Kershaw Correctional wardens office to inquire why prisoners in Kershaw Restrictive Housing Units are being punished with delayed and cold food by Captain Davis and Officer Brown. And why these guards are not being held accountable? Demand that food be served on time and not cold hours later."

fb event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/465461123957702/>

Status : Urgent

-Phone Zap for Comrade Alyssa: Demand Trans Justice in Prisons!

Comrade Alyssa is an incarcerated Black transgender woman housed in a state men's prison in Maryland. This summer, she had her name legally changed. However, in a letter received on August 24, 2018, comrade Alyssa reported that a caseworker refused to follow policy to acknowledge her legal name change and requested calls to be made on her behalf.

Please call North Branch Correctional Institution this Friday, September 14 between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. eastern at 301-729-7400.

Here is a suggested script: "Hi, my name is [first and last name] and I'm calling from [city, state] on behalf of [the organization who asked you to call, i.e. Philly Socialists]. I am calling regarding inmate Alyssa Victoria Hope #420-162. It has come to our attention that not all prison staff have been acknowledging Alyssa's legal name, despite having had a legal name change this summer. We demand that all prison staff use Alyssa's legal name and correct pronouns (she/her) immediately. We are very concerned with the lack of compliance with Prison Rape Elimination Act standards that oblige you to protect her rights against gender based discrimination."

Report back in the event page discussion (or email deorganizing@protonmail.com) with how your call went. Were you able to read the script fully? Did they ask for your name? How did the person on the line respond to our demand? Did the person even pick up? Did it go to voicemail? Was there a busy signal? Did they put you on hold and if so, how long? Were you transferred and where were you transferred to? Did they just simply answer and allow you to read the script?

Status : Ongoing

-Cancel the new punitive PADOE policies, respect the rights of prisoners and their families Sign this petition! Amistad Law Project started this petition to Governor Tom Wolf

"We are families and friends of incarcerated loved ones, professionals who work closely with people in PA prisons and concerned citizens who care about human rights. On September 5th Department of Corrections Secretary Wetzel and Governor Wolf announced new punitive protocols that will further punish, restrict and control people incarcerated in PA prisons. Governor Wolf and the Department of

Corrections want to censor and restrict books, increase surveillance of prisoners mail, violate attorney-client privilege and institute cruel, restrictive visiting room policies which violate the American Disabilities Act. Join us in demanding that Governor Wolf and the PA Department of Corrections cancel these policies immediately and respect the rights of incarcerated people, their families and the people who work with them. We demand that we be able to order our incarcerated loved ones, friends and clients books from (formerly) approved vendors and that they be able to hold them in their hands. The Pennsylvania DOC's move to E-books and a central marketplace that they control is censorship and a monopoly and we fully reject it.

We demand that our loved ones be able to touch letters that our hands touch too. We reject that our mail should be sent to a private company in Florida, Smart Communication, at taxpayer expense where it will be copied, the originals destroyed and the copies sent on. Furthermore during this process our mail will be scanned into a searchable database to increase already pervasive mailroom surveillance on our communication. If mailroom staff needs to be increased to search for contraband the DOC should do just that. The contract with prison profiteer Smart Communications should be immediately cancelled.

We demand that legal mail not be photocopied. In another protocol confidential legal mail will be opened and photocopied and the photocopies will be passed on to the incarcerated person. This is violation of attorney-client privilege and it will expose legal mail to be read in part if not in whole. It cannot stand.

We demand that vending machines and photos be restored on visits immediately. A new protocol states that vending machines and photos will be restricted for 90 days at which point new policies around these activities will be unveiled. This is unacceptable. People travel far to visit with their incarcerated family members and they deserve some basic decency. They ought to be able to share food and memorialize their time together through taking photos. Furthermore there are many people who are diabetic or have other conditions and cannot spend an 8 hour visit without eating anything. Not only is the restriction on vending machines cruel it is also a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We demand that official visitors should not have to wear plastic gloves on visits. A new policy requires that lawyers, paralegals, official visitors from the prison society and others be required to wear plastic gloves on visits. Our people in prison are not contaminated or diseased or otherwise toxic and they should not be treated like quarantined and subhuman specimens. It's notable that they make only professionals wear gloves. They know very well that this policy serves no public health purpose and it is clearly meant to denigrate prisoners and their families.

We demand respect. For too long elected officials have believed they can increase their political capital and their career prospects by punishing us, our incarcerated family members and our clients. Enough is enough. We pledge that we will never stop fighting until we are heard.

Medical experts pointed out that they frequently treat patients who are on synthetic cannabinoids without wearing gloves or other protective gear.

"As chemists, we don't even wear face masks," agreed Sherri Kacinko, a toxicologist at Willow Grove's NMS Labs who studies substances like K2. "The risk is very low."

All acknowledged that the drug compounds in K2 are constantly evolving. David Vearrier, a Hahnemann University Hospital emergency doctor, said that makes it hard to know the truth.

"Some of the newer synthetic cannabinoids you see on the street are really potent, and ... have been associated with symptoms in law enforcement personnel," he noted, referencing a study of federal agents who handled K2 after raiding a drug lab and were later found to have the drug in their system. (However, the study also described the agents eating and drinking while cataloging the evidence, and noted that most of them did not consistently wear gloves.)"

Petition: [https://www.change.org/p/tom-wolf-cancel-the-new-punitive-padoc-policies-respect-the-rights-of-prisoners-and-their-families?](https://www.change.org/p/tom-wolf-cancel-the-new-punitive-padoc-policies-respect-the-rights-of-prisoners-and-their-families?recruiter=898270463&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=undefined)

recruiter=898270463&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=undefined
Freedom Archives 522 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94110 415 863.9977

<https://freedomarchives.org/>

Questions and comments may be sent to info@freedomarchives.org "

-September 14th-Call In Day Against New DOC Policies,-Respect Prisoners' Rights

"On September 5th DOC Secretary John Wetzel and Governor Wolf announced a number of new punitive DOC policies that will impinge on prisoner's rights and those of their families. Governor Wolf and the Department of Corrections want to censor and restrict books, increase surveillance of prisoners mail, violate attorney-client privilege and institute cruel, restrictive visiting room policies which violate the American Disabilities Act and further discourage contact between prisoners, their loved ones and those professionals who work with them. On Friday, September 14th we are getting mobilized. JOIN US AS CALL ON OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND CANCEL THESE PUNITIVE POLICIES.

We are asking everyone to make FIVE calls: Governor Wolf, Your State Senator, Your State Representative, Lt. Governor Candidate (and Gov. Wolf's Running Mate) John Fetterman and DOC Secretary Wetzel. If you are limited by time that is ok, but lets make as many of these calls as we can. Our elected officials (and aspiring elected officials need to hear from us.) A sample call script and call in numbers are below:

Governor Wolf: 717-787-2500

Lt. Governor Candidate John Fetterman (currently Mayor of Braddock)- 412-654-4041 (Phone Number to the Mayor's Office)

Your State Representative and Your Senator Senator:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>

DOC Secretary Wetzel: (717) 728-2573

"Hi. My name is _____ and I'm calling to speak about the new DOC policies which will violate the rights of incarcerated people and their families.

I am calling because I'd like [Gov. Wolf/Lt. Governor Candidate Fetterman/Representative So and So/Etc.] to take action to see that these policies are cancelled and that the rights of incarcerated people and their families are respected.

These new policies will violate people's rights in a number of ways. I would like to tell you about some issues with them. Under the new policies:

-all mail must now be sent to a private company in Florida where it will be scanned into a permanent searchable database increasing surveillance on prisoners and their families. The original will be destroyed and a copy will be sent on. No longer will incarcerated people be able to touch a letter that their loved ones wrote with their own hand.

-All legal mail will be copied by DOC employees exposing it to be read in violation of attorney-client privilege.

-A DOC controlled marketplace for books will be established which is a monopoly and will increase censorship. No longer will prisoners friends and families be able to order them books from approved vendors such as Amazon. Community based and faith based books to prisoners programs will be cancelled.

-For 90 days prisoners and their families won't be able to share food from vending machines or memorialize their visits by having pictures taken. Small children cannot go a full visit without access to food. Furthermore diabetics and people who cant go without food for a full visit will be limited in visiting in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

-Official and legal visitors will be required to wear plastic gloves on visits. This serves no public health purpose and sends a message that people in prison and their families are contaminated or toxic and is extremely dehumanizing.

-These and other policies will cost taxpayers 15 million dollars. They were instituted overnight without oversight by the legislature.

I am calling on you as an elected official to take action to see that the rights of incarcerated people, their families and those work work with them are respected. Can I count on you to take action to see that these policies are reversed?"

-URGENT: Demand safety for South Carolina prisoners during Hurricane Florence-Answer Coalition

"With Hurricane Florence bearing down on the Carolinas and other parts of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic, incarcerated people are in extreme danger. While the governors of Virginia and North Carolina

have relented to the demand that prisoners be evacuated, South Carolina -- a state that faces the prospect of major devastation by the storm -- has not.

Call South Carolina governor Henry McMaster: 803-734-2100 Tweet: @HenryMcMaster

Call Legislative Liaison Dexter Lee: 803-896-1731 Rally Friday 9/14 @ 9:00 a.m. in West Columbia,

SC Many prisoners in the path of the storm have just participated in the historic August 21-September 9 prison strike, an action that galvanized widespread support across the country and constituted a major step forward in the fight against racist mass incarceration. The complete disregard shown for the lives of prisoners by the government of South Carolina is a prime example of the brutality that made the strike necessary. Prisoners' lives are often treated with total disregard during natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Harvey last year. It is crucial that activists on the outside take up the urgent demand to evacuate incarcerated people now!"

-National Call to Action -NAACP

Join us for a tele-town hall on Wednesday, September 19 at 8:00 PM EST to discuss how to reclaim our communities.

Since Donald Trump ran for the presidency on a platform of division, people of color across America have been dealing with levels of blatant hate and racism not seen in decades.

We can't do mundane activities like wait for business partners in a coffee shop, swim in a community pool, or have a barbecue in a park without the fear of the police being called.

We can't exercise our right to vote without people in power trying to put up barriers to our access to the ballot box.

And police and civilians alike continue shooting and killing unarmed African Americans on the street and in our own homes.

This needs to end.

On November 6, we all have a chance to put our country back on the path toward equality.

With just 50 days until the critical midterm elections, the time for action is now.

RSVP now to join us for this event: <https://naacp.org/townhall-rsvp/>

-INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT FROM EKREM DENİZ COMMITTEE

On September 5th our friend Ekrem Deniz arrived in Istanbul. As soon as he landed at Istanbul Ataturk Airport he was arrested and taken to a police station, without being given a reason. The following day, he was taken to court where he learned that he is accused of engaging in "propaganda on behalf of an illegal organization". Deniz traveled to Turkey to be an English-Turkish translator at the 9th International Eyup Bas Symposium, an international event that tackle issues such as imperialism, repression and colonialism. He is a Dutch-Turkish citizen, who has struggled in the Netherlands against issues such as human rights violations, police brutality and racism, and for democracy.

The accusation of engaging in "propaganda on behalf of an illegal organization" is a common accusation in Turkey, that serves to imprison all opponents of Erdogan's fascist regime. Since the 2016 failed coup attempt, after which almost 200,000 people were arrested, the Turkish regime does not bother to provide any pretense for arresting people, imprisoning them or detaining them indefinitely within the scope of the "State of Emergency". A most notable example is that of the public sector workers, mostly intellectuals in education critical of the AKP regime, laid off in droves by government decree, and marked by the protests in Ankara's Yuksel street - initiated by Nuriye Gulmen, an academic, and Semih Ozakca, a teacher. They were known democratic activists purged under false charge of belonging to the "Fethullah Gulen Organization", the organization responsible for the coup. Their protest to get their jobs back has led to massive state repression, resulting in their imprisonment and trial. This case, which drew much media attention, was dropped, as the state's prosecution was not able to provide or even fabricate evidence of any conspiracy to commit terror, even with the testimony of a false witness.

A similar pattern is apparent in the case of Ekrem Deniz, and we call for international attention on the below points demonstrating the arbitrariness of the judgement against him:

1- The original reason communicated to Ekrem Deniz's for his detention was that he had not testified in a case opened by an Izmir prosecutor in 2017. According to Ekrem Deniz's lawyer, the original file stated he was to be released after testifying. However, within an hour the prosecutor demanded that he appear before a judge for engaging in "propaganda on behalf of an illegal organization".

2- The allegation is based on social media posts from an account which was closed over a year ago, there was no evidence presented that connects Ekrem Deniz to it, and the judge did not ask the prosecution to present any evidence. Regardless, the constitutional right to the freedom of expression was not even considered during the hearing.

3- The prosecution demanded a punishment of 1.5 to 4.5 years of incarceration even though such "offenses" rarely exceed six months.

4- Deniz was tried with the use of a video conference system called SEGBIS. He was not present in a courtroom, but filmed in a room with a live stream with a judge at a different location. The video connection was so poor and he was unable to even accurately hear the questions asked of him, much less defend himself properly.

5- Deniz has been judged for a "thought crime"; there is nothing "illegal" about sharing concerns about the rising repressive measures currently being implemented in Turkey. The Turkish regime, by incarcerating him for this reason, is guilty of suppressing the fundamental right to freedom of speech. By attempting to portray Deniz as a "terrorist", the Erdogan regime is actually suggesting that all of its critics are guilty of "terrorism". We, the signatories of this statement, call for broad support of this campaign to Free Ekrem Deniz, and engage in actions to compel the Dutch state to exert pressure on the AKP government to free Ekrem Deniz. Ekrem Deniz, as an internationalist, stands by all oppressed peoples of the world. Our duty is to stand by him now. Please consider writing a letter of support.

FREEDOM TO EKREM DENIZ COMMITTEE



<https://www.anti-imperialistfront.org/international-statement-of-freedom-to-ekrem-deniz-committee/>

Community News, Articles and Updates

-Inside the Prison Labor Strike: New Tactics Pay Off in Mainstream Coverage

By James Kilgore Truthout - September 4, 2018

“Fundamentally, it’s a human rights issue. Prisoners understand they are being treated as animals. Prisons in America are a warzone. Every day prisoners are harmed due to conditions of confinement. For some of us it’s as if we are already dead, so what do we have to lose?” –Pre-strike statement from Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

When the 2016 US prison strike kicked off, the media barely whispered. Despite efforts by the Free Alabama Movement, an organization centered around the men inside Holman prison, to spread the message through social media and compelling video footage taken inside prisons, mainstream journalists weren’t biting. While independent media outlets covered the strike, an action that ultimately involved thousands of people in two dozen states drew virtual silence from mainstream media. With the current ongoing prison strike, we find a totally different scenario. The New York Times, the Guardian, Al Jazeera and The Washington Post all ran sympathetic op-eds at the strike’s outset. MSNBC’s Al Sharpton had a segment on the strike in which he interviewed a formerly incarcerated man (Darren Mack). USA Today ran an article on support demonstrations. Suddenly, prison militancy has become headline-worthy. As someone who spent six-and-a-half years behind bars, I have to wonder: What the hell is going on?

Testament to Hard Work

Several factors are at play here. First, as prison historian Dan Berger observes, “it is a testament to the hard work that has been happening.” Due to the efforts of millions of activists, mass incarceration has grown into an issue of political importance. We have national campaigns to end cash bail, local efforts to close jails, networks formed to defend the rights of LGBTQ folks who are locked up, and massive resistance to immigration detention and deportation. Organizations of formerly incarcerated people like All of Us or None, JustLeadershipUSA and the National Council of Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls continue to proliferate. In parallel with the growth of this movement has been a swelling in the ranks of the Incarcerated Workers’ Organizing Committee. Closely linked to the revolutionary unionists of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), the Incarcerated Workers’ Organizing Committee has been the most vibrant source of support on the streets for both strikes. In its 2018 iteration, the Incarcerated Workers’ Organizing Committee also draws activists from a resurgent left, typified by the Democratic Socialists of America, now the largest socialist formation in the US in decades....” For full article please see: https://truthout.org/articles/inside-the-prison-labor-strike-new-tactics-pay-off-in-mainstream-coverage/?utm_source=sharebuttons&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=mashshare

-Judicial Bias Blocks Justice for Abu-Jamal by Linn Washington Jr. - September 4, 2018

“In July 1987 Philadelphia’s then District Attorney lashed out at local judges in an unusual verbal assault where that DA castigated what he said was the “historic” practice of judges in Pennsylvania’s largest city to acquit police officers in cases where evidence clearly showed officers engaged in “egregious” brutality. That DA, Ronald Castille, told a reporter that, “I know the judges will bend over backwards to use whatever reasons they can to throw a case out against a police officer.”

Eleven years after Castille’s outburst against pro-police bias by some Philadelphia judges, Castille engaged in pro-police bias as a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Castille’s 1998 bias act occurred when he participated in the Pa Supreme Court’s rejection of a critical appeal in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal – the Philadelphia journalist convicted in 1982 and sentenced to death for killing a Philly cop during a trial tainted by a pro-police judge.

Abu-Jamal’s conviction is condemned internationally as a gross miscarriage of justice engineered by police, prosecutors and the trial judge.

Condemnation is also leveled at the appellate process that has consistently rejected extraordinary evidence of Abu-Jamal's innocence and documentation of multiple misconduct by authorities. An Amnesty International report on the Abu-Jamal case, released in February 2000, criticized the "appearance of judicial bias during appellate review..."

Ronald Castille, who rose to the rank of Chief Justice of Pa's Supreme Court, is currently at the center of Abu-Jamal's latest appeal for a new trial that claims Castille violated judicial ethics by his Pa Supreme Court participation in Abu-Jamal's appeal.

That appeal also contends Castille's actions in the Abu-Jamal case violates the dictates of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that blasted Castille for ruling on a case as a supreme court justice that he handled while DA. Pennsylvania's judicial conduct code states judges must recuse themselves from cases where their impartiality is reasonable questioned and recuse from cases where the judge knows facts about that case due to former employment with a government agency like District Attorney. Castille, as DA, opposed appeals by Abu-Jamal, signing the DA documents submitted in court.

Castille and the current Philadelphia District Attorney, deny any improprieties against Abu-Jamal. Castille, who campaigned for DA and the Supreme Court as a hands-on manager, contends he signed anti-Abu-Jamal appeals as DA simply as a hands-off administrator.

Castille, for example, claimed he signed DA documents that opposed Abu-Jamal appeals without reading those DA documents thus he knew nothing about specifics of Abu-Jamal's case when he rejected Abu-Jamal's appeals to the Pa Supreme Court...." For full article please see:

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/09/04/judicial-bias-blocks-justice-for-abu-jamal/>

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Silenced prisoner leader demands conduct report repeal

"Contact: Ben Turk 614-704-4699 LucasvilleAmnesty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Silenced prisoner leader demands conduct report repeal

YOUNGSTOWN OH- Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan, a revolutionary organizer and outspoken advocate of the national prisoner rights movement, has appealed the Ohio Department of Correction (ODRC) decision that restricted him from communication access for a year of more leading up to the August 21- September 9 nationwide prison strike. In his appeal Imam Hasan states: "The fabricated charges in my conduct report, the procedural errors in my SMP [Serious Misconduct Panel] hearing, and the dirty games played by all parties involved are so egregious and a violation of my due process rights... that not even returning my case to a new SMP for a rehearing will cure and correct the violations of applicable procedures and the vindictiveness shown toward my person."

The most serious of the four rules violations contained in Hasan's conduct report of July 27 were "Rioting, or encouraging others to riot" and "Engaging in or encouraging a group demonstration or work stoppage" these charges are based primarily on an outside supporter mailing him an endorsement of the strike written by the Fire Inside collective. Imam Hasan did not request or receive the document because it was intercepted by mailroom staff, yet the SMP convicted him, adding on a fifth ad hoc violation during the SMP: "Violation of other policy... Inmate Sanders is also acting as a leader and spokesperson."

ODRC Bureau of Classification Chief Brian Wittrup is the charging official in Hasan's conduct report, and also the ultimate authority deciding Hasan's fate. To rectify this clear due process conflict, Wittrup stated that he "did not wish to have input into the disciplinary proceedings." At the actual hearing though, he responded to and critiqued Hasan's testimony repeatedly and without request from the panel, in violation of ODRC policy.

Other due process violations included providing the SMP with evidence not contained in the conduct report and not available for Hasan's review prior to the hearing as well as blocking Hasan's witnesses from testifying at the hearing citing "relevancy, unavailability and security reasons".

"I was named in the conduct report," said Ben Turk, who sent Hasan the offending material, "so I'm relevant. I called both the prison and central office to ask when or how I would be allowed to testify, so I was available. They must think merely letting me speak to the panel on the phone would compromise their security." Hasan's appeal, and the conduct report are available online at IncarceratedWorkers.org and LucasvilleAmnesty.org. Since the conduct report on July 27, Hasan has had his phone and email access

blocked, his property severely restricted, and his cell door barricaded to prevent other prisoners from communicating with him through it.

The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) has organized a phone zap to the Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP) on Thursday September 13 to demand reprieve of these restrictions.

The ODRC has until September 27 to reply to Hasan's appeal. Supporters hope that Wittrup will be satisfied with having silenced Hasan during the nationwide strike and will not try to defend and uphold this sloppy, violation-ridden SMP decision.

"If not, we're looking into a civil lawsuit, because this is a clear infringement on both Hasan and my first amendment rights," Turk stated.

According to a recent statement by Greg Curry, a friend of Hasan's also held at OSP, the repression against Hasan and others actually sparked a work stoppage in late July and at least one block of prisoners maintained a commissary boycott throughout the period of the strike."

-Prisons Use Solitary Confinement to Silence Strikers Nationwide—But Their Voices Have Been Heard By Valerie Kiebala and Jean Casella - September 10, 2018

"In commemoration of the Attica Uprising 47 years earlier, incarcerated organizers chose yesterday as the final day of the nearly three-week-long National Prison Strike that began on August 21. The strike eventually extended to federal prisons, state prisons, immigration detention centers, and local jails across at least fourteen states, with actions ranging from work stoppages to sit-ins, hunger strikes, and commissary boycotts. Both the strikers' original demands and the harsh repression they faced serve as a grim reminder that in many ways, the U.S. criminal justice system has actually regressed in the intervening 47 years—a period in which the prison population grew by nearly 700 percent. Along with its nationwide reach, the strike was remarkable for the breadth of the ten demands released through Jailhouse Lawyers Speak (JLS), a group of incarcerated legal advocates which, along with the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), was instrumental in organizing the strike. Far from concentrating on a narrow range of improvements to prison conditions, the organizers made clear that they are challenging the punishment paradigm that underlies the American criminal justice system, and seeking sweeping reforms to reverse the five-decade trend toward mass incarceration that began during the era of Attica. The demands include not only improved conditions that "recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women," but also payment of the "prevailing wage" for prison labor (effectively an override of the 13th Amendment); sentencing and parole reform, including an end to life without parole; and measures to address the racism that saturates the system. Demands also include reversal of the 1996 Prison Litigation Reform Act, which sharply curtailed the ability of incarcerated people to fight for their rights in court; access to rehabilitation and education for everyone, including those convicted of violent offenses (and the funding to pay for it); and voting rights for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated citizens. The demands end, appropriately, with the statement: "All voices count!"

Incarcerated people who participated in the strike took great risks in their words and actions, seizing the chance to empower themselves in an environment designed to strip them of power, along with freedom and dignity. And not surprisingly, prison administrators and staff have been swift to employ their primary tool of control to repress incarcerated voices, retaliate against incarcerated organizers, and preemptively quell the strike: solitary confinement.

The nationwide strike, which began on the anniversary of the death of prison activist and Black Panther George Jackson, was planned in reaction to a deadly riot in April of this year at the maximum security Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina. While prison officials blamed the riot on gang disputes, Amani Sawari from JLS attributed the violence to "really aggravated conditions" at the prison, including an extended lockdown that subjected the entire prison population to virtual solitary confinement. "They were placed on lockdown all day," she said. "They weren't allowed to eat or use the bathroom. They were placed in units with rival gang members. And then their lockers were taken away, so they didn't have any safe place to put their personal belongings, which really aggravated and caused tensions among prisoners—to the point where fights broke out." Seven incarcerated men, six of them African American, died in the riot, and at least 22 were injured. No corrections officers were injured, and one witness told the Associated Press that "the COs never even attempted to render aid, nor quell the disturbance."

Incarcerated people at Lee Correctional continued to be held in conditions of solitary confinement following the riot, allegedly for safety reasons. One man held at Lee claimed that the officials were actually using solitary confinement as a method to prevent participation in the widely publicized nationwide strike. Fearing retaliation, the man spoke anonymously to Kite Line, saying, “As an attempt to oppress our voices and quash our unity, we have been on 24-hour lockdown since what has transpired at Lee Correctional Institution back in April this year.” He explained, “That means zero movement whatsoever. We’re being fed late in the night. We’re only receiving one shower a week. We’re being denied cell cleaning as well as clean drinking water, even when there are water advisories. Any inmate who attempts to participate in this strike is being placed in solitary confinement, which is lockup—seg. As a result of what has taken place, you know, what has transpired at Lee, and the fact that we have been on 24-hour lockdown without any cell movement whatsoever, there have been a number of suicides and attempts.”...For Full article please see: <http://solitarywatch.com/2018/09/10/prisons-use-solitary-confinement-to-silence-strikers-nationwide-but-their-voices-have-been-heard/>

-Nationwide Prison Strike Update-Statement regarding the ongoing Nationwide Prison Strike Issued September 11, 2018 by the Prison Strike Media Team

Amani Sawari official outside media representative of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak
prisonstrikemedia@gmail.com

Jared Ware Freelance journalist covering prisoner movements
jaybeware@gmail.com

@jaybeware on Twitter

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)

National Media Subcommittee, media@incarceratedworkers.org @IWW_IWOC on twitter

IWOC media <media@incarceratedworkers.org>

New confirmed prison action reports

(full list & details below)

Missouri: at least one prisoner on a hunger strike at Leavenworth (USP).

New York: strike activity at Coxsackie Correctional Facility, strike activity and boycotts at Eastern Correctional Facility.

Ohio: at least one block engaged in a 3 day fast on first days of the strike and a commissary boycott throughout at Ohio State Penitentiary, plus a work stoppage in late July in response to preemptive repression by staff.

Texas: More prisoners involved in the hunger strike at Michael Unit.

Statement from prison strike media team

September 9th has passed, but it is up to the people in each prison who are participating in boycotts, hunger strikes, work strikes or sit-ins to determine the right day and time to close out their actions — from the outset, Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and national organizers have endorsed local strikers to set their own end dates, or strike indefinitely.

With ongoing communication repression (including heightened censorship of mail, lockdowns, and constant searches and seizures of prisoner property), there is undoubtedly a great deal of information on strike activity that has not yet traveled outside. As organizers have said from the beginning of this process, there is a wall of silence around prisons in the US, which should itself be of great concern for the human rights of those held inside. Actions to further restrict and surveill contact with prisoners, such as Pennsylvania and Maryland’s “drug elimination efforts” which curtail access to reading materials under the false pretext of guard safety, would be a huge loss for the already extremely limited freedoms of US prisoners.

Repression against strikers by prison authorities continues to be fought with phone zaps and letter-writing campaigns: reporting on these issues will directly prevent harm to inside organizers, particularly as coverage of the strike itself winds down. The next step for Jailhouse Lawyers Speak is the endorsement of a campaign to pressure politicians to enact legislative change; both JLS and IWOC will be taking stock of the strike with their members over the coming weeks to consider what other future actions will be

necessary to build a movement strong enough to push for the rights of incarcerated peoples. For now, the most urgent tasks for anyone following the strike are to continue to push the demands inside and out, highlight ongoing or previously-unreported strike activity, and work to prevent or limit retaliation against strikers wherever possible.

Incarcerated organizers never believed that their demands would be met at a negotiating table during the past three weeks; it has been a huge success of the 2018 prison strike that the 10 points have been pushed into the national and international consciousness. The work of spreading and fighting for these demands will continue on all fronts until they are actualized, and then beyond that onto what JLS aptly calls "the dismantling process," as we build a movement toward abolition.

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak will be releasing an official statement from inside organizers this week.

List of demands

"These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration, and state prisons: Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.

An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.

The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.

The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.

An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.

An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.

No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.

State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.

Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.

The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called "ex-felons" must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!

Strike action round-up

Here is the list of such activity as reported to Jailhouse Lawyers Speak or the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee as of September 9, 2018:

California-New Folsom Prison: hunger strike started by Heriberto Garcia on August 21 continues

CSP LAC (Lancaster): a group is hunger striking

Florida-Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak):

Charlotte Correctional Institution-Dade Correctional Institution-Holmes Correctional Institution-Appalachee Correctional Institution-Franklin Correctional Institution

Georgia-Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak)-Georgia State Prison "Reidsville"-Georgia Diagnostic and Classification State Prison in Jackson, GA

Indiana-Wabash Valley Correctional Institution, prisoners in a segregation unit initiated a hunger strike on Monday August 27, demanding adequate food and an end to cold temperatures in the unit.

Kentucky-Boycott activity confirmed by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak:

FCI Manchester (Federal)-Maryland-Jessup Correctional Institution - small group engaged in work stoppage reported by JLS and another independent source.

Michigan-Alger Correctional Facility, a group of prisoners are boycotting all phone contact and payment to Global Tel Link (GTL)-Missouri-Leavenworth (USP) has at least one prisoner on a hunger strike.

New Mexico-Lea County Correctional Facility in Hobbs, NM. On August 9, prisoners organized a work stoppage against conditions at the prison, operated by private corporation GEO Group. Tensions at the prison reached a tipping point prior to the date of the strike and prisoners could not wait before initiating

their protest. All facilities in New Mexico were placed on lockdown status on the morning of August 20. This statewide lockdown has since been lifted except for Lea County C.F.

North Carolina-Prisoners at Hyde Correctional Institution in Swanquarter, NC demonstrated in solidarity with the strike. At least one prisoner has been retaliated against at Polk Correctional Institution for alleged strike activity.

New York-Coxsackie Correctional Facility - strike activity confirmed by JLS and NYC Books Through Bars
Eastern Correctional Facility - work strike activity and boycotts confirmed by JLS

Ohio-Ohio State Penitentiary (supermax in Youngstown) - at least one block engaged in a 3 day fast on first days of the strike and a commissary boycott throughout. Also there was a brief work stoppage in late July in response to preemptive repression by staff.-Toledo Correctional Institution - At least two prisoners began a hunger strike on August 21. David Easley and James Ward were moved into isolation for participating and authorities have cut off their means of communication to outside contacts.

South Carolina-Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak): Broad River CI
Lee Correctional CI, McCormick CI, Kershaw CI, Lieber CI

Boycott activity confirmed by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak:
FCI Edgefield (Federal)

Texas-IWOC was forwarded a message dated 8/23 from inside administrative segregation, (solitary) of a Texas gulf prison confirming that 2 people are on hunger strike in solidarity with the national action: "I feel great. But very hungry! And not because I don't have food but because of our 48 hours solidarity with our brothers and sisters. It's the only way we can show support from inside of Seg. Let everyone know we got their backs."

IWOC has confirmed that Robert Uvalle is on hunger strike in solitary at Michael Unit, Anderson County, TX in solidarity with the nationwide strike. Robert has been in solitary for most of his 25 years inside.

IWOC has subsequently confirmed that more prisoners are involved in the hunger strike.

IWOC has confirmed that there is a work stoppage at the McConnell Unit in Texas.

Virginia-Sussex II a group of has released a communique related to a hunger strike

Washington-Northwest Detention Center - Representatives of over 200 immigrant detainees at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington declared a hunger strike on day one of the national prison strike. Amid fears of retaliation, 70 across three blocks participated. As of this time, seven continue to refuse food into a second week.

Nova Scotia, Canada-Burnside County Jail in Halifax prisoners went on strike and issued a protest statement in solidarity with the strike and naming local demands. They went through a lockdown and extensive negotiations with authorities; those who refused to cooperate with humiliating body scans were punished by being locked in a dry cell (no water or working toilets) for three days."

-Nationwide Prison Strike - Final Week Update 09/06/18

Statement regarding the ongoing Nationwide Prison Strike Issued September 6, 2018 (week three of the strike) by the Prison Strike Media Team

"Amani Sawari official outside media representative of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak
prisonstrikemedia@gmail.com

Jared Ware Freelance journalist covering prisoner movements jaybeware@gmail.com @jaybeware on Twitter
Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) National Media Subcommittee,
media@incarceratedworkers.org @IWW_IWOC on twitter

"New word of protest action within the prisons continues to reach us almost every day (see "Strike action roundup" below) as the National Prison Strike enters its third and final week. We expect to continue getting reports from inside in the coming months as lockdowns and communication restrictions ease. Speaking to a small group of journalists and activists at a press conference call on September 1st, "Eddie", an inside Jailhouse Lawyers Speak representative, said:

"On behalf of the inside organizers of this particular prisoner-led movement, you have to understand that a lot of prisoners don't really want to communicate openly. A lot of prisoners are fearful — this is not a normal situation. I think a lot of people [...] don't understand that prisons are barbaric and they are not transparent at all."

“Reporters and everyone else have to do their research on how people have been targeted in the past. Like right now, we know there's an all-out manhunt for Jailhouse Lawyers Speak leaders. We already know this right here, they're looking for the leaders right now, they want to take our heads off!”

Eddie referenced two leaders in the 2010 strike in Georgia prisons who were attacked savagely (Kelvin Stevenson was beaten with hammers and Terrance Dean was left partially paralysed), as well as actions by the state of California in 2013 to torment and isolate hunger strikers He continued:

“And then you have the Free Alabama Movement, we have where they [were] targeted in 2016. Not just them, but we have brothers out in Lucasville that was targeted as leaders, and these individuals [were] placed in even more horrific confinement.”

“One thing JLS always says [now] is don't put your face out there, don't put your name out there on any circumstances, because if we're doing five or ten years on Supermax there's nothing any of you all can do. And all you all have done is assisted the system into removing us, we'd be killing our movement off. And that's what we don't want to happen. So we don't have time for publicity stunts, we just understand the nature of what we're dealing with back there.”

“As far as if this [strike] is a publicity stunt [...] I don't think that prisoners know what a publicity stunt really is. You know we just don't really have time for games, you know everything we do has been real.”

“I think that's all I can really say on that, And we not finna give them our head, we're not finna let them destroy our movement. It's not finna happen.”

A full write-up of the press conference will be released in the coming days; in the meantime, outside organizers urge the public to emphasize the original impetus for the strike: the incident at Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina on April 15th, 2018. As Eddie said:

“One of the things [JLS has] tried to always remember when we've had our meetings in the past is always remember that [the prison strike] was called due to the tragic death that occurred down at Lee Correctional Institution in the state of South Carolina. It wasn't just the seven deaths, but also over forty of these men [were] wounded, forty of these men [were], at the end of the day, left in to die with the seven. Seven they didn't just die, they bled out. They bled and died. And we just want everybody to remember the horrific conditions that brought these deaths about.”

People reporting on the strike are reminded of the importance of discussing all of the demands of prisoners (see “List of demands” below). The demand to end prison slavery, while important, should not overshadow the nine other demands.

As the strike heads toward a close, organizers on the inside are urging supporters to pressure legislators and representatives to meet their demands at all levels of the US political system. Inside organizers appreciate the ability of protest action to bring prison issues into the national consciousness, but the demands will not be met without legislative action to change related policies.

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak hopes to build a coalition involving the organizations who have stood in solidarity during this strike to continue to push this agenda on all fronts.

List of demands

“These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration, and state prisons: Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.

An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.

The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.

The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.

An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.

An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.

No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.

State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.

Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.

The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called "ex-felons" must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!

Strike action round-up

There have been many protests, disruptions and unusual occurrences in prisons across the US in the last two weeks, these incidents might be strike related, or they might simply be occurring at the same time. Outside organizers are pursuing leads and seeking confirmation. In our strike roundup we've been careful to only include instances of protest that were explicitly connected to the nationwide strike and its demands. Here is the list of such activity as reported to Jailhouse Lawyers Speak or the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee prior to September 5, 2018:

California

New Folsom Prison: hunger strike started by Heriberto Garcia on August 21 continues

CSP LAC (Lancaster): a group is hunger striking

Florida-Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak):

Charlotte Correctional Institution, Dade Correctional Institution, Holmes Correctional Institution
Appalachee Correctional Institution, Franklin Correctional Institution

Georgia-Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak):

Georgia State Prison "Reidsville" Georgia Diagnostic and Classification State Prison in Jackson, GA

Indiana-Wabash Valley Correctional Institution, prisoners in a segregation unit initiated a hunger strike on Monday August 27, demanding adequate food and an end to cold temperatures in the unit.

Kentucky-Boycott activity confirmed by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak: FCI Manchester (Federal)

Maryland-Jessup Correctional Institution - small group engaged in work stoppage reported by JLS and another independent source.

Michigan-Alger Correctional Facility, a group of prisoners are boycotting all phone contact and payment to Global Tel Link (GTL)

New Mexico-Lee County Correctional Facility in Hobbs, NM. On August 9, prisoners organized a work stoppage against conditions at the prison, operated by private corporation GEO Group. Tensions at the prison reached a tipping point prior to the date of the strike and prisoners could not wait before initiating their protest. All facilities in New Mexico were placed on lockdown status on the morning of August 20. This statewide lockdown has since been lifted except for Lee County C.F.

North Carolina-Prisoners at Hyde Correctional Institution in Swanquarter, NC demonstrated in solidarity with the strike. At least one prisoner has been retaliated against at Polk Correctional Institution for alleged strike activity.

There are unconfirmed rumors of broader participation across the state of North Carolina

Ohio-Toledo Correctional Institution - At least two prisoners began a hunger strike on August 21. David Easley and James Ward were moved into isolation for participating and authorities have cut off their means of communication to outside contacts.

South Carolina-Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak): Broad River CI, Lee Correctional CI, McCormick CI, Kershaw CI "

-Solidarity Update: Second Week of the National Prison Strike

"Prisoners have been staying strong throughout these weeks of the prison strike and have sent me a few requests to forward to our endorsers which are listed below.

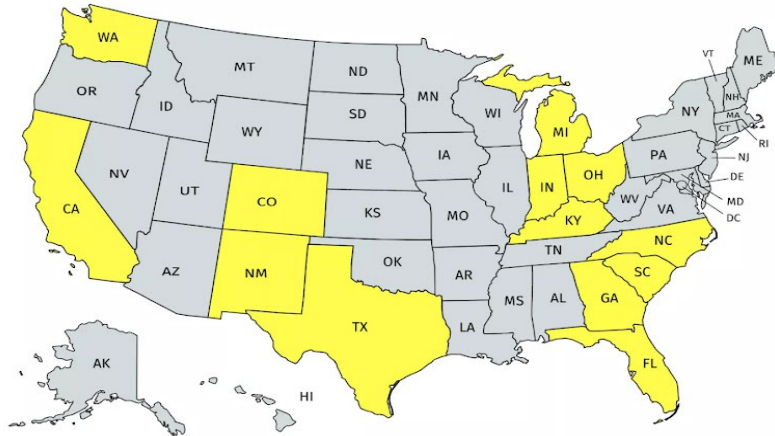
Collaboration Among Endorsers

As I receive requests to support from groups and individuals around the country my response usually entails connecting them to endorsing organizations in their state. I receive questions every day from people asking how they can help and I love connecting people to resources and seeing how those connections unfold. I am asking that as an endorser to the National Prison strike that if you are connected

to an individual or another group via email please followup with that request. A followup can begin with a simple list of the ways that you're organizing in your state or an invite to an upcoming event. It is imperative that we work together; this is the only way that we can reach the masses and influence national policies that affect prisoners. They are depending on us to work together. We cannot afford to allow any of these requests to go untapped. Every single request to help deserves followthrough. Imagine what communities we lose having the opportunity to influence or help when we don't follow through on a request to support. Its an incredible thing that people are asking for ways to help, start off with something simple and one time collaborations on simple projects can grow into lifelong bonds in the movement. Even if you can't directly support a request please at the very least respond with ideas, suggestions or leads for someone in need of support.

Update on Inside Actions

The following yellow states have submitted conformed reports of National Prison Strike actions to Jailhouse lawyers. Many actions will go unreported until after the strike's end date when prisoners have more access to communication.



In addition to these state reports there have also been solidarity actions overseas:

Nova Scotia, Canada: at Burnside County Jail in Halifax prisoners went on strike and issued a protest statement in solidarity with the strike and naming local demands.

Greece: At Larissa Prison in Greece, 127 prisoners of the A' wing issued a statement in solidarity

Palestine: imprisoned Palestinians of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, held in Israeli jails issued a statement in solidarity

You all can find a full report on inside actions associated with the national prison strike

here:<http://sawarimi.org/participating-states>

Call for Strike Tracking & Solidarity Actions

As we approach the halfway mark prisoners are in need of a pick me up. In Seattle we've been doing weekly noise demos at the Northwest Detention center where over 200 detainees are striking. Don't get tired on prisoners, I encourage you all to find new ways to continue raising awareness and giving prisoners support this week. I got a call from Nube from California Prison Focus with a great idea on how we can show up for prisoners. This upcoming weekend on the day before the strike's end there is a nationwide Climate Change March on September 8th. Check to see if there is a march happening in your area to see if you can show up there for prisoners in relations to demand 1. Prisoners, like marginalized communities, are most effected by the consequences of climate change, often they do not even have the power to make a choice as to how they are effected. Prisons are usually assigned to be located in rural

areas where the soil, water and air quality is unfit. Prisoners deserve to be included in the conversation above climate change and it's our responsibility to bring their concerns to the table. I'm sure that this isn't the only event where we can bring striking prisoners demands so look in your area and see what's going on and how you can tie prisoners demands to the regional concerns about human rights.

Newsletter

the 5th edition of Solid Black Fist is ready for distribution. This issue includes an updated list of endorsers, a report back from the inside strike actions from prisoners, images from recent solidarity actions and uplifting messages from endorsers. These newsletters going in are also a great way that we keep strikers informed and their spirits lifted throughout the strike. Please print and mail copies to prisoners and supporters on the outside. You can also print out copies to hand out at local events like pickets, protests, marches and rallies: <http://sawarimi.org/npsnewsletter>

Organizing After the Strike: Prisoner Initiatives Coalition

Jailhouse lawyers has put a call out for the organizing of an outside entity functioning under jailhouse lawyers leadership focused on pushing prisoner initiatives. Prisoners have demonstrated with strength and bravery over the strike time and this coalition will be dedicated to facilitating the achievement of the 10 demands of the national prison strike.

If you as an individual or on behalf of your organization are interested in being a part of this new outside group working on behalf of JLS's prisoners initiatives please let me know. In response to JLS' request a fundraising page (<https://fundly.com/support-jailhouse-lawyers-speak-prisoners-initiatives#>) has been created in support of JLS's initiatives after the strikes end. We know that when the strike ends this work is not over which is why we are committed to organizing in support of all of their demands until they are brought to fruition. If you would like to learn more about, join or follow this coalition click here:

<http://sawarimi.org/jls-prisoners-initiative-colition>

Action Points

Send reports of strike action from incarcerated strikers or their family members

Print and distribute the 5th Issue of the Newsletter

Always respond to requests to collaborate with other groups.

Follow the JLS prisoner initiatives coalition

Donate to JLS Prisoners Initiatives

Thank you all for your support in this movement to end mass incarceration and prison slavery as well as to bring livable conditions to the living and work spaces of incarcerated individuals in the United States. This has been a monumental effort and our success is being recorded as we speak. Don't get tired, don't allow prisoners to get tired, we must continue to fill them with energy as they strike. Remember some prisons are just now becoming aware of the strike and joining in with actions so we must provide them with the same support throughout. You all are doing amazing work and I'm incredibly thankful and honored to be among you. In solidarity,

Amani Sawari, Revolutionary Freedom Writer

Social: Sawarimi Subscribe: sawarimi.org Support: patreon.com/sawarimi

-Folsom prison strike manifesto and bill of rights 1970

In 1970, prisoners protesting about the brutal regime at Folsom Prison, went on strike for 19 days. They wrote the following manifesto and bill of rights in support of their action.

The following manifesto and bill of rights were written in 1970 by inmates at Folsom prison in the United States. They were formulated to support a prisoners strike.

Over 2,400 prisoners organized a strike. They refused to leave their cells for nineteen days, in the face of constant hunger, discomfort, and psychological and psychological intimidation. Their action was taken in protest against the overcrowded, racist, and brutal prison system.

The manifesto is overtly political, and the prisoners called for the end of injustice suffered by all prisoners, regardless of race, color, or creed. They referred to the United States prisons as 'Fascist concentration camps' The prisoners believed that they were treated like 'domesticated animals', selected to their bidding

in slave labor, and furnished as personal whipping dogs for the sadistic psychopathic hate of the prison staff. The manifesto included a section on the 'unionization' of prisoners, as a means to end political persecution, and enabling peaceful dissent. It referenced explicit abuse of powers by prison authorities, such as tear-gassing, locking up of dissenting inmates, shootings, and unusual punishments, and other brutality.

Folsom prison strike manifesto

- 1 We demand legal representation at the time of all (Adult Authority hearings).
- 2 A change in medical staff and medical policy and procedure.
- 3 Adequate visiting conditions and facilities.
- 4 That each man presently held in the Adjustment Center be given a written notice with the Warden of Custody signature on it explaining the exact reason for his placement in the severely restrictive confines of the Adjustment Center.
- 5 An immediate end to indeterminate adjustment center terms.
- 6 An end to the segregation of prisoners from the mainline population because of their political beliefs.
- 7 An end to political persecution, racial persecution, and the denial of prisoners, to subscribe to political papers.
- 8 An end to the persecution and punishment of prisoners who practice the constitutional right of peaceful dissent.
- 9 An end to the tear gassing of prisoners who are locked in their cells.
- 10 The passing of a minimum and maximum term bill which calls for an end to indeterminate sentences.
- 11 That industries be allowed to enter the institutions and employ inmates to work eight hours a day and fit into the category of workers for scale wages.
- 12 That inmates be allowed to form or join labor unions.
- 13 That inmates be granted the right to support their own families.
- 14 That correctional officers be prosecuted as a matter of law for shooting inmates.
- 15 That all institutions who use inmate labor be made to conform with the state and federal minimum wage laws.
- 16 An end to trials being held on the premises of San Quentin prison.
- 17 An end to the escalating practice of physical brutality.
- 18 Appointment of three lawyers from the California Bar Association to provide legal assistance for inmates seeking post conviction relief.
- 19 Update of industry working conditions.
- 20 Establishment of inmate workers' insurance.
- 21 Establishment of unionized vocational training program comparable to that of the Federal Union System.
- 22 Annual accounting of Inmate Welfare Fund.
- 23 That the Adult Authority Board appointed by the governor be eradicated and replaced by a parole board elected by popular vote of the people. (24) A full time salaried board of overseers for the state prisons.
- 25 An immediate end to the agitation of race relations.
- 26 Ethnic counselors.
- 27 An end to the discrimination in the judgment and quota of parole for Black and Brown people.
- 28 That all prisoners be present at the time that their cells and property are being searched.

A bill of rights for prisoners

This composite bill of rights for prisoners has been assembled from various state prisoners' demands:

1. Right to organize prisoner unions.
2. Right to adequate diet, clothing and health care.
3. Right to vote and end second class citizenship.
4. Right to furloughs or institutional accommodations to maintain social, sexual and familial ties.
5. Right to non-censorship of mail, literature and law books.

6. Right to access to the press and media.
7. Right to procedural and substantive due process to guarantee rights.
8. Right to personality; resistance to coercive attempts by "correctional" staff to change behaviour thru brain surgery, electric stimulation of brain, aversion therapy, hormones or modification techniques.
9. Right to properly trained counsel.
10. Right to be free from racial, ethnic and sexist discrimination.
11. Right to freedom from mental and physical brutality.
12. Right to have the community come into the prison.
13. Right to have surveillance teams in prisons to monitor rights, protect prisoners' due process and see that they have access to their own files.
14. Right to make restitution in lieu of further incarceration.
15. Right to know their release date at time of entry to the prison.

<https://libcom.org/blog/folsom-prison-strike-manifesto-bill-rights-1970-05012012>

Freedom Archives 522 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94110 415 863.9977

<https://freedomarchives.org/>

Questions and comments may be sent to info@freedomarchives.org "

-Attica Prison Liberation Faction, Manifesto of Demands 1971

"WE are MEN! We are not beasts and do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. The entire prison populace has set forth to change forever the ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States."

The Attica Prison riot of 1971 has been well documented elsewhere; therefore I will not be attempting to revisit the events that took place. If you wish to read more about the subject, you will find the following links useful. Following on from my previous blog entry on the Folsom Prisoners manifesto from 1970, I have listed the demands made by the Attica Prison Liberation Faction in 1971, who had been inspired by events at Folsom. The demands were made following several thousand inmates seizing control of the prison in protest against the usual issues of, overcrowding, racism, and brutality from prison staff.

We, the men of Attica Prison, have been committed to the New York State Department of Corrections by the people of society for the purpose of correcting what has been deemed as social errors in behavior. Errors which have classified us as socially unacceptable until reprogrammed with new values and more thorough understanding as to our values and responsibilities as members of the outside community. The Attica Prison program in its structure and conditions have been enslaved on the pages of this Manifesto of Demands with the blood, sweat, and tears of the inmates of this prison.

The program which we are submitted to under the façade of rehabilitation are relative to the ancient stupidity of pouring water on a drowning man, inasmuch as we are treated for our hostilities by our program administrators with their hostility as medication.

In our efforts to comprehend on a feeling level an existence contrary to violence, we are confronted by our captors with what is fair and just, we are victimized by the exploitation and the denial of the celebrated due process of law.

In our peaceful efforts to assemble in dissent as provided under this nation's U.S. Constitution, we are in turn murdered, brutalized, and framed on various criminal charges because we seek the rights and privileges of all American People.

In our efforts to intellectually expand in keeping with the outside world, through all categories of news media, we are systematically restricted and punitively remanded to isolation status when we insist on our human rights to the wisdom of awareness.

MANIFESTO OF DEMANDS

1. We Demand the constitutional rights of legal representation at the time of all parole board hearings and the protection from the procedures of the parole authorities whereby they permit no procedural

safeguards such as an attorney for cross-examination of witnesses, witnesses in behalf of the parolee, at parole revocation hearings.

2. We Demand a change in medical staff and medical policy and procedure. The Attica Prison hospital is totally inadequate, understaffed, and prejudiced in the treatment of inmates. There are numerous "mistakes" made many times; improper and erroneous medication is given by untrained personnel. We also demand periodical check-ups on all prisoners and sufficient licensed practitioners 24 hours a day instead of inmates' help that is used now.

3. We Demand adequate visiting conditions and facilities for the inmate and families of Attica prisoners. The visiting facilities at the prison are such as to preclude adequate visiting for inmates and their families.

4. We Demand an end to the segregation of prisoners from the mainline population because of their political beliefs. Some of the men in segregation units are confined there solely for political reasons and their segregation from other inmates is indefinite.

5. We Demand an end to the persecution and punishment of prisoners who practice the Constitutional Right of peaceful dissent. Prisoners at Attica and other New York prisons cannot be compelled to work as these prisons were built for the purpose of housing prisoners and there is no mention as to the prisoners being required to work on prison jobs in order to remain in the mainline population and/or be considered for release. Many prisoners believe their labor power is being exploited in order for the state to increase its economic power and to continue to expand its correctional industries (which are million-dollar complexes), yet do not develop working skills acceptable for employment in the outside society, and which do not pay the prisoner more than an average of forty cents a day. Most prisoners never make more than fifty cents a day. Prisoners who refuse to work for the outrageous scale, or who strike, are punished and segregated without the access to the privileges shared by those who work; this is class legislation, class division, and creates hostilities within the prison.

6. We Demand an end to political persecution, racial persecution, and the denial of prisoner's rights to subscribe to political papers, books, or any other educational and current media chronicles that are forwarded through the U.S. Mail.

7. We Demand that industries be allowed to enter the institutions and employ inmates to work eight hours a day and fit into the category of workers for scale wages. The working conditions in prisons do not develop working incentives parallel to the many jobs in the outside society, and a paroled prisoner faces many contradictions of the job that add to his difficulty in adjusting. Those industries outside who desire to enter prisons should be allowed to enter for the purpose of employment placement.

8. We Demand that inmates be granted the right to join or form labor unions.

9. We Demand that inmates be granted the right to support their own families; at present, thousands of welfare recipients have to divide their checks to support their imprisoned relatives, who without outside support, cannot even buy toilet articles or food. Men working on scale wages could support themselves and families while in prison.

10. We Demand that correctional officers be prosecuted as a matter of law for any act of cruel and unusual punishment where it is not a matter of life and death.

11. We Demand that all institutions using inmate labor be made to conform with the state and federal minimum wage laws.

12. We Demand an end to the escalating practice of physical brutality being perpetrated upon the inmates of New York State prisons.

13. We Demand the appointment of three lawyers from the New York State Bar Association to full-time positions for the provision of legal assistance to inmates seeking post-conviction relief, and to act as a liaison between the administration and inmates for bringing inmates' complaints to the attention of the administration.

14. We Demand the updating of industry working conditions to the standards provided for under New York State law.

15. We Demand the establishment of inmate worker's insurance plan to provide compensation for work-related accidents.

16. We Demand the establishment of unionized vocational training programs comparable to that of the Federal Prison System which provides for union instructions, union pay scales, and union membership upon completion of the vocational training course.

17. We Demand annual accounting of the inmates Recreational Fund and formulation of an inmate committee to give inmates a voice as to how such funds are used.

18. We Demand that the present Parole Board appointed by the Governor be eradicated and replaced by the parole board elected by popular vote of the people. In a world where many crimes are punished by indeterminate sentences and where authority acts within secrecy and within vast discretion and given heavy weight to accusations by prison employees against inmates, inmates feel trapped unless they are willing to abandon their desire to be independent men.

19. We Demand that the state legislature create a full-time salaried board of overseers for the State Prisons. The board would be responsible for evaluating allegations made by inmates, their families, friends and lawyers against employers charged with acting inhumanely, illegally or unreasonably. The board should include people nominated by a psychological or psychiatric association, by the State Bar Association or by the Civil Liberties Union and by groups of concerned involved laymen.

20. We Demand an immediate end to the agitation of race relations by the prison administration of this State.

21. We Demand that the Dept. of Corrections furnish all prisoners with the services of ethnic counselors for the needed special services of the Brown and Black population of this prison.

22. We Demand an end to the discrimination in the judgment and quota of parole for Black and Brown people.

23. We Demand that all prisoners be present at the time their cells and property are being searched by the correctional officers of state prisons.

24. We Demand an end to the discrimination against prisoners when they appear before the Parole Board. Most prisoners are denied parole solely because of their prior records. Life sentences should not confine a man longer than 10 years as 7 years is the considered statute for a lifetime out of circulation, and if a man cannot be rehabilitated after a maximum of ten years of constructive programs, etc., then he belongs in a mental hygiene center, not a prison.

25. We Demand that better food be served to the inmates. The food is a gastronomical disaster. We also demand that drinking water be put on each table and that each inmate be allowed to take as much food as he wants and as much bread as he wants, instead of the severely limited portions and limited (4) slices of bread. Inmates wishing a pork-free diet should have one, since 85% of our diet is pork meat or pork-saturated food.

26. We Demand an end to the unsanitary conditions that exist in the mess hall: i.e., dirty trays, dirty utensils, stained drinking cups and an end to the practice of putting food on the table's hours before eating time without any protective covering over it.

27. We Demand that there be one set of rules governing all prisons in this state instead of the present system where each warden makes rules for his institution as he sees fit.

IN CONCLUSION

We are firm in our resolve and we demand, as human beings, the dignity and justice that is due to us by our right of birth. We do not know how the present system of brutality and dehumanization and injustice has been allowed to be perpetrated in this day of enlightenment, but we are the living proof of its existence and we cannot allow it to continue.

The taxpayers who just happen to be our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters and sons should be made aware of how their tax dollars are being spent to deny their sons, brothers, fathers and uncles of justice, equality and dignity.

<https://libcom.org/blog/attica-prison-liberation-faction-manifesto-demands-1971-06012012>

Freedom Archives 522 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94110 415 863.9977

<https://freedomarchives.org/>

Questions and comments may be sent to info@freedomarchives.org "

-As Lockdowns Spread, Prisoners Call For A Voice In Ending Violence

This Tuesday Minnesota's Faribault Prison went on lockdown, after four officers were reportedly assaulted. This comes on top of the brutal lockdown at Stillwater Prison, now in its 66th day, after a lone prisoner killed a guard, and nearly a month after it was reported to be ending. Yet prisoners offer a different narrative. They say the Stillwater lockdown is ongoing and prisoners are not the cause of increased violence.

"Channel 5 news reported we are off of lockdown, but we're not" says Pepi McKenzie a prisoner at Stillwater Prison. "We're still locked in, they're just letting us out three hours a day". McKenzie reports "no recreation, no yard, no regular meals," and that normal schedule is being out fifteen hours a day. Nor does prisoners' experience match how violence is being reported. According to Stillwater prisoner Tony Jackson, he is spending "all his time calming people down as guards are trying to make people blow up". Why? "The AFSCME Union continues to create chaos and division here at Stillwater, constantly provoking prisoners. They want us to assault them and create riot situations so AFSCME can gain public support to fraudulently receive more money that will be misappropriated and more staff that will be misused". Stillwater prisoner Leonard Richards also challenges the narrative that guards have dangerous jobs. "We have many staff who "work" long hours of overtime...[and] many staff use their wiles to get their children hired as guards." According to Richards "if prison employment were in fact so dangerous, one would think they wouldn't [choose extensive overtime] and the least desirable jobs for one's children would be that of prison guard - but that is not the case". Richard's conclusion? "Working ("working") as a prison guard is in fact not very dangerous at all." He also reports that working often means "sitting on phones" and that the lockdown has "expanded that". While prisoners have different approaches they are uniform in calling for an immediate end to the lockdown at Stillwater, a voice in the process, and meaningful programming and opportunities. Jackson says "new leadership is needed to break a culture of guard entitlement" while the public needs to be informed and prisoners empowered. "The media doesn't

ask us what's going on, and because we're in prison the public has a preconceived notion. But the public needs what's true - beyond any side".

McKenzie says recent changes show that "the DOC's ideas for rehabilitation is pretty much over with". He calls the DOC's continuing lockdown and closing of an estimated 400-500 jobs at Stillwater an "extreme reaction to an isolated incident that is and will cause a massive response". McKenzie believes deteriorating conditions incite violence: "the entire unit has no jobs with the exception of those that have GED classes; that unit is a recipe for disaster. No jobs, no recreation, no regular meals, I'll let you do the math."

Outside Contact: Allegra Kennedy, 612-716-3181. Inside Contact by request.

Twin Cities Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, tc.iwoc@gmail.com

DE-NJ NLG Prisoners' Legal Advocacy Network (PLAN) Mounts Legal Responses to Widespread Reports of Prisoner Abuses in the Aftermath of the 2018 National Prison Strike

Posted on September 20, 2018

"From August 21, 2018 to September 9, 2018, prisoners across the country participated in a peaceful strike to protest steadily deteriorating conditions of confinement in United States prisons. These worsening conditions, such as major cutbacks to prisoner programs, services, and safety measures have led to prison facilities that are increasingly dehumanizing and unsafe for prisoners. The April 2018 events at South Carolina's Lee Correctional Institution, the deadliest prison incident in this country in the last 25 years, are emblematic of this sharp decline in prison conditions. Widespread reports from prisoners independently corroborated allegations that Lee Correctional prison guards turned their backs on the riot they provoked, while careful analysis of related media coverage suggests convincingly that the Department of Corrections implemented a sophisticated disinformation campaign that concealed facts from the public.



Unlike the 2016 prison strike, the 2018 strike was not only protesting the forced labor sanctioned by the 13th Amendment; it was also protesting nationwide cuts to important prison programs that many blame for the sharp uptick in prison slayings such as those at Lee, which have almost doubled in the last decade according to U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Claims by correctional and political officials that these spending cuts are economically prudent overlook the millions of taxpayer dollars disbursed to pay sharply increasing wrongful death settlements, and undervalue the human lives entrusted to their care.

Using PLAN's Legal Observer Affidavit for Prisoners and Jailhouse Lawyers, scores of prisoners from 12 states have reported prison abuses in lead-up to, and aftermath of, the 2018 prison strike, and additional reports continue to roll in. PLAN affidavits enable prisoners and jailhouse lawyers to document and report

the prison abuses they observe or experience, and to transmit them to attorneys by way of unmonitored legal mail so that they can convey their concerns to legal professionals with less fear of reprisal. Before trying to connect these prisoners with legal response teams, PLAN enters the data from these affidavits into an anonymized database that tracks the facilities, states, and correctional systems generating the largest numbers of complaints and the kinds of abuses that are being reported with the greatest frequency. This enables PLAN to issue statements that are grounded in hard data." For full article please see: <https://www.nlg.org/plan-prison-strike-response-2018/>

-Statement from Freedom for Ekrem Deniz Committee

"On September 5th our friend Ekrem Deniz arrived in Istanbul. As soon as he landed at Istanbul Ataturk Airport he was arrested and taken to a police station, without being given a reason. The following day, he was taken to court where he learned that he is accused of engaging in "propaganda on behalf of an illegal organization". Deniz traveled to Turkey to be an English-Turkish translator at the 9th International Eyup Bas Symposium, an international event that tackle issues such as imperialism, repression and colonialism. He is a Dutch-Turkish citizen, who has struggled in the Netherlands against issues such as human rights violations, police brutality and racism, and for democracy.

The accusation of engaging in "propaganda on behalf of an illegal organization" is a common accusation in Turkey, that serves to imprison all opponents of Erdogan's fascist regime. Since the 2016 failed coup attempt, after which almost 200,000 people were arrested, the Turkish regime does not bother to provide any pretense for arresting people, imprisoning them or detaining them indefinitely within the scope of the "State of Emergency". A most notable example is that of the public sector workers, mostly intellectuals in education critical of the AKP regime, laid off in droves by government decree, and marked by the protests in Ankara's Yuksel street – initiated by Nuriye Gulmen, an academic, and Semih Ozakca, a teacher. They were known democratic activists purged under false charge of belonging to the "Fethullah Gulen Organization", the organization responsible for the coup. Their protest to get their jobs back has led to massive state repression, resulting in their imprisonment and trial. This case, which drew much media attention, was dropped, as the state's prosecution was not able to provide or even fabricate evidence of any conspiracy to commit terror, even with the testimony of a false witness." For full article please see: <https://www.anti-imperialistfront.org/international-statement-of-freedom-to-ekrem-deniz-committee/>

-Pa. prisons spend \$15M after guards were sickened by K2. But what if it was just in their heads?

"When Pennsylvania's prisons come off a statewide lockdown begun Aug. 29, inmates will be greeted by a number of radically tightened security measures: high-tech body-scanners for visitors, drone-detection equipment, and the digital delivery of all mail, which will be scanned and forwarded via a Florida-based contractor. In total, they will cost taxpayers \$15 million.

The improvements come after the Department of Corrections reported 57 staff were sickened in 28 incidents at prisons in central and Western Pennsylvania. Corrections Secretary John Wetzel announced the lockdown after linking the illnesses with exposure to synthetic cannabinoids — the drugs have, by official and inmate accounts, flooded prisons across the state in recent years — but also cited concern over a reported mass exposure to fentanyl at an Ohio prison the very same day the lockdown was announced.

"Pennsylvania's corrections officers put themselves in harm's way to make our commonwealth safer, and it is up to us to provide them protection from harm," Gov. Wolf told reporters. "I want to assure them that their concerns are valid." But, what if their concerns are actually misplaced?

That's a question raised by toxicologists, who say one likely diagnosis for the staff illnesses may be "mass psychogenic illness" — that is, a sort of contagious hysteria fueled by fears of dangerous exposure.

"There is some great concern that it's psychogenic," said Jeanmarie Perrone, director of medical toxicology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine.

"Mass psychogenic illness happens all the time. We see it all the time with law enforcement," Perrone said. "Police pull someone over and find an unknown substance. Suddenly their heart's racing, they're nauseated and sweaty. They say, 'I'm sick. I'm gonna pass out.' That is your normal physiological response

to potential danger." Although seven prison staff were administered naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdoses, experts said that was probably unnecessary. Unlike the guards — who reported symptoms including elevated heart rate and blood pressure, light-headedness, dizziness, and headaches — an overdose victim would be unresponsive, Perrone said. "If they are speaking, they don't need naloxone." The American College of Medical Toxicology released a position paper on fentanyl last year noting that the risk of exposure for emergency responders is "extremely low." They noted that it cannot be absorbed through the skin in a powder form, and it's unlikely, if it were aerosolized, that it would be concentrated enough to sicken responders.

Synthetic cannabinoids — laboratory-made compounds also known as K2 or Spice — are more complicated, because they can be made up of any number of compounds, and their makeup can vary wildly from one batch to the next. Some versions even include rat poison. Prison officials say K2 is frequently soaked in paper, which can be easily sent through the mail and then smoked.

But experts said merely touching K2 should not have caused the guards' symptoms.

"In a word, it's implausible," said Dr. Lewis Nelson, chair of emergency medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and a past president of the American College of Medical Toxicology. "One thing we know about [synthetic cannabinoids] is that they don't cause the effects these folks are having, and certainly not by the route that they're being exposed. ... The symptoms are much more consistent with anxiety." ... For full article please see: <http://www2.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania-department-corrections-prison-lockdown-drugs-k2-fentanyl-guards-sickness-20180907.html>

-Lockdown of entire system lifted, but...Statements from Abolitionist Law Center. Sep 6

"The PADOE "Lockdown" and the newly unveiled policies represent a threat to the rights, dignity, and health of our incarcerated clients, friends, and family. The problems occurring during the last week will be compounded and added to by these measures that will further restrict and chill communication between incarcerated people and those outside the walls.

It is becoming clear that there will need to be an organized challenge, or series of challenges, using a variety of advocacy strategies, including potential litigation. Please feel free to share this widely.

Toward that end we are asking for any reports of the following to be emailed to ckey@alcenter.org at the Abolitionist Law Center:

- Obstruction or interference in attorney-client communications, including:
 - o restrictions or prohibitions on visits
 - o restrictions or prohibitions on regular legal call opportunities
 - o failure to send outgoing legal mail, or significant delay in sending it out.
 - o failure to process incoming legal mail, or significant delay in getting mail.
 - o opening legal mail outside the presence of the recipient
 - o any copying of legal mail whatsoever
- Any negative legal consequences faced by incarcerated people due to their inability to communicate with legal counsel or the courts – missed deadlines, inadequate preparation for court proceedings, etc.
- Instances where the DOC refused to process non-legal mail, including where it was returned for no reason other than the DOC's arbitrary statewide "lockdown".
- Any serious problems caused by not receiving non-legal mail sent from family, friends, or other contacts, including and especially problems caused by not receiving time-sensitive information.
- Denial of publications such as magazines, newspapers, or books due to the "lockdown" or new policies.
- Imposition of disciplinary measures such as the issuance of a misconduct or having privileges restricted based on mere suspicion of drug use, or an allegation that mail intended for but not received by an incarcerated person contained a prohibited substance. Please include whether any evidence was obtained, tested (by the DOC or third party vendor), and whether there was any due process afforded through a hearing.
- False positives by ion scanners resulting in visitation restrictions or prohibitions.

- Instances of incarcerated people being deprived medical care during the lockdown, including regular appointments for chronic conditions, medications, mental health care, outside hospital appointments, emergency care, or specialist care.
- Instances of incarcerated people with physical or mental disabilities being deprived accommodations for those disabilities during the lockdown.

With solidarity and in it for the long haul,
The Abolitionist Law Center"

<https://www.facebook.com/AbolitionistLawCenter/>

-Illinois inmate out of prison after decades in solitary By Beth Hundsdorfer and George Pawlaczyk
September 07, 2018

"As a teenager, Anthony Gay robbed a fellow teen of his hat and a dollar bill, which landed Gay in prison. His prison odyssey spanned 24 years, during which he was locked in solitary confinement in Illinois prisons for 22 to 23 hours a day, cut and slashed parts of his own body more than 500 times in protest, was strapped naked to metal bed frames without food, and, on a grim day in 2010 during what court records state was extreme mental delirium, sliced off part of his testicle and tied it to a cell door.

Ten days ago, Gay, now 44, woke up in solitary in the prison's mental unit. In the space of minutes, he was escorted out of his cell at the Dixon Correctional Center by a three-man "extraction team" to a dressing room, where he got out of his yellow jumpsuit and into civilian clothes. A short walk followed until he reached a final door. Then freedom.

"I felt alive again. I couldn't believe it," said Gay, who met his sister in the parking lot. "It's good to be home." She had rented a small U-Haul trailer, and Gay loaded about a dozen large cardboard boxes jammed with thousands of court documents and letters that fueled his court battles for decades. They immediately left for the family home in Rock Island.

Gay's unusual case was detailed in the BND's 2009 award-winning investigative series "Trapped In Tamms." That and numerous follow-up articles helped bring attention to the plight of Gay and others. A federal judge in East St. Louis would eventually find that mentally ill prisoners held in solitary for over a decade in the now closed Tamms supermax prison in the southern tip of Illinois were cruelly treated. Reforms were recommended but the prison, the most expensive per inmate to operate, soon closed..."
Please see full article at: <https://www.bnd.com/news/local/article217921700.html>

Statement of Florida Indigenous Rights and Environmental Equality (FIREE) – The Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons September 12, 2018 "[Note: Amidst recovery from an unexpected triple bypass heart surgery and the largest hurricane threat seen in years, political prisoner Leonard Peltier turned 73 this week, on September 12, inside Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Central Florida. FIREE released the following statement on his birthday and , September 15, the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons will hold a rally in downtown Gainesville, FL to honor him and call for his freedom after over four decades of torture and slavery inside the world's largest prison system. Find out more about Peltier, including his address to send a birthday card, here.]"

"STATEMENT OF THE FLORIDA INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EQUALITY FOR LEONARD PELTIER'S BIRTHDAY

Greetings:

The Florida Indigenous Rights & Environmental Equality (FIREE), Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons, and other organizations this September celebrate the birthday of Anishinabe and Lakota Akihito political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Peltier remains a Prisoner of America's longest war, its war on the Indigenous peoples of this great Turtle Island. Ostensibly Peltier was convicted on the killing of two Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents who invaded the sovereign Oglala Lakota Nation with a warrant they did not have to arrest someone they knew was not there. Members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) who were at the Jumping Bull "Tent City" location on June 25, 1975 defended the women and children of the camp from the unknown assailants who happened to be from the FBI. Cour D'Alene AIM member Joseph Killright Stuntz gave his life in the defense of this encampment. A year later in Cedar Rapids, IA an all-white jury acquitted AIM organizers Darrell Butler and Robert Robideau of criminal charges because they

acted in self-defense. The FBI altered evidence and ensured the prohibition of exculpatory evidence to ensure the conviction of Leonard Peltier during his subsequent Fargo, ND Trial.

In America, the concept of rule of law can be simply exposed as the United States Constitution Article VI Clause 2 clearly defines Treaties as the supreme law of the land. Yet so-called Law Enforcement in North Dakota abandoned their oath and upheld the colonialist imposition of the United States when they failed to block Enbridge's Dakota Access Pipeline which clearly violated the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaties by crossing into sovereign Lakota lands

Today in America many are waking up to the reality that America is not, nor has ever been a nation of law and order. That Truth and Justice are not the American way. America has more human beings incarcerated than any other nation on Earth. Instead of restorative justice that respects human beings we employ a profitable system of warehousing human beings and enslaving those who are incarcerated while treating them inhumanely to increase the profit margin.

Today in America many are waking up to the reality that the struggle is between those who remember and recognize we are human beings against those who like a predator, see only material wealth and profit as their motivation. Indigenous peoples across the globe whether they are Hmong, Saami, Kuna, Lakota, Anishinabeg, Ainu, Bantu, Mvskokee etc. call themselves the people, the human beings. They remember who they are. The dominant society see's themselves as "Americans" a false term that denies their connection to themselves as a human being, their ancestors who were not "Americans" and other human beings.

Today this disconnection is visible as individuals cling to monuments and celebrations of genocide. In every city in America there is a statue, celebration or memorial to Columbus, Navarro, De Soto, Custer, etc. There are no such statues in these towns to Teshunka Witko, Piz, Titania Tanka, Techumseh, Osecola, Micanopy, Bowlegs. Etc. In many towns across the south there are statues, celebrations and memorials to the defunct Confederate States of America, yet there is no statute to the brave African men and women in America who struggled for their freedom. There are no statues in Florida to Aaron Carter or Sylvester Carrier who courageously fought off the white supremacists who massacred Africans in the Florida town of Rosewood.

In today's America a white nationalist named Trump was elected by 63 million to the White House. Now white Nationalist organizations feel empowered to commit terrorist attacks in the open with the rise of hate crimes and the violence in Charlottesville, VA which they now want to bring to Gainesville. While unquestionably revolting and vile this white nationalism is not new. Manifest Destiny, Termination, Slavery, Jim Crow, Alt-Right whatever name it has it's the same old song Indigenous, Africans in America, and other colonized peoples in Turtle Island have heard since the syphilis-infected, half-a-planet lost Admiral of the Ocean washed up in the Arawak Nation in 1492. The terrorist killing of human being Heather Heyer was sad, and many of us mourned. But as she would note, how many have mourned the murder of Savanna Lafontaine-Grey Wolf an Anishinabeg lady who was killed for her baby a few weeks ago. How many mourned Sherry Wounded Foot or any of the scores of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. How many mourned or were outraged by the hate crime killings of Wallace Black Elk Jr, or Ronald Hard Heart or Allen Two Crows? Colonialism and white nationalism's ugly face are interwoven, intertwined and run deep in this America.

FIREE and the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons recognize and celebrate the birth and the life of the true warriors for humanity and justice. Warriors like Leonard Peltier, Buddy Lamonte, Frank Clearwater, Pedro Bissonette, Joe Stuntz, Geronimo Ji Jaga (Pratt), Mumia Abu Jamal, and so many others. May Leonard Peltier's courage and heart stand as a shining testament to what we must all live up to and stand for in the resistance of colonialism and white supremacy standing for the people in the Spirit of Crazy Horse! "

Write Leonard at:

Leonard Peltier

#89637-132

USP Coleman I

P.O. Box 1033

Coleman, FL 33521

For more info: <https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/>

ATTICA UPRISING



Inmates of Attica state prison in upstate New York raise their fists to show solidarity in their demands during a negotiation session with state prisons Commissioner Russell Oswald, Sept. 10, 1971. Image obtained from : <https://nypost.com/2016/08/20/the-true-story-of-the-attica-prison-riot/>

“We are men! We are not beasts and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. The entire prison populace, that means each and every one of us here, have set forth to change forever the ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States. What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed. We will not compromise on any terms except those terms that are agreeable to us. We’ve called upon all the conscientious citizens of America to assist us in putting an end to this situation that threatens the lives of not only us, but of each and every one of you, as well.”

Elliott James "L.D." Barkley, Attica Prison 1971

The true story of the Attica prison riot. By Larry Getlen

"When a helicopter flew over the yard at Attica Correctional Facility on Sept. 13, 1971, five days into a takeover of the prison by its 1,300 inmates, some of the prisoners thought it held New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, come to help negotiate an end to the standoff. They realized their error when the gas dropped. The combination of CS and CN gas created a "thick, powdery fog" in the yard "that quickly enveloped, sickened and felled every man it touched."

But while the gas subdued the prisoners, it was merely the opening salvo in a full-on sadistic assault that set the stage for days of death and bloodshed, weeks of torture, years of pain and decades of lawsuits, investigations and recriminations. For her new book "Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy," Heather Ann Thompson tracked down long-hidden files related to the tragedy at Attica — some of which have since disappeared — to tell the saga in its full horror.

The book's many revelations include how police had removed their identification prior to the raid and how prisoners were misled into believing negotiations were ongoing at the time. Thompson reveals that

the state took its actions knowing its own employees, then being held hostage, would likely be killed. She lays out how officials as high up as President Richard Nixon supported many of these actions and how in the years following the riots, the state went to extraordinary lengths to try to obscure facts and protect offenders..."For full article please see: <https://nypost.com/2016/08/20/the-true-story-of-the-attica-prison-riot/>

-45 YEARS AFTER ATTICA UPRISING, PRISONERS ARE REBELLING AGAIN Alice Speri October 3 2016
LAST MONTH, INMATES across the country embarked on what organizers have called the largest prison strike in U.S. history, an ambitious mass protest against prison labor and inhumane prison conditions. The strike, which was the culmination of a series of renewed efforts at prison organizing in recent years, kicked off on September 9, in tribute to one of the bleakest moments in the country's history of incarceration, the uprising at the Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York.

On September 9, 1971, prisoners at the overcrowded prison seized an opportunity to gain control of the facility and took a number of hostages, inspired by earlier prison and jail uprisings and by the momentum of the liberation movements raging outside the prisons' walls. But prisoners at Attica were mostly driven by growing desperation over unbearable conditions inside: constant abuse by guards, medical neglect, lack of showers and toilet paper. Four people — one guard and three prisoners — were killed in the early hours of the riot. Then, for the next four days, a group of leaders who emerged out of the initial chaos attempted to negotiate a peaceful surrender with state officials, demanding amnesty for actions conducted during the riot, as well as access to classes, religious freedom, and fairer disciplinary practices." "“Even though the extraordinary violence that took place in 1971 was overwhelmingly perpetrated by members of law enforcement, not the prisoners, American voters ultimately did not respond to this prison uprising by demanding that states rein in police power,” Thompson writes in the book. “Instead they demanded that police be given even more support and even more punitive laws to enforce.” “Thompson’s book documents the Attica violence in painful detail: the circumstances leading up to the uprising and the lengths to which the state went to hide its responsibility. Thompson makes the case that the Attica massacre, and the lies that Americans were told about it, played a pivotal role in justifying the dehumanization of prisoners and providing political support for the mass incarceration binge the country embarked on in the decades that followed. While Attica continues to inspire resistance among prisoners, the uprising’s most lasting legacy has been one of exacerbated repression, as corrections officials stifled prison dissent and organizing and the general public turned its back to prisoners’ continuing demands for human rights and dignity.” “Today, Attica remains a prison rife with abuse rather than a monument to a massacre. Prisons nationwide are significantly more crowded today than they were in 1971, and they are often more punitive and less humane. The racial inequality that defined the prison experience then, and that essentially enabled the lynching that was the retaking of Attica, remains a defining factor of prison life and abuse. And today prisoners are once again rebelling, while states go to great lengths to silence them.” For full article please see: <https://theintercept.com/2016/10/03/45-years-after-attica-uprising-prisoners-are-rebelling-again/>

-Israel Prevents PPS Lawyer From Visiting Hunger Striking Detainee Khader Adnan September 20, 2018 "The Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) has reported, Thursday, that the administration of the al-Jalama Israeli detention facility, declined a request by one of its lawyers to visit with hunger striking detainee, Khader Adnan. In a statement, PPS lawyer Saleh Ayyoub, said that Adnan is ongoing with his strike for the 19th consecutive day. Ayyoub added that the PPS conducted all legal measures to arrange for this visit, but once he arrived at the facility, the administration claimed Adnan's medical condition prevents him for visits. The PPS said that Israel frequently prevents lawyer from visiting with hunger striking detainees, in addition to repeatedly transferring the detainees to various prisons, and constantly makes up justifications to prevent such visits. It is worth mentioning that Adnan, 40, from Arraba town, near the northern West Bank city of Jenin, started the hunger strike on September 2nd, protesting his continued detention under Administrative Detention orders, without charges. Adnan has previously held two major hunger strikes. One was a 66-day long hunger strike, in 2012, and another lasted 55 days, in 2015, in protest of his administrative detention." For full article please see:

<http://imemc.org/article/israel-prevents-pps-lawyer-from-visiting-hunger-striking-detainee-khader-adnan/>

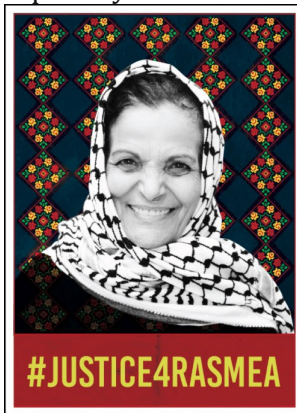
-New Data: Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Lead the Nation and World in Life Without Parole Sentences “Comprehensive Study Shows that Life Without Parole Sentences in Pennsylvania are Imposed on the Young with Alarming Racial Disparities

(Pittsburgh, PA) Philadelphia County has 2,694 people serving life without parole sentences (LWOP), which is more than any other county in the United States and far more than any other country in the world, according to a new data analysis released today by the Abolitionist Law Center. A Way Out: Abolishing Death By Incarceration in Pennsylvania [Full Report] [Abridged Report] found Pennsylvania has 5,346 people serving LWOP, making the state a national leader in the use of the punishment; only Florida, with twice the population, has more people serving LWOP. State Representative Jason Dawkins and State Senator Sharif Street have filed legislation that would allow parole eligibility for all lifers after 15 years of incarceration.

The report refers to life without parole as “Death by Incarceration” (DBI). Key findings include: Most of the people serving DBI were convicted and sentenced when they were 25 or younger, a period of life when brain development and maturation remains ongoing, according to recent neuroscientific research.” For full article please see: <http://abolitionistlawcenter.org/2018/09/18/a-way-out-abolishing-death-by-incarceration-in-pennsylvania/>

-Greetings from Rasmea in Jordan --I’ve Been Away Now for a Full Year

“Today is the one year anniversary of my deportation, and I miss you all very much. I miss the colorfulness of my life with you, and the value that you added to it! My life now is as grey as everything else in Jordan, but it would be worse without the legacy of struggle that we built together. Our wonderful, strong relationships have deep roots that continue to grow, and these lovely memories accompany me every day, especially on the difficult ones.



This summer was busy and full, despite the fact that I did not have a regular work schedule. When people ask me how my day looks, I do not have an answer! Each day is different than the previous one, and it is extremely difficult to retain my commitment to order. I have never lived a life of such spontaneity. Others cannot understand this! To release this pressure, I go to the gym at least twice a week. Caring for my health and body reenergizes me! Jordan links Palestine with all the other countries in the region, which causes a buzz here, especially during the summer, so on many days, I received visitors who were in transit to or from Palestine, as well as many from the U.S.

Some of these were already in my schedule, but I enjoyed offering space to those who were not, especially the young people, the oxygen of life and the instrument of change! I am eager to communicate with them and give them some of my time. (Coincidentally, I will be hanging out with two wonderful young Palestinian women from the U.S. Today!) Additionally, I am attempting to build a wide network of relationships with different segments of the citizenry, and restoring connections with old friends. Building

and maintaining these relationships takes time and continuous effort, while I also keep up my activism through my travels and my writing.

My dear friends and supporters, I have already told you that you are my chosen family. This is not meant as a courtesy; it is a fact. You are an inseparable part of me, the blood that ran through my veins and the oxygen that kept me alive while the U.S. government tried to suffocate me! You embraced me and stood by my side at the toughest of times. I spent more time with you than with my family. We combined joy with sadness, laughter and cheer with crying, precautions with courage, marches and demonstrations with strategic planning—all on the path to freedom, justice, and equality!

Lately, I have been pausing to recall the memories, both sweet and bitter, of my case, which persist in my heart and soul. They mean so much to me. I continue to follow your struggle in the U.S., as you, no doubt, follow my Palestinian people's struggle here in the Arab World; and I continue to see the blossoming of our collective uprising against racism, exploitation, and injustice in the U.S., Palestine, and all across the world!

Our challenges are difficult, but we must elevate our will to struggle, and our determination to succeed, so that our tree of resistance is better able to withstand the storms that we face these days! Before I close, I want to let you know that you are all, as individuals and collectively, valued treasures in my life; you are like bright full moons illuminating my darkest nights in the desert!

The power of your support flows in me despite my exile and deportation. I know that we will continue to make new memories together while accomplishing the goal of making life better for us all. I met you along my Palestinian life's journey on the path of social, political, and national resistance, and you have helped me appreciate and value it.

Our future will be full of sunshine, happiness, and love. We will draw strength from each other, because "that which does not kill me will strengthen me," and I add, "...will also provide me with courage, confidence, and steadfastness." Even with the pain that was inflicted on me by the unjust deportation that turned my life upside down and forced me to re-arrange my entire life, I will never be discouraged or disillusioned! As I have already said so many times, I will continue my organizing wherever I land!

And so on this occasion, I want to repeat a piece of the poem I read in Arabic at [my farewell event last year](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=XaYbf3MDV2o):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=XaYbf3MDV2o>

لن أَدع الأبعاد يكسرني
ولا المسافات تعزلني
دروس الثورة علمتني
بأن حبوب القمح
إذا جفت

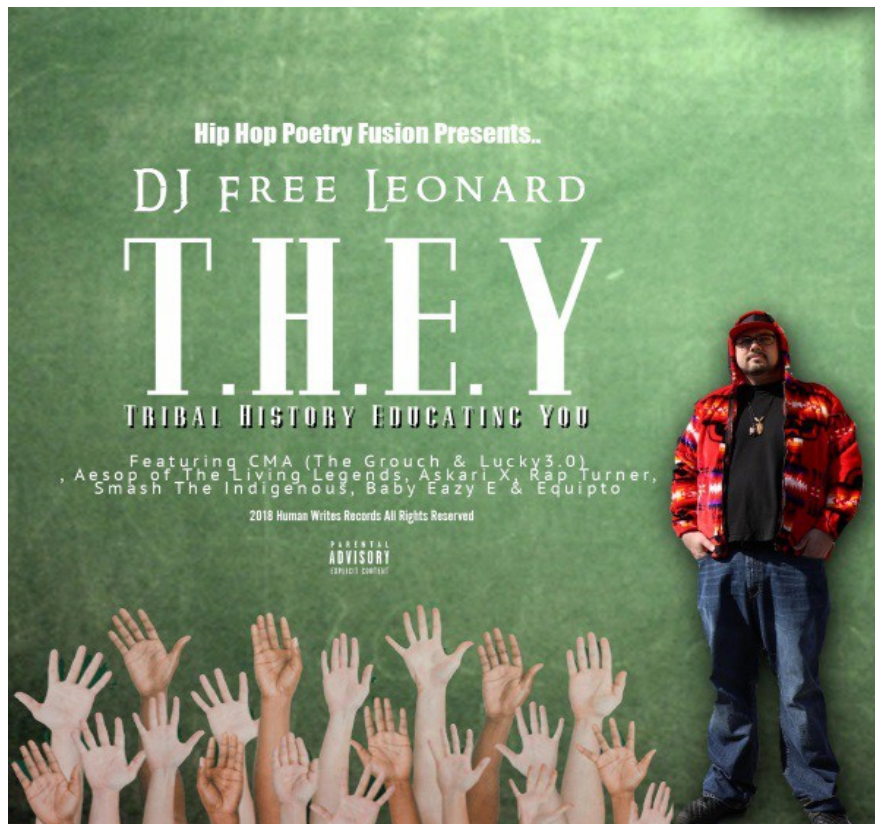
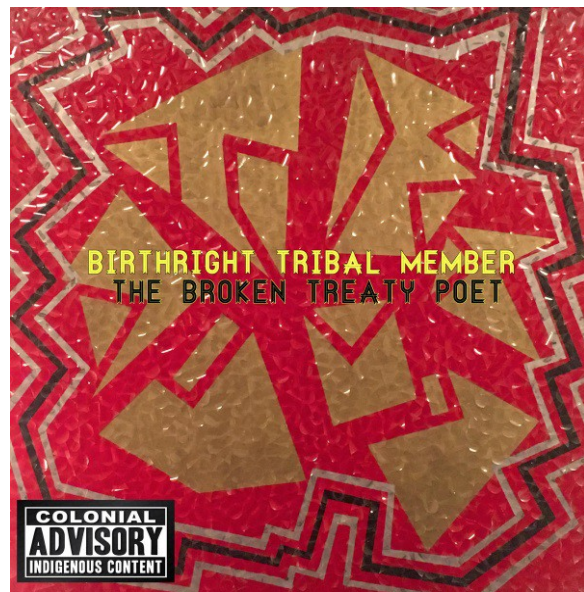
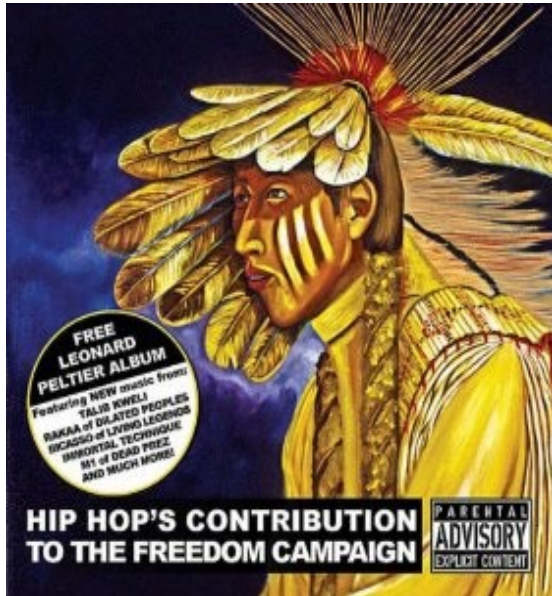
تملاً سنابلها الوديان

*I will not let the deportation break me
Nor distance isolate me
The lessons of the revolution taught me
That if wheat grain dries
It fills the valleys with stalks*

I miss and love you all very much.

Rasmea Odeh
September 19, 2018 “

-DJ Free Leonard



“Educator/Author/DJ Free Leonard Also Known As The Broken Treaty Poet is as much anthropological artist as he is community organizer. By weaving potent Indigenous messages into his rhymes, the Oakland born artist arrives with a distinct delivery that wraps a political education into his culturally inspired songs.

He was raised working in the community for several years as he honed his writing before he began recording audio/visual reflections of his White Earth Chippewa Tribe. His efforts have grown exponentially since 2013 when he spoke and performed before over 3,000 audience members on Alcatraz Island at the Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony.

His latest release "T.H.E.Y. EP" is themed after DJ Free Leonard's spoken word performances and discussions in Bay Area classrooms on Indigenous History, Culture, Art and Politics. "Using Hip Hop As A Tool For Liberation" is a phrase he wrote describing his amazing crafting of Indigenous terms and ideas with a very unique Spoken Word style and combined it with modern Hip Hop Production and well known MC's - "I feel like Hip Hop can be utilized to educate about so many Injustices and in particular the atrocities going on against Indigenous People worldwide" said DJ Free Leonard.

DJ Free Leonard has released several project's since 2010 which including five albums - "Free Leonard Peltier: Hip Hop's Contribution To The Freedom Campaign", "Free Peltier, Free Em All! Documentary" - "DJ Free Leonard: A Struggle For Human Rights" - "DJ Free Leonard: Assimilate Or Eliminate" - "DJ Free Leonard: Electrify The Masses EP" - a book of poetry: "Broken Treaty Poet: Birthright Tribal Member", over 20 music videos, several which have been in rotation on First Nations Network- cable channel and numerous live performances including the Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco (2013) & opening for Rakim (2015) "

<https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/product/djfreeleonard/>

Leonard Peltier Freedom Ride at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

Join us at 1:30 pm to welcome the Peltier Freedom Riders at the Castillo de San Marcos, 1S Castillo Dr. St. Augustine, FL. **EVENT DETAILS**

The Leonard Peltier Freedom Ride is a horse ride by Dakota descendants of the 38 Dakota hung on Dec. 26th 1862 by the order of President Abe Lincoln. The riders as well as other human beings will be seeking healing, reconciliation and justice for Indigenous people and our brother Leonard Peltier 89637-132. The riders left Mankato, MN July 28th and have traveled more than 1500 miles.

We invite people to come meet the riders and join the call to FREE LEONARD PELTIER! Sunday Sept. 16th at 1:30pm at the National Monument Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, FL.

The riders will arrive at the Castillo and enter to pray for their ancestors and seek reconciliation, health and justice. <https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/home/events/>

-FBI sought electric chair execution of Black Panther leaders in Omaha by richardsonreports

"On December 4, 1969, in a Federal Bureau of Investigation orchestrated pre-dawn raid in Chicago, Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were shot to death. Fourteen handpicked policemen, armed with twenty-seven firearms including a Thompson submachine and shotguns, converged on Hampton's apartment at 4:45 a.m. Police fired a barrage into the quiet apartment killing the two Panther leaders and wounding all of the other occupants. Attorney Paul Wolf has commented on a December 8, 1969 raid in Los Angeles. "Four days after a similar raid on a Panther apartment in Chicago, forty men of the Special Weapons and Tactics squad, with more than a hundred regular police as backup, raided the Los Angeles Panther headquarters at 5:30 in the morning. The Panthers chose to defend themselves, and for four hours they fought off police, refusing to surrender until press and public were on the scene. Six of them were wounded. Thirteen were arrested. Miraculously, none of them were killed." For full article please see: <https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2018/09/13/fbi-sought-electric-chair-execution-of-black-panther-leaders-in-omaha/>

-Leonard Peltier vs. J. Edgar Hoover: Still haunted by the ghost of COINTELPRO Thursday, September 20, 2018 by Jane Stillwater "You should see my fabulous new "Free Leonard Peltier" T-shirt! It's the best souvenir of Florida that I could possibly find. Long story." "Leonard's tragic saga first began back in 1924

when that un-American rat-fink J. Edgar Hoover became the first director of the FBI and began turning his new-found powers to the Dark Side. Even now, even 46 years after J. Edgar's death, we are still discovering more and more info regarding all the dirty tricks Hoover played on America's working class, justice-seekers, intellectuals and people of color. Trust me, this guy was bad news -- the proud father of the FBI's duplicitous, divisive, perfidious, sneaky, unjust and subversive reputation, one that the FBI still struggles with to this day." For full article please see: <https://jpstillwater.blogspot.com/2018/09/leonard-peltier-vs.html>

-The Remarkable Life of Eddie Hatcher, Gay Indigenous Political Prisoner (1948-2009) "Tune in to "Out-FM": Tues., Sept. 18 from 9:00-9:30 PM EST On WBAI/Pacifica, 99.5 FM, streaming live at <http://wbai.org/playernew.html> Archived 10 min. after the show at <http://wbai.org/archive.php> (scroll down to 9 PM Tues.) (This is one part of the 9-10 PM show cohosted by Bob Lederer and John Riley) Guests: Dr. Malinda Maynor Lowery, Associate Professor of History and Director, Center for the Study of the American South, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, author of the new book, *The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle*, and herself a Lumbee Dr. Mab Segrest, Professor Emeritus of Gender and Women's Studies at Connecticut College, author of, among other books, the classic *Memoirs of a Race Traitor*, largely about her work as a white lesbian activist with North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence in the 1980s.

Host: Bob Lederer This segment is another in our continuing series spotlighting courageous LGBTQ activists who took great risks to fight for radical change, not necessarily including the issue of gay rights, and faced or served prison time as a result -- and in some cases, became political prisoners. In this segment, our guests will tell the story of the late Eddie Hatcher, a gay Tuscarora activist in Robeson County, North Carolina, a very poor rural area with a large majority population of African Americans and indigenous people. The late 1980s witnessed over 20 unsolved murders of Black and Native peoples and the refusal of law enforcement to find the killers and bring them to justice, sometimes because those killers were themselves cops or sheriffs. These deaths were closely tied to a culture of government corruption connected to the drug trade.

In the face of unending racist brutality, Eddie Hatcher became one of many local residents -- Tuscarora, Lumbee, Black, and white -- who formed a reform group called Concerned Citizens for Better Government that pressured local government to address these problems. In 1988, Eddie, then 30, seeing the ineffectiveness of these methods and fearing for his life after obtaining a document that suggested involvement of many local officials in the drug trade, teamed up with a 19-year-old fellow Tuscarora activist, Timothy Jacobs, and stormed the offices of the town's daily newspaper. The two held 20 staff members at gunpoint for ten hours. They released the hostages unharmed after the North Carolina Governor agreed to their demand to appoint a task force to investigate "the unsolved murders of Indians, alleged drug trafficking, the county criminal justice system and conditions at the county jail." The action brought national media attention to the entrenched racism and corruption of Robeson County. Hatcher and Jacobs were charged under the then-new federal anti-terrorism act, and acquitted by a majority-Black jury. But then the state prosecuted them for kidnapping, a local jury convicted them, and they were sentenced to 18 years. In prison, Hatcher later told the national gay magazine *The Advocate* that he was exposed to HIV during unprotected gay sex in prison and almost died due to denial of adequate care. After 7 years, due to considerable nationwide pressure -- including from Amnesty International, the National Council of Churches and various Congressmembers -- Hatcher was released. Yet just 6 years later, in 2001, Hatcher was again charged, this time with shooting to death a local resident from a truck 200 feet away from that person's house. Prosecutors sought the death penalty. He insisted on his innocence, and supporters said that the prosecution was retaliation for his early release and his more recent continued anti-corruption activism. Despite a lack of evidence, he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Due to continuing inadequate medical care, Eddie Hatcher died of AIDS in prison in 2009 at the age of 51. For more information on Eddie Hatcher's life, go to: 1999 brochure explaining legal cases, by Defense Committee

http://freedomarchives.org/Documents/Finder/DOC510_scans/Native_Prisoners/510.eddie.hatcher.execution.date.pdf UNC exhibit about the newspaper takeover by Hatcher & Jacobs
<https://exhibits.lib.unc.edu/exhibits/show/indians-take-back-roberson/background>
Article in national HIV/AIDS magazine about Hatcher being openly gay and living with HIV
<https://www.poz.com/article/Hatch-a-Plan-7665-6388>

-2019 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar

“This is the main project I work on year-round and I finally have something to show for it. The **2019 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar** is back from the printer and it looks great. I hope you can get your hands on one or a stack. All of our proceeds go to groups that work on prison issues like Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) and Addameer (Palestinian political prisoner association). One cool thing is we have a new distributor, [Burning Books](#) in Buffalo, NY, and they are offering FREE SHIPPING on orders over \$25. In this case, that's two calendars or feel free to buy one of our calendars and any number of their excellent books. Its also a steal if you buy 10 as its only \$100 and you can sell each for \$15, keeping the extra 5 dollars for yourself or your project. Thanks so much for checking this out. Daniel

We are happy to announce that pre-sales for the 2019 Certain Days calendar have begun! You can order in the United States, Canada and Internationally at:

- **US orders**-><https://burningbooks.com/products/certain-days-2019-calendar-awakening-resistance>
- **Canadian orders** (1-9 copies)-><https://www.leftwingbooks.net/book/content/certain-days-freedom-political-prisoners-calendar-2019>
- **Canadian Bulk** (10 copies+) --> scroll down at <https://www.certaindays.org/order/>
- **Prisoner copies (only \$8)**--> <https://www.certaindays.org/order/prisoners/>
- **Outside of North America**--> <https://www.certaindays.org/order/>



Certain Days 2019: Health/Care The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal, Hamilton, New York and Baltimore, in partnership with a political prisoner being held in maximum-security prison in New York State, David Gilbert. Co-founders Robert Seth Hayes and Herman Bell were released from prison in 2018. Your group can buy 10 or more for the rate of \$10 each and then sell them for \$15, keeping the difference for your organization. Many campaigns, infoshops and projects do this as a way of raising funds and spreading awareness about political prisoners. Use the discount code "BULK" to get 10 or more calendars for \$10 each. This year's theme is "Health/Care," and features art and writings by David Gilbert, Bec Young, RISE: Radical Indigenous Survivance and Empowerment, Aviva Stahl, Debbie, Mike and Chuck Africa, Roger Peet, Addameer, Leah Jo Carnine, Suzy Subways, Farha Najah, Ashanti Alston, Alec Dunn, Barbara Zeller, Hikaru Ikeda, Giselle Dias, Micah Bazant, Alisha Walker, Fernando Marti, Sins Invalid, Tom Manning, Dave George, Laura Whitehorn, Frizz Kid, Abolitionist Law Center, Cindy Milstein, and more. The proceeds from Certain Days 2019 will be divided among these groups: Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association (Palestine), Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) and other groups in need. Don't forget- if you buy 10 or more, be sure to use the discount code "BULK" to get 10 or more calendars for \$10 each. love,Certain Days collective”

-Abolishing Death By Incarceration in Pennsylvania – Abolitionist Law Center September 18, 2018

"New Data: Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Lead the Nation and World in Life Without Parole Sentences Comprehensive Study Shows that Life Without Parole Sentences in Pennsylvania are Imposed on the Young with Alarming Racial Disparities (Pittsburgh, PA) Philadelphia County has 2,694 people serving life without parole sentences (LWOP), which is more than any other county in the United States and far more

than any other country in the world, according to a new data analysis released today by the Abolitionist Law Center. A Way Out: Abolishing Death By Incarceration in Pennsylvania [Full Report] [Abridged Report] found Pennsylvania has 5,346 people serving LWOP, making the state a national leader in the use of the punishment; only Florida, with twice the population, has more people serving LWOP. State Representative Jason Dawkins and State Senator Sharif Street have filed legislation that would allow parole eligibility for all lifers after 15 years of incarceration." For full article please see: <http://abolitionistlawcenter.org/2018/09/18/a-way-out-abolishing-death-by-incarceration-in-pennsylvania/>

-Leonard Peltier: Join the likes of other owners of Leonard Peltier Paintings Winona Ryder - Oliver Stone - Val Kilmer - Willie Nelson Purchase a painting today. We have payment options available. Leonard's paintings are a true reflection of the Native Community he loves."



STICKERS
Greeting Cards
RAFFLE
Prints

PRINTS
Lithographs
TSHIRTS
Paintings

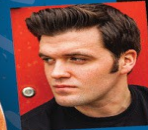
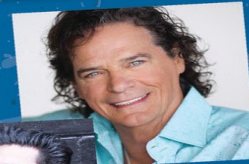
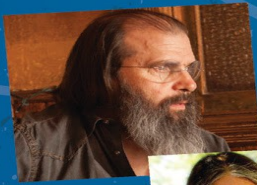
A BENEFIT FOR LEONARD PELTIER

IN THE SPIRIT OF
Crazy Horse

FEATURING

JAMEY JOHNSON
STEVE EARLE
JESSE DAYTON

BJ THOMAS
KEITH SECOLA
PETER COYOTE
ROD MELANCON



VERIZON THEATER — DALLAS, TX
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018 AT 7:30PM

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE VERIZON THEATRE BOX OFFICE LOCATED
AT 1001 PERFORMANCE PLACE, GRAND PRAIRIE, TX, 75050. OR
OVER THE PHONE BY CALLING 888-929-7849 OR
ONLINE BY VISITING WWW.AXS.COM

-YouTube Video of Cuban President in Harlem!

"The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

For those of you who missed Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez's visit to Harlem, please enjoy this YouTube video produced by Joe Friendly": https://youtu.be/k_3uTo0_6a0

-Keith LaMar Execution Motion Response September 28, 2018

"An execution date should not be scheduled because Mr LaMar's death sentence is precisely the sort identified by the Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty. Mr LaMar's conviction rests on prisoner testimony which is not independently corroborated; there is no physical or video evidence linking him to the crimes and he has always maintained his innocence. Evidence supporting Mr LaMar's innocence is slowly coming to light after dogged efforts to unearth such proof following years of suppression." -excerpt from motion."

"Keith LaMar's attorneys filed this response to prosecutor Mark Piepmeier's motion requesting an execution date. Piepmeier was lead attorney on the Lucasville Uprising cases, and largely responsible for egregious misconduct and deal-making that secured these convictions based on informant testimony and withheld evidence. He has a documented pattern of doing the same to other defendants." Please see full article here: <https://incarceratedworkers.org/resources/keith-lamar-execution-motion-response>

--The day the story changed about the Black Panthers and an Omaha policeman's murder

September 28, 2018 - Michael Richardson "The Omaha Municipal Court preliminary hearing for Ed Poindexter and David Rice (later Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa) was called to order on September 28, 1970. Both defendants asked their murder cases be severed and tried separately but were denied. County Attorney Donald Knowles and Arthur O'Leary represented the prosecution, Public Defender A.Q. Wolf and Thomas Kenney represented Poindexter, with David Herzog representing Rice. The two men were leaders of Omaha's affiliate chapter of the Black Panther Party called the National Committee to Combat Fascism. The pair were charged with the bombing murder of Omaha Patrolman Larry Minard, Sr. on August 11, 1970. Peak confessed to planting the bomb and after six versions ended up implicating the Black Panther pair during his preliminary hearing testimony, however only after contradicting himself." Please see full story here : <https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2018/09/28/the-day-the-story-changed-about-the-black-panthers-and-an-omaha-policemans-murder/>

-The Black Panther Party Film Festival 10 September 28th-29th, October 5th- 6th

"Presented by the Black Panther Party Commemoration Committee Dedicated to Point #10 of Black Panther Party 10 Point Platform & Program We Want Land, Bread, Housing, Education, Clothing, Justice and Peace.

Below you will find some of the work we have been doing to enhance the Revolutionary Spirit of the Black Panther Party and support financially the Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War that continue to dwell in the Prisoner Industrial Complex of America.

All Power To The People!

Saturday, September 29th, 4:00pm

"Symbols of Resistance: A Tribute To The Martyrs Of The Chicano@ Movement"

Freedom Archives, 2017, 75 min

Symbols of Resistance illuminates the untold stories of the Chicano@ Movement with a focus on events in Colorado and New Mexico. The film engages student activists, the effect of police repression, and how issues of identity, land, and community still resonate in the Chicano@ struggles of today. Through interviews with those who shaped the movement and rare historical footage, Symbols of Resistances offers a window into a dynamic moment in history and movement building. Interviews include prominent Chicano leader Priscilla Falcón, activist lawyer Francisco "Kiko" Martinez, Mexican Liberation organizer Ricardo Romero, former director of El Pueblo History Museum Deborah Espinosa, and veteran reporter, photographer, and newspaper editor Juan Espinosa.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hW2rvP9_f48&feature=youtu.be

7:00pm "Marcus Garvey: Look For Me In the Whirlwind" Stanley Nelson, 2002, 90 min This powerful installment in PBS's "American Experience" series chronicles the dramatic rise and fall of Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican-born activist who immigrated to the United States and set up headquarters for the Universal

Negro Improvement Association. The program compiles film footage, photographs and writings of the era and includes interviews with the descendents of men and women who aligned themselves with Garvey's movement. Panel discussion Lewis Ersking Film Editor & Sekou Odinga former Political Prisoner Moderated by Cyril "Bullwhip" Inns Jr. of the Black Panther Party Commemoration Committee.

Friday, October 5th, 7:00pm

"William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe"

Sarah and Emily Kunstler, 2009, 90 min

William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe examines the life of this radical attorney from a surprising angle. Kunstler's two daughters from his second marriage grew up lionizing a man already famous for his historic civil rights and anti-war cases. Then, in their teens, they began to be disillusioned by a stubborn man who continued representing some of the most reviled defendants in America — this time accused rapists and terrorists. In this intimate biography, Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler seek to recover the real story of what made their late father one of the most beloved, and hated, lawyers in America. Winner of the L'Oreal Paris Women of Worth Vision Award, 2009 Sundance Film Festival. A co-production of ITVS.

Panel discussion with Attorneys Stu Ball & Joel Myrom

Moderated by King Downing of the Black Panther Party Commemoration Committee.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/dYYLBDTMNWU>

Saturday, October 6th, 4:00pm

"One Woman Show" featuring Ksisay Sadiki* Panther Cub*

"Slavery by Another Name" Samuel D. Pollard, 2012, 90 min

Slavery by Another Name challenges one of Americans' most cherished assumptions: the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the South in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality. It was a system in which men, often guilty of no crime at all, were arrested, compelled to work without pay, repeatedly bought and sold, and coerced to do the bidding of masters. Tolerated by both the North and South, forced labor lasted well into the 20th century.

For most Americans this is entirely new history. Slavery by Another Name gives voice to the largely forgotten victims and perpetrators of forced labor and features their descendants living today.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/KSOwAJAn6as>

7:00pm "One Woman Show" featuring Ksisay Sadiki* Panther Cub*

"Winnie"

Pascale Lamche, 2017, 98 minutes

Winnie Madikizela Mandela is one of the most misunderstood and intriguingly powerful contemporary female political figures. Her rise and seeming fall from grace bear the hallmarks of epic tragedy. For the first time, this film pieces together and properly considers her life and contribution to the struggle to bring down Apartheid from the inside, with intimate insight from those who were closest to her and with testimony from the enemies who sought to extinguish her radical capacity to shake up the order of things. While her husband was kept, paradoxically, both safe and morally uncontaminated, in jail for 27 long years, Winnie rode the tumultuous violence of a life of struggle far from the safety of exile abroad, eyeball-to-eyeball with a seemingly immutable and vicious apartheid enemy controlling the country. She came to symbolize the oppression of her people while her unwillingness to lie down and take it, during the long years in which the ANC languished in exile and incarceration, incited them to get organized. She was the barometer for the political temperature in the country and brushed patriarchal and conservative conventions aside, within her own culture, by keeping a finger on the pulse of the youth and by leading from the front."

"Followed by a closing reception and after party. "

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jwHnyJYUjE>

-The Prison Struggle Continues (2018) by Kevin Rashid Johnson



“-It's been some years since I've been able to communicate through radio outlets. This on account of a series of transfers between various states' prison systems—from Virginia to Oregon, then Texas to Florida and back to Virginia—as reprisals for my political work and publicizing the inhumane conditions and abuses that pervade U.S. prisons in general and specific to each prison system I've been confined to.

In each state I've been rewarded with solitary confinement and increasing extremes in my living conditions. These responses to my efforts prove the importance and power of media outlets that enable prisoners' words to reach the public, giving those on the outside a look inside of the lived reality of the world's largest disposal site for marginalized people and organized system of modern slavery.

And let there be no doubt about it. Slavery is alive and well in Amerika. In fact it was reformed at the end of the Civil War and preserved by the 13th Amendment which gave the state the power to impose slavery on those convicted of crimes. And in many cases, its conditions today are as brutal and dehumanizing as anything during the antebellum era.

I've witnessed and endured some of its cruelest extremes in places like Florida where prisons are literally run by the Klan. This because in general the culture of many U.S. prisons is such that they provide a haven for groups like the KKK and neo-Nazis within their administrations and among their rank and file staff. It's a culture where the fear and deference of prisoners toward their captors (conditioned through outright violent terror) replicates almost exactly that of Blacks towards whites under the chattel slavery and Jim Crow systems of the Old South. The absolute power of prison officials is no less extreme. And they exercise that power just as arbitrarily.

But oppression breeds resistance and a movement is underway where prisoners across the U.S. are staging a range of protests in opposition to slave labor and inhumane treatment in U.S. Prisons. This movement needs not just public awareness but public support, not just allies, but comrades on the outside.

Please give your active support to this struggle since it seeks not only the recognition and respect of the humanity of U.S. prisoners, but it also seeks conditions that will lead to their healing and betterment, and not to creating people—as the present system does—who often leave these places in a worse state than when they came in. Slavery and abuse do not teach people how to be free!

Dare to struggle, Dare to win!

All power to the people! “

Write to

Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

#1007485

Sussex 1

24414 Musselwhite Drive

Waverly, VA 23891-1111

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Public Panel Set For Peltier Cause

'From: Johnny Buschardt <jbuschardt@gmail.com> Date: Mon, September 24, 2018 11:01 am PRESS
RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 24, 2018 Contact: Johnny Buschardt
jbuschardt@gmail.com PUBLIC PANEL SET FOR PELTIER CAUSE

'Celebrities and Experts To Host Public Panel Outlining Activist's Cause Celebrity and expert supporters of Native American activist Leonard Peltier will host a public panel in advance of the star-studded benefit concert slated to take place in Dallas next month. The Leonard Peltier Public Panel will give the public the opportunity to learn more about the activist, his imprisonment, and the growing movement calling for his freedom. The Leonard Peltier Public Panel will take place on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Verizon Theater in Grand Prairie, TX. Those slated to attend include Paulette D'Auteuil of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (ILPDC); Connie Nelson, ex-wife of Willie Nelson and longtime Peltier supporter, and multi-E Emmy-winning actor, director, narrator, and activist Peter Coyote.

"So many people have heard Leonard's name, often through calls for justice by Amnesty International, Nelson Mandela, and more, but few people are fully aware of Leonard's case and his cause," says Johnny Buschardt, board member of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. "We wanted to give everyone the opportunity to educate themselves and to ask questions of experts and people who have not only known Leonard for years, but who have been active in his cause since 1977."

The event acts as a precursor to In The Spirit of Crazy Horse: a Benefit for Leonard Peltier, an all-star concert featuring Jamey Johnson, Steve Earle, BJ Thomas, Keith Secola, Rod Melancon, Jesse Dayton, and Coyote. Tickets for the concert are on sale now and can be purchased in person at the Verizon Theater box office, over the phone at 888-929-7849, or online at www.AXS.com. All proceeds will benefit Peltier and his legal defense.

Peltier was convicted in the 1975 death of two FBI agents, in a trial that has been the subject of much controversy; Amnesty International placed his case under the "Unfair Trials" category of its Annual Report: USA 2010, and leaders and activists ranging from Pope Francis and Nelson Mandela to Archbishop Desmond Tutu and U2 lead singer Bono have called for his release. Paulette Dauteuil has served on the ILPDC board for years, which represents Peltier and his interests. Connie Nelson, a longtime Peltier supporter, is the former wife (and still dear friend) to music legend Willie Nelson. Peter Coyote is an American actor, author, director, screenwriter and narrator. He is known for performing in films including E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Jagged Edge, Patch Adams, and Erin Brockovich. He narrated the PBS series The Pacific Century, winning an Emmy, and six documentaries by Ken Burns. He won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Narrator in 2015 for his work on The Roosevelts. For more information, or media requests, please contact Johnny Buschardt. Johnny Buschardt 918-402-1109 jbuschardt@gmail.com

-

Jericho Movement's Current Work and Progress

National Jericho members are one month away from the yearly retreat. It will take place November 2nd -4th in Portland, Oregon. **Jericho will provide a Report Back** after the retreat on agenda items and new developments.

Jericho actively maintains direct connections with our political prisoner by visiting or writing them monthly. We also maintain contact and assists their families as available. We monitor health & legal status and provide support and intervention. We hold political education classes, table at events, give presentations, interviews and speak on radio shows. We are actively involved in collaborating with and supporting other organizations and events which are in alignment with our missions and values to break down walls of injustice, racism, oppression and Free our Political Prisoners. Jericho meetings occurred

during the month of September across the nation. The campaign "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela" met in NYC on September 8th. The next meeting TBD.

Thinking forward-we will be updating our website, increasing our international reach to build continued solidarity and plan to create additional resources for our Political Prisoners/POW's and their families.

The Jericho Movement has initiated as well as supported and participated in many rallies, events and calls to action this month. We are happy to announce that the **Boston Chapter (Jericho Boston)** has been started. Please see **their event** in the Community News section. NYC Jericho has been very active, please see their report below:

NYC JERICHO ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES SEPTEMBER 2018

Support for Our PPs & POWs

The weekend of September 9th, NYC Chapter Members, Anne Lamb and Ann Jaffe, and Jericho National Co-Chair, Jihad Abdulmumit, visited Jericho Co-Founder POW Jalil Muntaqim. This was the occasion of an emotional reunion, as Jihad and Jalil had not visited in a couple of years. It was inspiring for our chapter members as they caught up and exchanged important views and news of the work being done and what was happening with family members. Jalil also received his September food package.

The Weekend of September 22nd, Jericho Chapter members also brought food items for Jalil and discussed ongoing Jericho work and the Spirit of Mandela Campaign Initiative.

During the month of September NYC Jericho ordered and sent a food package to Political Prisoner Joy Powell, who was an anti-police brutality activist in Rochester, NY, framed on false charges. For more information on her case: freejoypowell.org. We are planning to visit her soon and are trying to get a lawyer to represent her. She is currently pro se in several legal appeals and would like to consult with an attorney.

On September 16, 2018 we participated in the Freedom Fighters Contingent in the 49th Annual African American Day Parade. The Contingent distributed more than 5,000 palm cards, including Jalil Muntaqim's parole palm card and the Jericho palm card. The crowd was very responsive and joined in our chants: "Freedom fighters are still in prison while killer cops go free!" and "What's the call? Free them all!" 11X17 Posters of our PPs and POWs and Ancestors were made available by the NYC Chapter.

For the historic welcoming for newly elected Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, at Riverside Church, members of our NYC Jericho Chapter were active in the mobilization by doing publicity and selling tickets. In addition, Jericho Member Frank Velgara was the Co-MC along with Gail Walker, Executive Director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace. Ann J and Anne L drove to White Plains in the pouring rain on Tuesday, Sept. 25th to pick up the eight boxes of journals and bring them to Frankie's for transportation to Riverside. Anne L also brought 2 boxes of programs that evening to Frankie's. Kazi Toure came from Jericho Boston to be present for this historic event. Ann J. was able to be at Riverside early, and distributed Jericho and Jalil palm cards, in addition to collecting signatures on Jalil's parole petition. NYC Jericho members produced both the journal and the program for the event.

Stand by for more important news about our ongoing work and activities during the month of October 2018. NY Tri-State activists and residents can contact NYC Jericho at: nycjericho@gmail.com or calling (718) 325-4407. Free Them All!

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Campaign

Jericho is spearheading the “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela” campaign proposed by political prisoner and co-founder of the National Jericho Movement Jalil Abdul Muntaqim. This initiative appeals to the international community, including the International Commission of Jurists, to call for special hearings within the United Nations to review the cases of Political Prisoners. Several meetings have already occurred in collaboration with interested others, and much headway is being made regarding organizing efforts. Please contact: nycjericho@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming involved. We invite you to support this initiative.

“Set your calendars now: The International Tribunal on U.S. Human Rights Violations and Political Prisoners (ITUSHRPP) is set to take place in **October 2021**. We intend to document, in detailed evidentiary form and utilizing all available contemporary human rights precedents, the gross violations faced by colonized people and those who have defended basic self determination principles. But this will not be a narrow or dry legalistic affair. This people’s Tribunal is designed to both educate and mobilize, so renewed fight back movements can emerge and be strengthened. We are aware that we stand on formidable shoulders.

In the 1940’s, W.E.B. DuBois first petitioned the newly-formed United Nations regarding the rights of U.S.-born people of African descent; in the 1950’s Paul Robeson was one of a number who “Charged Genocide” against the U.S. government to the global body. Minister Malcolm X’s formation in 1964 of the Organization of Afro-American Unity was part of a direct campaign to put the case of “the 22 million Black people who are the victims of Americanism” before the Organization of African Unity and the U.N. On Human Rights Day 1978, attorney Lennox Hinds— working on behalf of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, and the National Alliance Against Racism—petitioned the UN’s Human Rights Commission, resulting in a team of seven international jurists investigating cases of gross violations pertaining to U.S. political prisoners. Throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s, Dr. Luis Nieves Falcon and a wide array of petitioners held a variety of Tribunals in Europe, the U.S., and Puerto Rico, with verdicts indicating further abuses of the U.S. prison, police, political, and military systems. And in 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee issued a report criticizing the U.S. for 25 distinct violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We are aware that the people’s voice—including the voices of our long-incarcerated elders—must be heard.

Mutulu Shakur asserted the need for a U.S. process of truth and reconciliation, and many have begun to discuss and implement grassroots forum for truth-telling, where witnesses listen and reflect upon voices “from the margins” to organize for an end to structural and militarized state violence. Jalil Muntaqim has called for campaigns “in the spirit of Mandela,” where the international social and political context which helped revise the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in 2015 be utilized in the case of those incarcerated in the U.S. Our International Tribunal will call for testimony from both sides of the wall, both on issues of the torturous conditions of political imprisonment and on the root colonial and neo-

colonial conditions and repression which inevitably lead to growing numbers of political prisoners. We will not separate the work to free our prisoners with the work to free the land, and for ultimate liberation of all.”

As we continue to launch the In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela, Bring Back the International Jurists Campaign, we are providing links to some important documents. One of these is the United Nations Mandela Rules, unanimously passed by the Security Council in December of 2015. Another important document is Jalil Muntaqim’s essay regarding the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the

International Jurists. Please see links and Docs at: <http://www.freejalil.com/2017juristsUN.html> also in **German!!** [Click here to read the Report of International Jurists—Visit with Human Rights Petitioners in the United States, August 3-20, 1979.](#)

Political Prisoner/Prisoner of War, Jalil Muntaqim states in his blog “recently the Jericho Amnesty Movement embarked on a new national and international campaign to persuade the U.N. International Jurists to initiate a formal investigation on human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners. To further demand the U.S. Corporate Government implement the U.N. Minimum Standards on the Treatment of Prisoners, and for the immediate release of our political prisoners. This especially calls for the release of those with COINTELPRO convictions who have languished in prison for 30 to 50 years. These political prisoners were contemporaries of Nelson Mandela; when he was fighting against Apartheid in South Afrika, they were fighting against Jim Crow segregation and second-class citizenship in the U.S. This Jericho campaign motto is “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela” and activists across the country are urged to join and support in whatever way they are able in political solidarity toward the building of the National Coalition for the Human Rights of Political Prisoners”. (<http://www.freejalil.com/blog47.html>).

Please read our invitation below and contact us if you are interested in endorsing, sponsoring or otherwise becoming involved in “The Spirit of Nelson Mandela” initiative.

“Greetings of Peace!

“It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” —Nelson Mandela

The IN THE SPIRIT OF NELSON MANDELA COALITION invites you to join our campaign to develop an International Coalition to acknowledge, recognize and push for the release of US held Political Prisoners. The conditions under which US political prisoners are forced to live and the length of their sentences violates international law and the UN Nelson Mandela Rules. In December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted its landmark resolution 70/175 entitled “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)” (<https://www.penalreform.org/priorities/prison-conditions/standard-minimum-rules/>). These Rules condemn the United States’ policies and practices of punitive solitary confinement, medical neglect and long term solitary confinement. This particular international initiative stems from a call from Political Prisoner and co-founder of the National Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners, Jalil Abdul Muntaqim. Although efforts to present our issues in the international arena certainly aren’t new—Malcolm X urged such in the 1960s—this Initiative begins with a much needed renewed energy, focus and commitment.

While constantly organizing and soliciting endorsers and sponsors, our first campaign objective was to contact the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) (<https://www.icj.org>) to initiate a formal investigation into the holding of Political Prisoners in the United States. Representatives from the ICJ had come to the United States before in 1979 to visit Political prisoners Sundiata Acoli and Ed Poindexter. Some forty years later these prisoners still remain in prison. Ultimately, we hope to use this investigation to bring the following results:

- Generate international awareness and attention
- Implore the United Nation to convene a Truth and Reconciliation Tribunal to explore, expose and address the social, economic and political historic conditions of people of color, and particularly black people in the United States, revolutionaries and movement organizations that struggle against these conditions, and the government’s brutal and illegal response to those organizations and people resulting in the deaths and incarcerations of hundreds
- Build political and legal pressure to call for the release of Political Prisoners

We realize that we have a difficult job ahead, but the more national and international solidarity we garner, the

greater the chances for victory. We hope you will join the campaign by -

1. Agreeing to support by clearly identifying your organization and contact person;
2. Providing your accurate email and phone number (We will keep you informed of developments of this initiative); and
3. Partaking of the unique experience of collectively brain storming strategies to bring this struggle to the international arena and to the United Nations.

Your input is valued at any level.

In solidarity,

The National Jericho Movement

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Coalition”



FREE ALL U.S. HELD POLITICAL PRISONERS!!!

Moving Forward

As we move towards accomplishing our goals, we seek to continue to form new alliances, to help build a more unified front both nationally and internationally. We look forward to expanding our scope of services as well as increasing our dedicated members, especially reaching out to the youth to carry on the torch of justice for not only our beloved freedom fighter's who are now elders **still** in these dungeons , but also for those Political Prisoner's who are to come in the future-and surely they will, given the escalating oppression and fascism that is swiftly seeping through every “right” in this country. Unless a sudden change permeates the power structures, the number of political prisoner's will grow. COINTELPRO is still alive and running many missives in which to entrap those who oppose the tyrannical, oppressive & racism regime. In the many decades of their operations they have become even more cunning and sophisticated. Our hope is to unify the people who truly want to move forward towards a better future for all, **not just some**-and to use the power of unified numbers to stand as strong as a spider web against those who have chosen a destructive path to abolish human rights.

As our Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War are aging and too many have already died behind these dungeon walls, it is imperative that we as a collective, continue to go even harder in the quest for their freedom. They have been waiting patiently... for 30, 40, 50 years. “For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”—**Nelson Mandela**

As Jericho has withstood many obstacles in the past 20 years, we are still here, and we will not fall back. We are relentless in bringing our beloved freedom fighters home.

Gratitude and Appreciation

It is with great gratitude that we express our sincere appreciation to you-our supporters. Without your help, we could not accomplish all that we do for our Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War. From helping their families visit them, to assisting with legal and medical needs, to putting monies in their commissary as well as providing forums wherein we can hold events to educate others about our Political Prisoners/Prisoner's of War, your support helps make this possible. We know it, and our Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War know it as well. There is power in the people, and this is where their freedom lies.

It is because of people such as yourselves, who so graciously give of your time, your donations as well as your thoughts towards this cause that brings us closer to the day when we can finally say-They are Home at Last...Can you imagine? After sacrificing for the community-the community is the one who brings them home. After languishing in a steel dungeon waiting for freedom for decades, when that door finally swings open and they finally step into their families arms for good, it will be a powerful day indeed.

We are all links that join together as one. No act, no deed is too small. Together we are strong, powerful. We just have to keep going-as they did back in the days when they were fighting the same old oppressive, racist regime.

“Freedom can never be taken for granted. Each generation must safeguard it and extend it. Your parents and elders sacrificed much so that you should have freedom without suffering what they did. Use this precious right to ensure that the darkness of the past never return.”—[Nelson Mandela](#).

Thank you-for safeguarding and extending the fight for justice, freedom and human rights. There is a light down the way, it is called our children's eyes. May they know a better world.

As you know, the obstacles to helping free our political prisoners are immense. It is to challenge the super power and its many facets. It is to fight repression through education, organizing, mobilizing, and creating a movement that embraces freedom and dignity for all people and freedom for all political prisoners.

Your financial support at this time is needed for Jericho's continued work and effectiveness. If you cannot support financially, please do continue to read our newsletters, share them widely, tell others about our Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War-volunteer to help us if you can, for everything matters and no sincere deed is left unnoticed. We are the ones, for a prisoner's options are limited, we have the key, we just have to figure out together, how to unlock those doors.

Free all Political Prisoners!

In struggle and gratitude, The National Jericho Movement

Your Generous Contributions Help us Provide Real Support to our Political Prisoners!

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$ Other ___

There are two ways to make a donation:

Please make non-deductible donations to:
National Jericho Treasury
Mail to: "Jericho Treasury/Michael Alston"
Ashanti Alston

For tax deductible receipt, send donations to:
Alliance for Global Justice
Subject Line: Jericho
Mail to:

[162 Miller Ave](#)
[Providence, R.I. 02905](#)

Elane Spivak Rodriguez
Alliance for Global Justice
[225 E. 26th Street, Suite 1](#)
[Tucson, Arizona 85713](#)

Or Visit our website at: <http://www.thejerichomovement.com/donate> and click our “donate” button.