

The Dragons Fire

THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

in Fierce Determination Since 1996

Vol.(8), August/Sept, 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.

Jericho Tributes & Announcements

Jericho announces and requests the support for it's two newest Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War:



Nina Droz Franco



Ana Belen Montes

For more information please see: <https://www.prolibertad.org>

Safiya Bukhari

April 2nd 1950-August 24th 2003

Remembering our Comrade, Sister, Co-Founder of The National Jericho Movement with Revolutionary Love, Honor and Respect



Photo Credit: safiyabukhari.com

(Thank you to Comrade-Brother Khalid Abdullah for forwarding this article and link)

“Safiya Bukhari – an America political prisoner and member of the Black Panther Party –was born one of ten children, in a middle-class family, on August 24, 1950. She planned on becoming a doctor and attended New York Community College as a premed student. Her political awakening did not happen until college. On a sorority trip, she encountered a Black Panther member selling newspapers who asked if she and her friends wanted to volunteer with the Free Breakfast for Children program.

Along with some of her sorority sisters, she began volunteering with the Free Breakfast program. She discovered that the police were spreading rumors that the Panthers were feeding the children poisoned food. She noted, ***“They didn't have a breakfast program in the schools themselves, they were not making an effort to feed the children, but they didn't want us to feed the children.”*** In 1969, she witnessed an officer harassing a Panther who was selling papers in Times Square. When she told the officer the Panther had a right to disseminate political literature, she was arrested. According to her, those incidents led to her officially joining the Black Panther Party.

She worked out of the Party's Harlem office, becoming in charge of Information and Communications for the East Coast Panthers. In 1971, she converted to [Islam](#). After being subpoenaed to testify about the Black Liberation Army (BLA) in April 1974, she went "underground" with the BLA to avoid testifying.

On January 25, 1975, she was captured after a shooting in Norfolk, VA that left a fellow BLA member dead and another shot in the face. Even though she had a license to 'open-carry' in public, she was charged with illegal possession of a weapon, felony murder, and attempted robbery. The jury selection, trial and sentencing all happened in one day, and she was not allowed in court during her trial. She was sentenced to 40 years. She was sent to Virginia Correctional Center for Women. She was considered the "most dangerous inmate" there. On December 31, 1976, Safiya escaped from the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. She was re-captured on February 21, 1977 and returned to prison. On August 22 1983, Safiya made parole.

In 1984, Safiya Bukhari married anarchist Ashanti Alston. Bukhari continued to be politically active after she was paroled. In 1992, she helped form the New York chapter of the Free Mumia Abu Jamal Coalition. In 1998, she helped coordinate the Jericho March and Rally for U.S. Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in Washington, D.C. Jericho became, as she described it, "a movement with a defined goal of getting recognition that political prisoners exist inside the prisons of the United States, despite the government's denial." She was also involved in the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement. She co-hosted the radio show "Where We Live" with Sally O'Brien on WBAI, focusing on prison-related issues. Bukhari was the vice president of the Republic of New Afrika, a provisional government working to form a Black nation composed of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana

On August 24, 2003, Bukhari died of heart failure at North Shore University Hospital in Queens, NY. After her death, Abu-Jamal said from prison that she "was a true revolutionary. Patient, constant, disciplined, and determined ... [who, like Che] Guevara, was 'motivated by great feeling of love.'

Safiya Bukhari: In her own words

"From the security of the college campus and the cocoon of the great American Dream Machine, I was suddenly stripped of my rose-colored glasses by a foray into Harlem and indecent housing, police brutality, hungry children needing to be fed, elderly people eating out of garbage cans, and hopelessness and despair everywhere. If I hadn't seen it for myself, I would never have believed that this was America. It looked and sounded like one of those undeveloped Third World countries. Between 1966 and 1975, eager to be part of the fight for the freedom and liberation of black people in America from their oppressive conditions, thousands of young black men and women from all walks of life and backgrounds joined the ranks of the Black Panther Party. They were met with all the counterforce and might of the United States war machine.

We joined the Black Panther Party (and therefore the black liberation struggle) with a lot of hope and faith. We believed that the struggle would end for us only with our death or the freedom of all oppressed people. With the destruction of the Black Panther Party our freedom was still not assured, and we were left with no sense of direction or purpose—no one to tell us what to do next—and the knowledge that the job was not done. We hadn't just mouthed the words "revolution in our lifetime"; we had believed them. We sincerely believed that the Black Panther Party would lead us to victory. We had experienced the death and/or imprisonment of countless brothers and sisters who had struggled right beside us, slept in the beds with us, eaten at the same table with us.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders defines post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as "an anxiety disorder caused by the exposure to a psychologically distressing event that is outside the range of usual human experiences." Such events might include watching a friend die violently or unexpectedly; experiencing serious threats to home or family; or living under constant or prolonged fear or threat.

As I looked over the list of PTSD symptoms, I recognized myself. And it wasn't just me. More and more, there seemed to be some kind of pattern developing in the behavior of my other comrades who had survived the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army.

Our intense belief in the rightness and justness of our cause, and that things would be different when we returned to the streets; our awareness that we are still alive while our people's conditions have grown worse despite all our sacrifices—all this produces a traumatic shock to our system. This is the ultimate shock. We survived while others died."

Safiya Bukhari

"In 1975, she was captured, convicted and sentenced to 40 years. On December 31, 1976 Safiyah escaped from the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. She was re-captured on February 21, 1977 and returned to prison. On August 22 1983, Safiyah made parole. Since her release, she has worked on the cases of political prisoners, including the New York 3 and Mumia Abu-Jamal. She was a founder of the Jericho Amnesty Movement. By 1998 she, along with others, founded the Jericho Movement to free all political prisoners. She was also a member of the Republic of New Afrika and, at one point, was its Vice-President. In the past decade, Safiya took on Islam as her religion and found great strength in the spirituality it embodied. Safiya passed in the early hours of August 24th. She was 53 years old. Her exemplary life and spirit will be a shining light for us for decades to come". <https://mxgm.org/2009/01/26/safiya-bukhari/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZpuEV33uww>

Chairman's Corner

As-salaamu 'alaykum!

Clearly it is, and has been since its inception in 1998, Jericho's mission to focus on freedom campaigns and initiatives to free all Political Prisoners; particularly those represented from the Movements of the 60s and 70s and beyond. For twenty years Jericho has weathered the challenge of time and remained steadfast in its efforts to tend to the needs of Political Prisoners. It has facilitated family visits. It has conducted hundreds of community forums, seminars, letter writings and workshops in an ongoing effort to educate people and communities throughout the country and around the world of the reality of Political Prisoners. Jericho members routinely visit many of the Political Prisoners. It has demanded better health care and treatment when sisters and brothers were sick and in need of care. It has provided monetary assistance on many fronts – to lawyers, for commissary, and holiday gift packages.

But beyond all this, there is one underlying reality that Jericho takes pains to establish. This reality is that all people, particularly today's activists and human rights organizations, must understand that the strongest and most viable connection between yesterdays and today's struggles is accomplished by rendering direct support to those freedom fighters – Political Prisoners – from passed Movements. This is indeed the passing of the baton. And if ever the baton has been dropped, and it has many times, the best way to pick it up is to connect with the struggles to free all Political Prisoners, learn from history, and resolve to continue the fight for a society that that allows for nothing less than freedom, justice, and the right to a healthy and prosperous life for all people.

We invite you to join in this effort!

Jihad Abdulmumit

**Commentary on
Jericho and the 2018 National prison Strike**
By: Jihad Abdulmumit

The National Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners supports the demands of the prisoners who are striking. Jericho is obviously against the Prison Industrial Complex as a whole. With regards this particular strike, Jericho supports any and all actions of prisoners to better their own condition. Although an organizational position has not been taken, Jericho clearly advocates that people and community make every effort to follow and monitor what is happening and, of course, find ways to give your own support. If you have a friend or loved one in prison, advocate for them, check on them, write them, visit them, and make others aware of their plight, and the inhumanity of prison conditions impacting everyone. We cannot allow our sisters and brothers behind the walls of death become more isolated than many already are.

**National Jericho Report on
Black is Back Coalition for Social Justice, Peace & Reparations**
“There is no Peace: Africa and Africans are at War!”
U.S. to the World: Comply or Die!”
August 11 & 12, 2018
St. Louis, Missouri

As-salaamu ‘alaykum!

Upon the invitation of Brother Ralph Poynter and Sister Betty Davis, I, Jihad Abdulmumit, Chairperson for the Jericho Movement, attended the 2 day Conference of the Black is Back Coalition. The Black is Back Coalition is a coalition of organizations that believe in self-determination for African people and is led by African people. I was extremely impressed by the unity, love, respect, level of consciousness, the building of community infrastructure, and the strong political will to establish self-determination for African people in a complicated place called the United States of America.

The Black is Back Coalition for Peace, Social Justice and Reparations having thoroughly discussed the basis of agreement between the organizations of the coalition, commit to upholding the following principles of unity:

1. Hence forward we will define the character of the coalition as Anti-imperialist. Furthermore we unite with the principle to fight against imperialism in all of its manifestations such as colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, military occupation, proxy wars, and economic embargoes and trade restrictions. Equally as important we recognize and agree that there is an undeclared war devastating African people in the U.S.
2. We agree with the principle of equal democratic representation and voting rights of the organizations within the BIBC.
3. We agree to respect the ideological differences between the organizations of the coalition.
4. We agree to resolve our disagreements resolved through a democratic voting process
5. We stand in solidarity with the anti-imperialist resistance occurring all over the world

6. We agree that African people worldwide must have self determination and that the oppressed peoples of the world must have self determination as well.

7. We agree that African people worldwide are due reparations from the colonialist/ imperialist powers of the world

The Conference was a 2 day conference held at the Uhuru House, 4101 West Florissant, St. Louis, Missouri. The Uhuru House is one of three such welcoming centers and a product of the Black Power Blueprint - a partnership between Black Star Industries and the African People's education and Defense Fund that sponsors economic development projects in St. Louis and elsewhere.

Ralph and Betty had arrived on another flight minutes before mine, and they were waiting for me at the baggage claim. We rented a car and followed our GPS a dozen times looking for a nearby restaurant. Failing to find one, we accepted defeat and bought some snacks from the concession machine at the hotel where we stayed. We made up for it the next night when we dined with Black is Back vice-Chair, Lisa Davis, and Brother Nefta Freeman at an awesome Jamaican restaurant.

The morning of the first day dealt with business matters of the Black is Back Coalition and an organization overview by Chairman Omali Yeshitela. Then there were many dynamic presentations including a report by Diop Olugbala on Black Community Control of the Police, a panel on "War through the Electoral Process" with Reverend Edward Pinkney, Zaki Baruti, Khalid Raheem, and Akilie Anai; and an eye-opening presentation by Brother Glen Ford on the long range design of government monitoring and control of social media. Brother Ralph spoke on the imperative need to support campaigns to free all Political Prisoners, and he invited me up to the podium to share a few words in that regard.

The highlight of the first day, and indeed the trip as a whole, was the tour led by Sister Kalambayi Andenet to the Ferguson and the site where Michael Brown was assassinated by policeman Darren Wilson. The site remains today marked by over fifty feet of candles, teddy bears, ribbons and special artifacts in the middle of the street where Michael Brown's body lay for 4 hours in the sweltering summer sun. Sister Kalambayi has took us to a site of vacant, clear out abandoned land where Chairman Omali explained how land is claimed under the Land Reutilization Act and used by the State to build a Spy Complex in the middle of the hood.

On the second day there were many other powerful presentations. I was on the "There is no Peace" panel with Sister Betty Davis, Ralph Poynter, Diop Olugbala, and Kamm Howard. I again explained the importance of making supporting Political Prisoners a top priority of our agenda, and allowing this awareness and support to permeate our strategies and actions. It is the most direct connection with our passed struggles and ancestors.

I had an opportunity to discuss with Chairman Omali the "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Initiative" and he promised to have the necessary sit down to see how that support will be manifested. I also became a member of the Black is Back Coalition, and folks were expressly pleased.

My last parting observation was two wonderful strong young sisters I met. I believe their ages were 13 and 16. I do not have their names, but if they ever have occasioned to read this report, believe me that you have my sincere love and admiration.

I anticipate doing more work and building with the Black is Back Coalition.

Build to Win!

Jihad Abdulmumit
Chair, National Jericho

Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War

POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE MONTH

Jalil Muntaqim



BRING JALIL HOME

BLACK PANTHER PARTY-BLACK LIBERATION ARMY

Contact Information

Prison Address

#77A4283 Sullivan Correctional Facility,

P.O. Box 116

Fallsburg, NY 12733-0116

United States

Birthday: October 18, 1951

Affiliations: Black Panther Party, Black Liberation Army

Captured: AUGUST 28, 1971: 25 years to Life -

Denied Parole NINE times

IN PRISON 46+ YEARS

“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

“We want to bring Anthony Jalil Bottom back to his family and community. Mr. Bottom has been in prison since 1971, has expressed remorse and has an exceptional institutional record. He has served over 47 years in prison, and the Board of Parole should follow the law and release him on supervision. Mr. Bottom is a son, brother, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Despite the fact that Mr. Bottom has an exemplary record, has mentored youth both inside and outside, has earned two degrees and written two books, he has been turned down for parole nine times. In June 2018, Mr. Bottom will be facing the Parole Board for the tenth time. It is way past time for Mr. Bottom to come home, as he should have been released in 2002, having served his full twenty-five year minimum. It will take the power of the people to free Mr. Bottom, as the PBA and the FOP are constantly waging a campaign for his continued imprisonment. You can find out more about Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom) on his website: <http://www.freejalil.com/> “

<https://www.change.org/p/tina-m-stanford-release-anthony-bottom-jalil-muntaqim-77a4283-on-parole-in-june-2018> **Jericho Movement** started this petition to **Chairperson, New York State Board of Parole Tina M. Stanford, Esq.**

"As reported at Mr. Bottom's previous application for parole, the highlights of his achievements while incarcerated include:

In 1986, Anthony drafted a legislative bill for New York State prisoners to obtain good time off their sentence. The bill was submitted and introduced into the New York State Assembly Committee on Corrections by former Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve.

In 1994, while incarcerated at Shawangunk Correctional Facility, Anthony established the first Men's Council in a United States prison. His efforts were featured on television in Japan and written about in the New York Times. During this period, he also graduated from SUNY – New Paltz with a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Sociology. Instead of resting on his success, he taught African Studies to a group of prisoners. On two occasions, he received commendations from prison officials for quelling potential prison riots, one in the mess hall at Great Meadow Correctional Facility and another time in the auditorium at Greenhaven Correctional Facility.

From 1996 to 1999, Anthony was the office manager of the prison computer lab at Eastern Correctional Facility. His duties consisted of teaching prisoners keyboarding skills and how to use computer software programs. Despite his busy schedule, he found the time to raise money from inmate accounts to support the charitable Children's Funds.

In 1999, in Auburn Correctional Facility, Anthony established sociology, poetry and legal research and discussion classes under the auspices of the Lifers' Committee that he chaired.

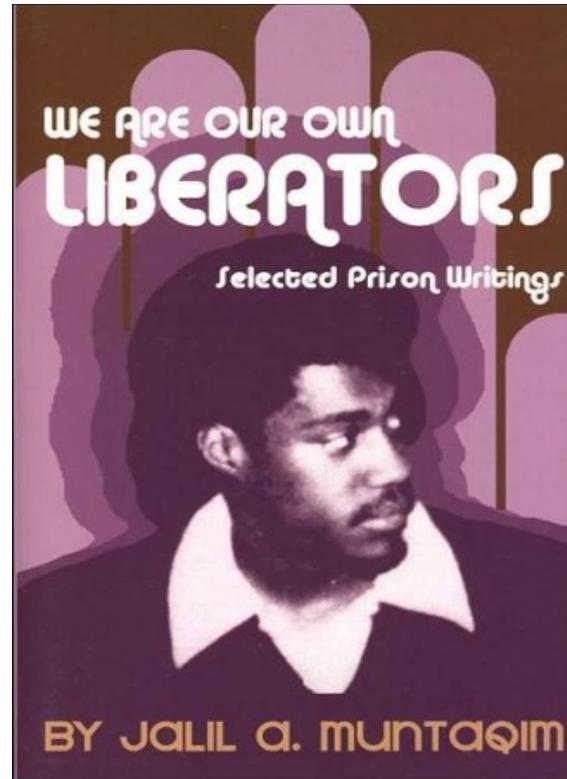
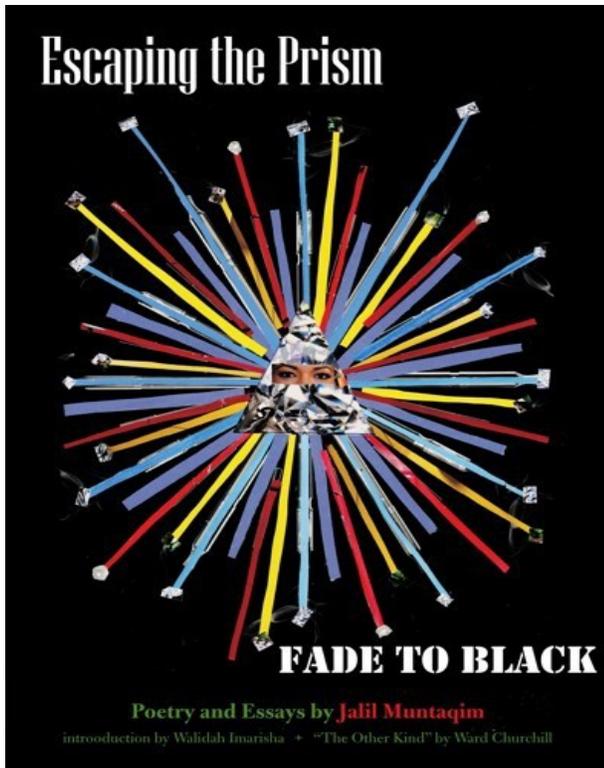
Anthony co-sponsored the Victory Gardens Project, a program in which farmers in Maine grew tons of fresh produce for distribution to poor urban communities in New York, New Jersey and Boston, Massachusetts. In the four years of its existence, the project distributed nearly 10,000 pounds of fresh produce in urban centers.

In response to the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, while in Auburn Correctional Facility, Anthony proposed raising funds from inmates to donate to the American Red Cross. Former Deputy Superintendent of Programs R. Nelson acknowledged Anthony's efforts in a memorandum.

While in Auburn Correctional Facility he worked as a Pre-GED Teacher's Assistant, earned a vocational certificate for Architectural Drafting and Anthony has proposed and gained approval for a Life Skills Program for inmates.

Anthony is a published poet and essayist; his writings are found in several University sponsored books of compilations of prison writers. He has also written an unpublished novel and teleplay".

<http://sfbayview.com/2009/07/print-sign-and-mail-jalil-muntaqim's-petition-for-parole-or-commutation-of-sentence/>



How does one change "the nature of the crime?" To be continually denied parole stating "nature of the crime" is to condemn one to life with no hope of parole. One cannot change the nature of a crime. Yet, Jalil has been denied many times because of this reason. It is a hamster wheel...one that serves to keep the slavery/prison industrial complex financially well oiled. In Jalil's case-bitter calls and vile backlash erupt every time he has a parole hearing. Shocked at the extreme hatred and disregard for the elder he know is-one would think these bitter human beings, some who call themselves Christian as well as good Americans forgot to read the Bible. You know-the part about forgiveness....they also forgot that a "justice" system is set up to reform and rehabilitate. I do believe they have mistaken it for a slave system and that they personally, are the overseers. It appears that yes indeed they do have that power over who lives, who dies, who gets paroled and who gets to "go free". Do they think they are God?

Jalil has a parole hearing coming up. We seek to bring Jalil home. We seek justice. We pray the current parole board continues to have the strength, morals and dignity to with stand the extreme pressure it is under by making good choices regarding human life. It must start somewhere. We must begin to "stay human" as we are placed in positions of power. Are there not enough tragedies happening in this country right now? Is it not too late to lose the reputation of hypocrisy regarding

the way prisoners are treated? The USA is quick to point the finger at other countries yet lacks self reflection and accountability at home. It is time for change.

We applaud you and honor your efforts to try to change a corrupted, archaic, and heartless system. This is not a legacy the US wants to leave it's children, is it? To look at these elders now-do you see the 18-19 year old teens they once were when convicted? Or do you see the wise and productive elders they have become despite the odds? Jalil belongs at home...."We are our own Liberators" aren't we?

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

Medical Updates

-Ramona Africa



The Move org. is informing our supporters, sympathizers and all those in solidarity with the cause of revolution, that 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). This is 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. From the Move family in Philadelphia:

Today the hospital informed Ramona that her insurance co. would no longer be responsible for paying her hospital and therapy bills and that she's being released from both hospital and therapy unless she can pay the bills herself.

The problem is Ramona can't stand without assistance and she can't walk; she's not good to go and she hasn't had enough therapy to safely release her into the world. The other problem is the burden of costs; therapy sessions are extremely urgent and immediate or Ramona will regress, leaving any progress she's made to date undone and she'll have to start all over from the beginning. These therapy sessions are necessary but at the same time they create a financial burden on the family; without the medical insurance, that we will not be able to handle, it'll be more than we can afford, we need help. Ramona

cannot afford to come out of the hospital; she is not physically ready and her home plan is not ready. Certain things she will require have to be met, like a hospital bed and special bedding, and bathroom facilities that need a contractor and plumber.

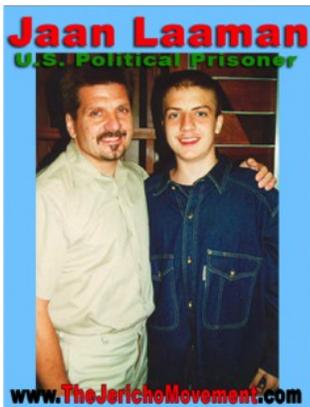
-Kojo Bomani Sababu



Kojo saw an orthopedic doctor regarding his hip and knee on the left side, and was scheduled for replacement of both. BOP may not authorize the process, Jericho to follow up.

Legal Updates

-Jaan Laaman



-Jaan Laaman has a parole hearing in October.

Prison Address
#10372-016--USP McCreary
P.O. Box 3000

Pine Knot, KY 42635
United States
Birthday: March 21, 1948
Affiliation: Ohio 7
Captured: 1984. Eligible for Parole in 2018.
IN PRISON 34 YEARS

“Ohio 7/United Freedom Front--a clandestine anti-imperialist organization took responsibility for urban guerrilla actions targeting many institutions of repression in the 1970's and 1980's...Freedom Struggle is necessary and possible in the U.S., just like anywhere else in this world. We need to create the conditions and changes, by every possible means, for all our people to have a chance for a real life.”*

-Sundiata Acoli

“Sundiata has been in Trenton since the end of May for a parole hearing that was to happen in June. Sundiata refused to attend, as he has been unable to meet with his lawyers. He has been assigned a state number and it takes some time to get on his visiting list. He is in general population, and other prisoners have been ensuring that he has stamps, envelopes, commissary \$\$\$, etc.” People should write to Sundiata:

SundiataAcoli #440810-A
New Jersey State Prison
P.O. Box 861, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0861
*Address envelope to Clark Squire

-Mumia Abu-Jamal

**MUMIA ABU-JAMAL
COURT HEARING**
8AM
THURSDAY
AUGUST 30
13TH & FILBERT
PHILADELPHIA

JOIN US! Fill the Streets and Pack the Courtroom! This court proceeding is a critical legal step towards Mumia Abu-Jamal's freedom. Black Panther Party spokesman, MOVE supporter and revolutionary journalist Mumia is innocent, framed in the murder of a police officer and sentenced to death 36 years ago. Mumia is alive today because of mass protest. Free Mumia now!

New evidence proves former DA Ronald Castile who prosecuted Mumia's appeals, violated due process when, as PA Supreme Court justice, he took part in deciding against Mumia's appeals. By new law Mumia should be granted the right to bring new appeal challenges to his conviction. But DA Larry Krasner told the Court Mumia's legal petition is without merit.

"...the new District Attorney's office, headed by Larry Krasner, is failing to do what justice requires. It is continuing the position of his predecessors, to the satisfaction of the Fraternal Order of Police."—Bret Grote, Esq., Abolitionist Law Center Legal Director."

Almost 40 years in prison, 30 in solitary confinement on death row, have threatened his health. Mumia has never stopped fighting against this racist, class-biased system. He speaks out for all oppressed. Winning Mumia's freedom is part of the struggle for our liberation.



International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFFMAJ)

FREEMUMIA.COM

Info@freemumia.com

Endorsed by:
The MOVE family; Mobilization for Mumia; Campaign to Bring Mumia Home; Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition
NYC: People's Organization for Progress; Food Not Bombs - Solidarity; International Action Center; Mundo Obreiro/Workers World Party; Educators for Mumia

New York: 212.330.8029

Philadelphia: 215-724-1618

[facebook/Mobilization4Mumia](https://facebook.com/Mobilization4Mumia)

Mobilization4mumia@gmail.com

Court Hearing: 8am Thurs, Aug. 30, at 13th & Filbert

What you can do whether you're in Philly or anywhere: Call DA Larry Krasner at (215)686-8000

- Tell him former DA Ron Castille violated Mumia's constitutional rights and Krasner should cease opposing Mumia's legal petition

- Tell the DA to release Mumia because he's factually innocent

For information on the event and transportation from outside Philly:

FreeMumia.com, info@freemumia.com, New York: 212-330-8029, Philly – 215-724-1618;

facebook/mobilization4mumia, Mobilization4mumia@gmail.com

UPDATES:

Mumia Abu-Jamal Latest Update: New Evidence Found, Lawyers Say Written By Clarissa Hamlin - August 30, 2018

Lawyers for Mumia Abu-Jamal will have to wait before they can present evidence-based arguments in court to petition for a new appeal. A judge ordered Thursday that a hearing would be continued for 60 days. On Monday, lawyers said new evidence was found and turned over to indicate that former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille was biased in upholding the murder conviction of a policeman against Abu-Jamal, who is serving a life sentence. A judge pressed parties Thursday to continue searching for more documents before presenting arguments in October, NBC-owned WCAU reported. Abu-Jamal, like other convicted Black men, has had many failed appeals in fighting for freedom. The former member of the Black Panthers party, journalist and author spent 29 years on death row following his conviction in the 1981 murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. The 64-year-old has maintained his innocence and become a symbol for criminal justice reform. His story has inspired activists to stage protests for securing his release after what they have said was a wrongful conviction. Questions about whether there was sufficient evidence in the case, substantial witness testimony and a fair jury have arisen over the years.

The defense team had to previously reset when a hearing was postponed in April. They were petitioning under the Post-Conviction Relief Act to have Abu-Jamal's previous appeals thrown out to make way for the new appeal.

Abu-Jamal recently offered his thoughts about his conviction and previously being ordered to face the death penalty.

"I think we posed an existential challenge to the very legitimacy of the System – and it unleashed unprecedented fury from the State," he said from behind bars and through emails in a story published by The Guardian last month. "That's why they used any means, even illegal, to extinguish what they saw as a threat."

<https://newsone.com/3824255/mumia-abu-jamal-new-evidence-appeal/>

Mumia Abu-Jamal lawyers granted 60-day continuance-John N. Mitchell Tribune Staff Writer

Lawyers arguing for another appeal in the case of former death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal were granted a 60-day continuance due to a late piece of evidence presented earlier this week by the prosecution. Abu-Jamal attorney Judith Ritter argued successfully that a May 5, 1988, letter from the office of then District Attorney Ron Castille to a state representative discussing death penalty cases warranted the continuance to allow an extended period of discovery to allow the search for more evidence that may link Castille to the new document.

Ritter argued the letter demonstrated Castille's bias in seeking the death penalty against defendants convicted of killing police officers.

"This demonstrates a possible link that Ron Castille was involved in seeking capital executions and that he was specifically tracking capital cases involving police officers," Ritter argued before Judge Leon Tucker in Common Pleas Court. "It (the letter) indicates his bias, and it's on those grounds that we're seeking a continuance."

Abu-Jamal's lawyers are seeking to re-appeal his conviction in the 1981 shooting death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

Castille was the district attorney when Abu-Jamal was convicted. As a member of the state Supreme Court, he twice refused to recuse himself for two separate Abu-Jamal appeals.

As a prosecutor, Castille prevailed in getting the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to uphold Abu-Jamal's conviction and death sentence in 1989.

Then as a Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice, Castille agreed with the arguments he had made as district attorney.

In two separate failed attempts to appeal — in 1998 and again in 2012 — Castille supported his position as district attorney to deny Abu-Jamal's lawyers' efforts.

Earlier this year, Tucker ordered Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's office to search for any record of Castille's "personal involvement" in the Abu-Jamal case.

Krasner's office announced that additional evidence was not found, prompting Tucker to extend the discovery period again.

Before announcing his decision of the latest extension, Tucker appeared annoyed that the latest piece of evidence had not been turned over to Abu-Jamal's defense.

"There needs to be a thorough search of all the records in all units," Tucker said. "It is troubling that the letter was not produced until Monday. If this letter was addressed from Mr. Castille, that would make a big difference."

Daniel Faulkner's widow, Maureen, flew in from California for the hearing. She thanked Krasner's officer for its support.

Standing next to Faulkner in the blazing heat alongside the Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice was Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police President John McNesby. He and other FOP members accompanied Maureen Faulkner into the courtroom.

"When does it end for Maureen? Danny was assassinated — it's been proving over and over again. This is a fishing expedition," McNesby said. "Maureen is flying back and forth across the country and we are here to support her. We'll continue to fight. We'll be here for every hearing that takes place.

"But where is the closure for the family? When does it end? And after Oct. 29, we might as well get another date because they'll find something else." Abu-Jamal's petition is based on a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Williams vs. Pennsylvania*. The Supreme Court held that a prosecutor involved in seeking the death penalty for a defendant should recuse himself if asked to judge an appeal in the capital case.

jmittchell@phillytrib.com (215) 893-5732

-Leonard Peltier

Court Case Can Move Forward for Political Prisoner Leonard Peltier and Son

by Levi Rickert - Published July 18, 2018

"TACOMA, Wash. — A federal judge in Tacoma, Washington on Monday ruled that case brought by political prisoner Leonard Peltier (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) and his son, Chauncey, can move to trial. The Peltiers claim their First Amendment rights were violated when Leonard Peltier's paintings were removed from a public exhibition were removed after former FBI agents complained to officials at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

Peltier, who is a considered a political prisoner from people such as Bishop Desmond Tutu, American Indians and Amnesty International, was convicted of killing two FBI agents in 1975 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation at Oglala, South Dakota. Notable legal experts, including former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark who says Peltier was not given a fair trial by the U.S. government.

Peltier is currently incarcerated at the U.S. Penitentiary in Coleman, Florida.

Monday's ruling involves the removal of four paintings from a state building in Washington state. Peltier, who took up painting as a prisoner, had the four paintings on display at a public exhibition the Labor & Industries headquarters in Olympia, Washington during Native American Heritage Month in November 2015. The paintings after being on display for two weeks were removed after two ex-FBI agents complained to State of Washington officials. After the paintings were removed the elder Peltier told his son

his rights were violated. Chauncey Peltier told Native News Online that he began receiving calls from attorneys who said the Peltiers should file a lawsuit. In Monday's federal district court ruling, U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton said that the Department of Labor & Industries failed to show a "compelling government interest" when it took down the four paintings.

"Freedom of speech, though not absolute, is protected against censorship or punishment, unless shown likely to produce a clear and present danger of a serious substantive evil that rises far above public inconvenience, annoyance or unrest," Leighton writes in response the State of Washington's motion to have the lawsuit dismissed.

The judge's decision was met with excitement from Chauncey Peltier. Leonard Peltier has yet to react publicly to Monday's ruling.

"This is the first time in 43 years of my father's incarceration that any court has ruled in his favor of his rights," Chauncey Peltier told Native News Online on Wednesday afternoon. "This is a big deal because a court has finally recognizes the rights of my father. This comes from a known conservative judge who recognized the rights of my father were violated. Chauncey Peltier does not know when the case will go to trial". <https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/court-case-can-move-forward-for-political-prisoner-leonard-peltier-and-son/>

-Jalil Muntaqim



Sept. 9, 2018 Update from Jalil Regarding Parole Hearing

When Jalil spoke with Commissioner Alexander on June 12th, she told Jalil that he could request an earlier date than December when he was ready to go to the Board.

On August 2, Jalil requested that ORC Aldano, his counselor, put him on the September list for the Board.

On August 10, Jalil wrote a letter to Tina Stanford requesting that she check to see he was on the list for September.

On Sept 5, Mr. Justiniano, Deputy Supervisor of Programs at Sullivan, informed Jalil he was not on the schedule for September Board hearings.

Jalil spoke with Superintendent Keyser on Sept. 6, but did not receive any response as to why he was not scheduled for September. Also, Jalil's mother spoke with Ms. Villa, one of Tina Stanford's assistants, on that same day, and she was told there was no reason Ms. Villa could see as to why Jalil was not scheduled.

Jalil spoke with Mr. Justiniano on Sept. 7, and asked him why he was not scheduled to go to the Board. Mr. Justiniano stated three times: "I cannot say." Jalil asked him, "You can't say, or you won't say?" and received the same response. (This would seem to indicate that Mr. Justiniano has orders not to tell Jalil why he was not scheduled.)

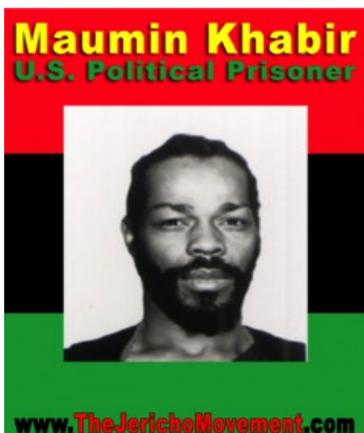
Jalil would like to go to the Board in October, not December, and is requesting that he be put on the October calendar. He does not want to wait until December, as he has read a report stating that Senator Gallivan has scheduled hearings to try to rollback all the hard-won gains that have been won regarding parole in New York State.

Love and Rage,
Anne
NYC Jericho Movement

Write to Jalil:
Anthony J. Bottom #77A4283
Sullivan C.F.
P.O. Box 116
Fallsburg, NY 12733-0116

September Birthdays Please Send a Card!

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



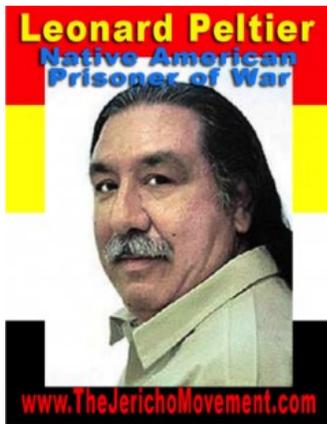
Muslim- Republic of New Afrika
Affiliation: El Rukin- Republic of New Afrika
Prison Address
#09891-000--Federal Medical Center Rochester
P.O. Box 4000
Rochester, MN 55903 United States

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

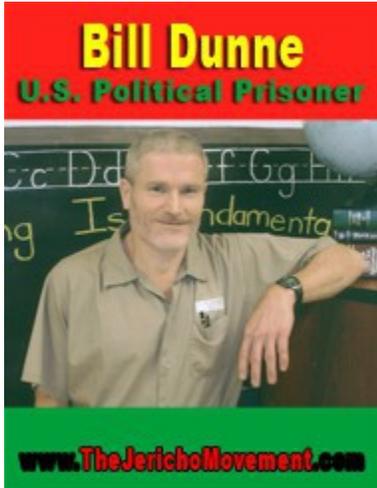
U.S. Prisoner

**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!**

August Birthdays

It's never too late to send a card!

DUNNE, BILL – Birthday: August 3rd



Affiliation: Class War Prisoner
Class War Prisoner

Contact Information

Prison Address

#10916-086 FCI Victorville Medium I

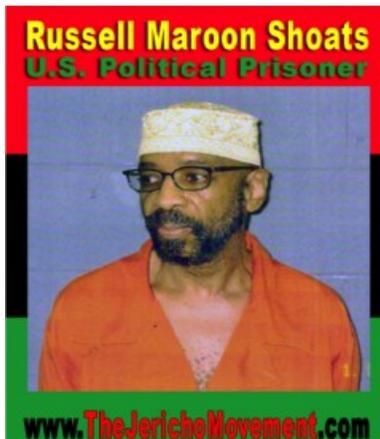
P.O. Box 3725 Adelanto, CA 92301

Captured: 1979. Release date: 2043

"I am a collectivist, long having recognized that in numbers there is strength and capability and security and satisfaction. There is more humanity in cooperation than in isolation... With mutual struggle, we can forge the diverse elements of our side of the barricade into a powerful weapon against the depredations of imperial capital. It can be the tool of emancipation from exploitation and oppression of that class enemy that afflict us all." For full profile and case please see:

<https://www.thejerichomovement.com/profile/dunne-bill>

Russell Maroon Shoatz-Birthday: August 23, 1943



Black Unity Council-Black Liberation Army

Contact Information

Prison Address

#AF-3855--SCI Dallas

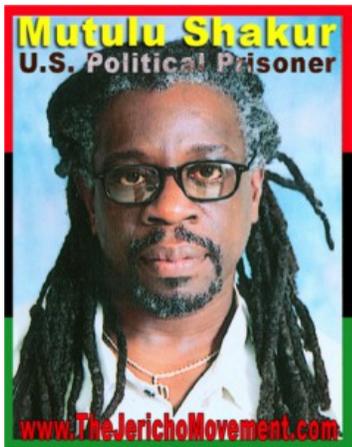
1000 Follies Road Dallas, PA 18612

Affiliation: Black Unity Council-Back Panther Party, Black Liberation Army

Captured: 1970-Life.

“Russell Maroon Shoatz is a dedicated community activist, founding member of the Black Unity Council, former member of the Black Panther Party and soldier in the Black Liberation Army. He is serving multiple life sentences as a U.S.-held prisoner of war.”

-Mutulu Shakur Birthday: August 8th 1950



REPUBLIC OF NEW AFRICA POLITICAL PRISONER

Prison Address

#83205-012 Federal Correctional Complex

P.O. Box 3900 Adelanto, CA 92301

Affiliation: Republic of New Afrika

Captured: 1986: Sentenced to 60 years.

“There is a need for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the U.S. to resolve the history of slavery, oppression, racism, segregation, lynching and the issue of political prisoners of the Civil Rights Black Liberation Struggle who fought against these gross human rights abuses. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was also a process set up in South Africa to redress the gross violations of human rights by the apartheid regime. It was a tool to assist a peaceful transition to a democratic society but public acknowledgement of the gross human rights abuses by the government and its agent...The idea of crimes against humanity comes under International Law and the Geneva Convention adopted by the world at the U.N. the liability of such violators lies on nations as well as individuals who fight against the violators of human rights.” <http://mutulushakur.com>

“Dr. Mutulu Shakur is a New Afrikan (Black) man whose primary work has been in the area of health. He is a doctor of acupuncture and was a co-founder and director of two institutions devoted to improving health care in the Black community. Mutulu Shakur was born on August 8, 1950, in Baltimore, Maryland as Jeral Wayne Williams. At age seven he moved to Jamaica, Queens, New York City with his mother and younger sister. Shakur’s political and social consciousness began to develop early in his life. His mother suffered not only from being Black and female, but was also blind. These elements constituted Shakur’s first confrontation with the state, while assisting his mother to negotiate through the maze that makes up the social service system. Through this experience Shakur learned that the system did not operate in the interests of Black people and that Black people must control the institutions that affect their lives...” For full profile and case please see: <https://www.thejerichomovement.com/profile/shakur-mutulu>

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

-Russell Maroon Shoatz Maroon Comix Launches!

"This month, a terrific single-volume comic book celebrating the contributions of maroon communities was published by PM Press, the imprint on which *Maroon The Implacable: The Collected Writings Of Russell Maroon Shoatz* was released five years ago.

As stated in the official overview of *Maroon Comix: Origins And Destinies*:

"Escaping slavery in the Americas, maroons made miracles in the mountains, summoned new societies in the swamps, and forged new freedoms in the forests. They didn't just escape and steal from plantations—they also planted and harvested polycultures. They not only fought slavery but proved its opposite, and for generations they defended it with blood and brilliance.

Maroon Comix is a fire on the mountain where maroon words and images meet to tell stories together. Stories of escape and homecoming, exile and belonging. Stories that converge on the summits of the human spirit, where the most dreadful degradation is overcome by the most daring dignity. Stories of the damned who consecrate their own salvation.

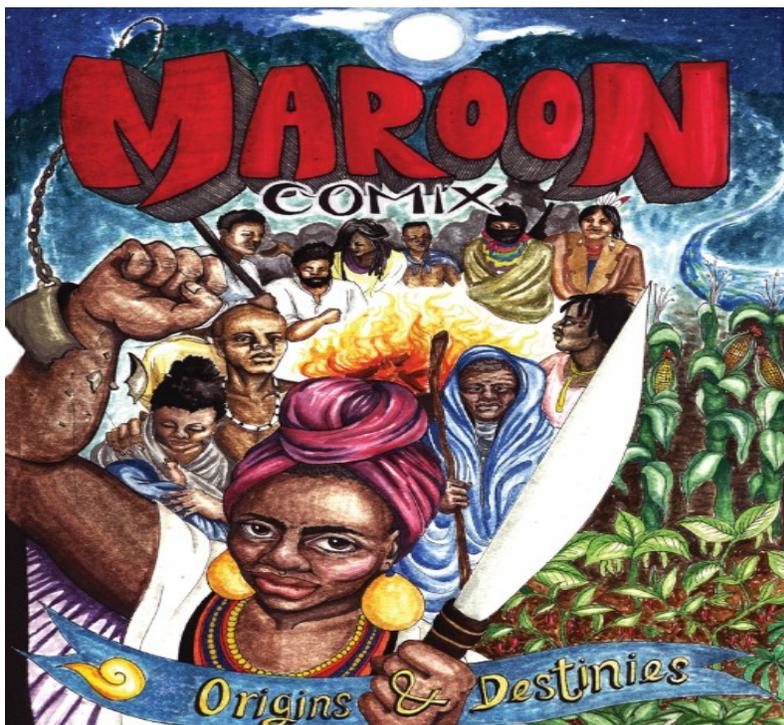
With selections and citations from the writings of Russell Maroon Shoatz, Herbert Aptheker, C.L.R. James, and many more, accompanied by comics and illustrations from Songe Riddle, Mac McGill, Seth Tobocman, and others, *Maroon Comix* is an invitation to never go back, to join hands and hearts across space and time with the maroons and the mountains that await their return."

And as Maroon writes in his review:

"*Maroon Comix* is breathtaking! I say that after decades of study and practice in that arena. One who is serious about resisting the dragons that threaten our very existence will use *Maroon Comix* to help fashion or reinforce their place within the hydra of twenty-first-century Maroons."

Please support the project by purchasing one or multiple copies here:

https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=962



Community Calls for Action

-Rashid Johnson

Rashid was moved on July 10 from Red Onion to Sussex I State Prison in Virginia. It is feared that this is preparatory to another out-of-state-transfer, possibly into the federal system and into a site of extreme isolation.

Urgent demands:

1. No more interstate transfer for Kevin Johnson (#1007485)
2. Release Kevin Johnson from solitary confinement.

The punitive measures and threats have been imposed on Kevin Johnson not because of any violent conduct on his part but because of his relentless exposure of abuses by prison officials, his willingness to challenge those abuses through the legal system, and his efforts to educate fellow prisoners and encourage them to challenge by peaceful means the unhealthy and humiliating conditions to which they are subjected. We would target the VADOC. One specific target would be the official in charge of interstate compact: Chief of Corrections Operations David Robinson. We can call the main office number at 804-674-3000 and ask to be transferred to his phone line. Robinson's email address is david.robinson@vadoc.virginia.gov.

Please take a moment to sign the petition here: http://act.rootsaction.org/o/6503/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=214629

Also, write to Rashid at:

Sussex 1 State Prison
24414 Musselwhite Dr.
Waverly, VA 23891



-Russell Maroon Shoatz---Announcing The Maroon Project

"In light of his coming birthday, we've decided to launch *The Maroon Project*, a booklet filled with messages to Maroon from supporters old and new, highlighting what you've learned from Maroon's writings and/or interactions with him over the years. The booklet will be shared directly with Maroon and made available to a general audience. As his daughter Sharon Shoatz writes:

"Peace, To all those who have come in contact with Russell Maroon Shoatz, in Pennsylvania and beyond, my family and I would like to personally thank you for your support over the years. We are in the early stages of producing a booklet filled with messages to Maroon from YOU!

Maroon is considered a father figure to many throughout the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Many prisoners often say how his mentorship changed their lives for the better. We've also heard from many folks on the outside about how much their correspondence with Maroon helped develop their thinking on issues personal and political. In the interest of collecting these perspectives in a single place, and sharing them directly with Maroon, we want to invite his supporters to write brief messages, reflections, or letters of support, and help us make this a meaningful and memorable celebration paying homage to our dad. Messages can focus on prison issues, aspects of the contemporary political landscape, insights on activism work, and/or any mentoring or support you may have experienced as a direct or indirect result of your interaction with Maroon.

Maybe you know a prisoner who is no longer here with us, but who shared with you their experiences of Maroon. Your voice is theirs. Perhaps one or some of Maroon's perspectives, be it from his time with the Panthers, the Black Unity Council, the Black Liberation Army, or from his experiences since being locked up, have influenced your worldview, whether it was spoken to you directly or you read it in *Maroon The Implacable*.

Please send us your words, share with us your experiences, and express how our father has made a difference in your life or the life of those you know. While we'll consider writings of up to 1,000 words, we're primarily looking for notes of 500 words or less. Messages, not manifestos. Feel free to address Maroon directly or construct your piece as an open letter to our family and extended support network. We also invite you to share with us any artwork you've created that honors or was inspired by our dad. To be honest, you all will be educating my siblings and I. Many of you know our father in ways that we don't! So we very much look forward to hearing from you.

We don't yet have a hard deadline for submissions, but the sooner you can send us something, the better.

Please send your correspondence to:

The Maroon Project

PO Box 429

Englewood, NJ 07631

You can also e-mail us at sshoatz65@gmail.com

-Leonard Peltier



"Dear Friends, Supporters and Family, The lock-down has ended after 50+ days and we were able to have a legal visit with Leonard and share all the work done in his absence. Our FOIA attorney has been successful in obtaining 6,020 new pages of documents withheld from Leonard for well over 40 years. However, we are still requesting the release of all remaining FOIA documents for specific time periods, so

the struggle continues.

Leonard received word the Washington case regarding his First Amendment Right to have his paintings shown in public spaces will be allowed to move forward. There is a very insightful article in Native News with an excellent overview of the case. The new lawyer is very positive about the case which will allow him to show the misconduct of the FBI has continued from the false affidavits sent to Canada to their attempts to Leonard from showing his art to the community today.

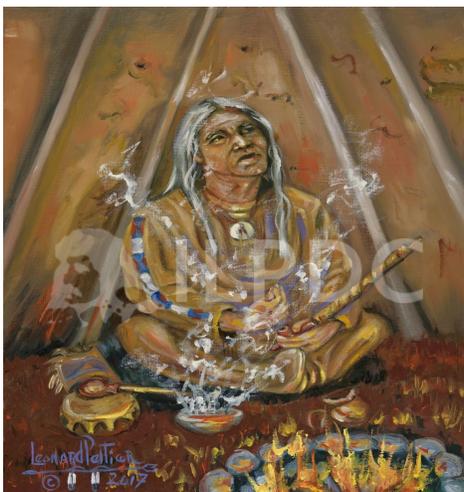
During the lockdown, Leonard was taken out for his post heart surgery 9th month check-up; he received a very positive report from the doctor. Due to this, there should not be a reason for the BOP to deny Leonard his much needed prostate surgery, or hip replacement. Leonard will be sending a medical request and hopes you help by writing a letter, make calls, or send an e-mail in support of his request. We will send out an email with an update as this progresses.

On the 28th of July, the 2018 Peltier Freedom Ride kicked off from Mankato, Minnesota. Ken Fourcloud and 7 other men are on horseback riding to Coleman, Florida to highlight Leonard's continued struggle for freedom; they hope to arrive by Sept. 22nd. **To show Leonard's appreciation, ILPDC is raffling one of his paintings "Filling the Chanupa to Pray". The tickets are \$25.00 for 1 ticket and 5 tickets for \$100.00. You can purchase your tickets by using the donate button on our website, or send a check to the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, 116 W. Osborne Ave., Tampa Florida 33603.** If you are interested in following the Freedom route If they are riding through an area near you, please show your support for Leonard and the riders. The 12th of September is Leonard's 74th birthday, a wonderful gift for Leonard would be for his supporters to hold fundraising events in their area. All proceeds help to maintain the office and pay the much needed attorney fees.

In the words of Leonard Peltier: "Only one thing's sadder than remembering you were once free, and that's forgetting you were once free. Please help us make Leonard's freedom a reality. Leonard and the committee appreciate all your continued support.

In the Spirit of Freedom,

The National office and Board"



-Ramona Africa Needs Our Help Now!

"From the Free Mumia Coalition. Please help this courageous freedom fighter if you can....

Earlier this week we learned from Orié that Ramona Africa was in the hospital: "The Move org. is informing our supporters, sympathizers and all those in solidarity with the cause of revolution, that 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."

And today, from the Move family in Philadelphia:

"To give people an update on Ramona's situation. Today the hospital informed Ramona that her insurance co. would no longer be responsible for paying her hospital and therapy bills and that she's being released from both hospital and therapy unless she can pay the bills herself. The problem is Ramona can't stand without assistance and she can't walk, she's not good to go and she hasn't had enough therapy to safely release her into the world. The other problem is the burden of costs; therapy sessions are extremely urgent and immediate or Ramona will regress leaving any progress she's made to date undone and she'll have to start all over from the beginning. These therapy sessions are necessary but at the same time they create a financial burden on the family; without the medical insurance, that we will not be able to handle, it'll be more than we can afford, we need help. Ramona cannot afford to come out of the hospital; she is not physically ready and her home plan is not ready. Certain things she will require have to be met, like a hospital bed and special bedding, and bathroom facilities that need a contractor and plumber. The family is doing what we can, but we do need help. We are establishing a "go fund me" account to accommodate any monetary donations that are sent for Ramona; the family appreciates the help you can give and thanks you in advance for your support. Ona Move"

<https://www.gofundme.com/helpsaveramonaafrica>

-Write to Nina Droz Franco



The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign is urging all of our supporters and allies to help us in popularizing our new campaign request:

"ProLibertad is calling on the International community to show it's solidarity and support of Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Nina Droz Franco by writing to her! Two weeks ago, Nina was transferred from her prison in Puerto Rico to a new one in Tallahassee, Florida! Being in Florida, it will be difficult for her friends, family, and her elderly mother in particular to see her.

This distance will be hard on Nina; she needs our support now more than ever. Let's show Nina that she is in our hearts, thoughts, well wishes, and prayers, by sending her a postcard, letter, or card! " You can write to her at:

Nina Droz-Franco

#50427-069

FCI Tallahassee

501 Capital Circle, NE

Tallahassee, FL 32301

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

WEBSITE: <http://www.ProLibertad.org>

ProLibertad@hotmail.com

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

<https://www.twitter.com/ProLibertad>

Telephone: 718-601-4751

Support our International Campaign to Free Ana Belen Montes:

<http://www.prolibertad.org/u-n-campaign-for-ana-belen>

“Sign the petition to help Free Nina Droz Franco:

<https://www.change.org/p/libertad-para-nina-droz-franco>

A Call to Action on Puerto Rico

ALL OUT TO THE UN!!

Rally for the Decolonization and Independence of
PUERTO RICO

120 MINUTES of protest for
YEARS of COLONIALISM

Monday, August 20th 2018
and every third Monday
from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm

In front of the United Nations at
Ralph Bunche Park on 1st Avenue
(between 42nd and 43rd Streets)

Bring signs and banners to call international
attention to Puerto Rico's right to self determination.

For information: Follow us on Facebook: **A Call to Action on Puerto Rico**
Co-sponsors: **Frente Independentista Boricua**

¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

-Move 9

Move has called for a coordinated Twitter-storm to happen on August 8th, the exact anniversary of the imprisonment of the Move 9. We're looking for all Twitter users to participate if you will.

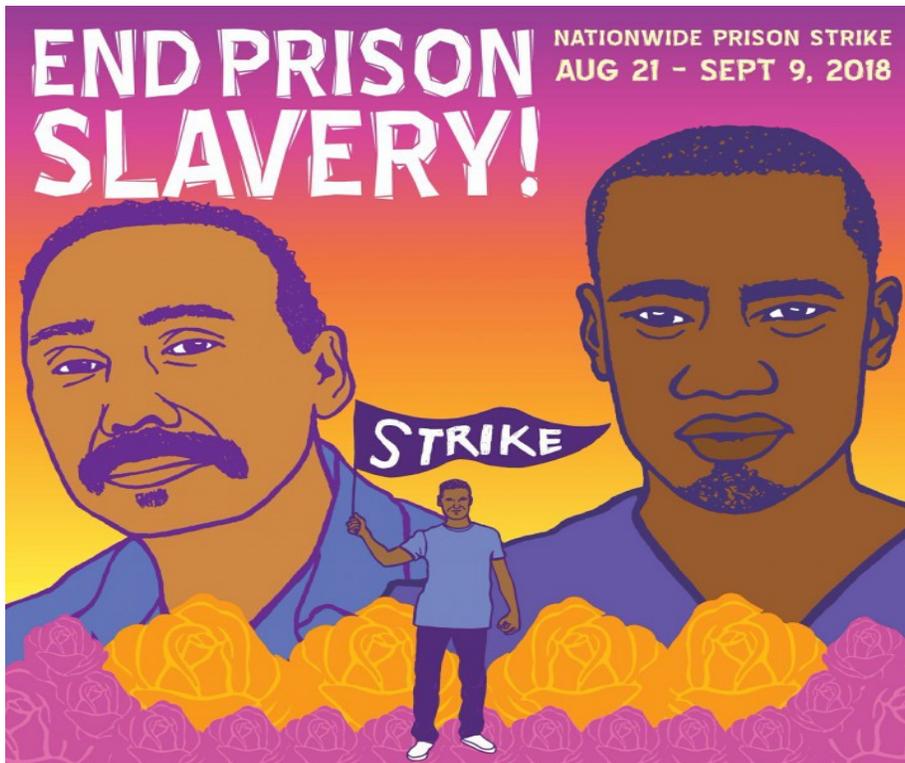
Instructions here:

<https://phillyabc.files.wordpress.com/2018/08/instructions-08062018.pdf>

Stay tuned, our Running Down The Walls reportback is coming soon!

-Prison Strike 2018

"End Prison Slavery with two prisoners looking out and one holding a banner that says "strike."
Rebels incarcerated in prisons across the nation declare a nationwide strike in response to the riot in Lee Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison in South Carolina. Seven comrades lost their lives when prison officials turned their backs on a riot they provoked. We are demanding humane living conditions, access to rehabilitation, sentencing reform and the end of modern day slavery.



Take Action:

- Call for Labor Day Solidarity
- Phone Zap Prisons
- Write Letters to Prisoners Facing Retaliation
- Donate to the strike fund
- Endorse the Strike

Learn more:

- Week one Press Update
- Day 2 Press Update
- Action Roundup of Prison Strike Activity
- Original Press Release by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak
- Prison Strike Resources
- <http://sawarimi.org/national-prison-strike>

Support the Strike

- Educate yourself and others about the strike demands
- Read the Prison Strike zine
- Listen to interview with Jailhouse Lawyers Speak organizers
- Follow #August21 and #prisonstrike on social media
- Endorse the strike by emailing your organization's statement to prisonstrikesmedia@gmail.com
- Donate to the strike fund
- Spread word of the strike both inside and outside - print out stickers, flyers and posters
- Organize a phone cluster in preparation for phone zaps
- Amplify incarcerated voices via social media using the #August21 and #prisonstrike hashtags

Join or organize a solidarity demo

Demands

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.

Endorsers

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

Millions for Prisoners

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee

The People's Consortium

See full list of endorsers.

Add your organization's name to the list by emailing prisonstrikemedia@gmail.com

Campaign Scope National”

<https://incarceratedworkers.org/campaigns/prison-strike-2018>

-URGENT CALL FOR ACTION TO PROTECT PA STATE PRISONERS!!!-Rachel Wolkenstein

“A state-wide lockdown in all Pennsylvania prisons began on Wednesday August 29. DOC Secretary John Wetzel states this lock-down is INDEFINITE. During this time prisoners are in 24-hour lockdown—meals in their cells, no yard, restricted showers, no visitors, no phone calls, no mail.

This is solitary confinement for every state prisoner, with even more restrictions than being in “the hole.” Except for legal mail, no communication is allowed between prisoners and the outside world. This represents a danger to all prisoners.

Wetzel gave the official reason as an emergency response to nearly 30 staffers at eight different prisons were sickened over the past month by synthetic drugs, supposedly by liquids dropped onto letters, book pages and the like. There were no reports of prisoners getting ill or finding these synthetic drugs on incoming mail, on prisoners, or in their cells. This has all the signs of a totally invented “emergency.”

We must demand: Immediate End to the Lockdown! Open up Communication—Reinstate Phone Calls, Visits and Mail!

It is at times like this—with no eyes and ears into the prisons and from prisoners-- that the most outspoken as well as the most vulnerable prisoners can be targeted for retribution. We must demand that no injury come to Mumia Abu-Jamal, the MOVE prisoners, Major Tillery or any other PA state prisoner in the course of this lockdown, whether inflicted by prison guards or caused by medical malfeasance.

This lock-down began in the midst of a nationwide prisoners strike. This “emergency” is an excuse for imposing additional draconian measures to the already inhumane and class and race driven conditions of incarceration.

Update from official DOC website, September 1, 2018 while stating the lockdown continues: “effective Saturday, September 1, routine showers and exercise will resume for L5 units; dietary, infirmary, laundry and commissary to include inmate workers for those areas will resume; access to phones, kiosks and showers on general population units will resume using normal sign up procedures; submission of commissary order forms and delivery of commissary to units will resume”. The Department of Corrections intends to use this to impose permanent changes on visitation and mail, per Sec. Wetzel’s statement at an August 30, 2018 press conference.”

Call or email DOC Secretary John Wetzel: (717) 728-2577

Ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov

pacontactdoc@pa.gov

-RAPP: The New York State Parole Board: Failures in Staffing and Performance.

"Co-authored by the Parole Preparation Project and the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign, this report exposes the horrific practices of the New York State Parole Board and their impact on incarcerated people across New York State. You can read more coverage of the report in the Daily News:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-metro-parole-board-cuomo-20180813-story.html>

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The report draws from the generous testimony of hundreds of currently and formerly incarcerated people, parole interview transcripts and other publicly available information. The report covers two key topics: Understaffing: While the Parole Board has capacity for 19 Commissioners, there are currently seven vacancies. Twelve Commissioners are now tasked with conducting parole release interviews for roughly 12,000 parole applicants per year. Such understaffing leads to abbreviated interviews, frequent postponements, and a parole release process riddled with insurmountable obstacles.

Commissioner Misconduct: The Parole Board remains staffed by several Commissioners who engage in unprofessional, inhumane and illegal conduct. Our report documents the behaviors of Commissioners W. William Smith and Marc Coppola, who have long histories of denying parole applicants exclusively based on the nature of their crime and each donate thousands of dollars every year to the very State Senators that appoint and reappoint them.

Understaffing and Commissioner misconduct leads to mass aging, death and despair in prison. Just last month, on July 15, 2018, Joseph James died in a hospice at Wende Correctional Facility at the age of 70, after serving 42 years in prison and facing 10 parole denials. We mourn the loss of Joe and the more than 960 other people who have died behind bars since Governor Cuomo took office.

OUR DEMANDS

Governor Cuomo must:

Dismiss Commissioner Smith and Coppola immediately, not only for their unlawful conduct, but for their fundamental belief that people in prison are incapable of change and are not worthy of compassion or respect.

Appoint new Parole Commissioners immediately who come from a broad range of professional backgrounds, including social workers, nurses and people of faith, and believe strongly in the principles of rehabilitation, mercy, and redemption.

TAKE ACTION

CALL Governor Cuomo TODAY at 518-474-8390

“Hello, my [insert name here] and I’m calling from [insert location here] to tell the Governor to use his executive power to fire Parole Board Commissioners W. William Smith and Marc Coppola for this egregious conduct, and fully staff the Parole Board with qualified Commissioners who believe in rehabilitation.”

TWEET at Governor Cuomo:

Use this social media guide to tweet at Governor Cuomo and post on Facebook. Demand #ParoleJusticeNow and amplify the voices of the currently incarcerated people who the Governor's Parole Board continues to harm.

SHARE the Report:

With your help, we can hold the Governor and Parole Board accountable and ensure every person in prison has a fair and meaningful opportunity to return home to their families. Please share the report far and wide with your friends and networks.

For media requests, please contact Dave George, Associate Director of the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign: 631-885 3565, ddgeorge23@gmail.com

Thank you,

The Release Aging People in Prison Campaign and Parole Preparation Project”



-National Prison Strike

“Men and women incarcerated in prisons across the nation declare a nationwide strike in response to the riot in Lee Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison in South Carolina. Seven comrades lost their lives during a senseless uprising that could have been avoided had the prison not been so overcrowded from the greed wrought by mass incarceration, and a lack of respect for human life that is embedded in our nation's penal ideology. These men and women are demanding humane living conditions, access to rehabilitation, sentencing reform and the end of modern day slavery.

These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration, and state prisons:

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
2. 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.
3. The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.
7. No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.
8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
9. Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.
- 10.

10. 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!

We all agree to spread this strike throughout the prisons of Ameri\$\$\$a! From August 21st to September 9th, 2018, men and women in prisons across the nation will strike in the following manner:

1. Work Strikes: Prisoners will not report to assigned jobs. Each place of detention will determine how long its strike will last. Some of these strikes may translate into a local list of demands designed to improve conditions and reduce harm within the prison.
2. Sit-ins : In certain prisons, men and women will engage in peaceful sit – in protests.
3. Boycotts: All spending should be halted. We ask those outside the walls not to make financial judgments for those inside. Men and women on the in side will inform you if they are participating in this boycott.
4. Hunger Strikes: Men and women shall refuse to eat.

We support the call of Free Alabama Movement Campaign to “Redistribute the Pain” 2018 as Bennu Hannibal Ra – Sun, formerly known as Melvin Ray has laid out (with the exception of refusing visitation). See these principles described here: <https://redistributethepain.wordpress.com/>

How You Can Help

Make the nation take a look at our demands. Demand action on our demands by contacting your local, state, and federal political representatives with these demands. Ask them where they stand.

Spread the strike and word of the strike in every place of detention.

Contact a supporting local organization to see how you can be supportive. If you are unsure of who to connect with, email millionsforprisonersmarch@gmail.com

Be prepared by making contact with people in prison, family members of prisoners, and prisoner support organizations in your state to assist in notifying the public and media on strike conditions.

Assist in our announced initiatives to have the votes of people in jail and prison counted in elections.”

Donate to strike’s official fundraising page here: <https://fundly.com/2018-prisoner-strike>

For the Media: Inquiries should be directed to prisonstrikesmedia@gmail.com

-Statement regarding the ongoing Nationwide Prison Strike issued August 22, 2018, Day 2 of the strike. Issued by the Prison Strike Media Team

“So the prisoner strike has been underway for more than 24 hours now. In the first day we got word of actions coming out from the prisons from Halifax, Nova Scotia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington and Folsom Prison in California reported strike action.

We saw outside solidarity actions in at least 21 cities around the US and as far abroad as Leipzig, Germany. We saw Palestinian political prisoners give a statement of solidarity from their prisons in occupied Palestine. We called this conference call because those of us who have been coordinating media relations on the outside have been overwhelmed by the number of reporters and outlets who are covering the strike. Some of us who were involved with media relations in 2016 can say that the difference is dramatic and we thank you for your interest in this prisoner-led movement. Many of you have the same questions and so we want to give you all an opportunity to hear our responses in one place.

We want to note that although there aren't widespread reports of actions coming out of prisons that people need to understand that the tactics being used in this strike are not always visible. Prisoners are boycotting commissaries, they are engaging in hunger strikes which can take days for the state to acknowledge, and they will be engaging in sit-ins and work strikes which are not always reported to the outside. As we saw in 2016, Departments of Corrections are not reliable sources of information for these actions and will deny them and seek to repress those who are engaged in them.

We have spoken with family members who have suggested that cell phone lines may be being jammed at multiple prisons in South Carolina, New Mexico had a statewide lockdown yesterday. The Departments of Corrections in this country are working overtime to try and prevent strike action and to try and prevent word from getting out about actions that are taking place.

As you report the strike, we encourage you to uplift the actions that we do know about, but also acknowledge that strikers may be resisting in ways that are tougher to quantify and view. We encourage outlets to issue FOIA requests to prisons that we believe will show attempts to quell the strike and also evidence of boycotts and other strike activity.

We also really want to remind the media that this strike is about ten different demands. While prison slavery has become a galvanizing force in the public eye, and it is a key element that prisoners are protesting against, they have given you ten specific demands and it is important to talk about all of them or report on them individually. People need to understand how truth in sentencing laws function, how gang enhancement laws function, and how the prison litigation reform act works and why these are things that

prisoners are targeting their protest around. We need to be talking about the lack of rehabilitation programs, mental health care, and the lack of education programs and how this undermines the ostensibly rehabilitative nature of the prison system itself.

Prisoners crafted these demands carefully through national organizing, based on the circumstances of the Lee Prison violence that occurred earlier this year, in an understanding of how the state brings about the conditions of violence like that, and the types of changes that are necessary to prevent that sort of violence from recurring. **This is a human rights campaign and each of these demands should be understood through a human rights lens.**

<https://incarceratedworkers.org/news/strike-statement-press-august-22-2018>

-Rally To Show Continuing Solidarity — "The Four Prisoner Reps Will Be Present in Court August 21st RALLY at the San Francisco Federal Courthouse while the four CA Prisoner Hunger Strike and Ashker Class Representatives 'Meet and Confer' with CDCr to address the continuing solitary conditions that violate the Ashker lawsuit settlement agreement. The four prisoner hunger strike representatives will be present in the courtroom, an historic presence! RALLY 11:30am Phillip Burton Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse 450 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102

Help create a strong show of solidarity with prisoners fighting for human rights!

What's going on? The prisoner class-led movement and the Ashker v. Gov of CA class action lawsuit resulted in the release of over 1400 people from solitary confinement Security Housing Units (SHUs) to what the CA Department of Corrections (CDCr) calls "General Population." However, many of those people continue to be subjected to conditions of extreme isolation. With little to no out-of-cell time and no chance for social interaction, they are still in SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

On July 3, 2018, U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken ruled:

"The Settlement Agreement was intended to remove Plaintiffs from detention in the SHU, where they were isolated in a cell for 22 ½ to 24 hours a day... many Plaintiffs [now] spend an average of less than an hour of out-of-cell time each day, which is similar to the conditions they endured in the SHU. ... This demonstrates a violation of the Settlement Agreement." and "...a substantial percentage of Plaintiffs in Restricted Custody General Population (RCGP) are ...not permitted to exercise in small group yards or engage in group leisure activities. This does not comply with the terms of the Settlement Agreement." The Ashker Plaintiff class reps and legal team were ordered to meet and confer* with CDCr lawyers to explore a resolution of these two issues.

The four prisoner hunger strike representatives- Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa (Dewberry), Todd Ashker, Arturo Castellanos, and George Franco- will be present in the SF courtroom.

Please join the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS) outside the San Francisco Federal Courthouse to show our solidarity with prisoners who struggle against solitary confinement torture, who organize across racial/geographic lines, and who- through hunger strikes, massive solidarity, formal complaints, the Agreement to End Hostilities, and the Ashker civil rights class action lawsuit- forced CDCR to release people from solitary confinement SHUs. The organizing prisoners brought international attention to CA's solitary confinement practices as cruel and unusual punishment and its indefinite (forever) solitary terms as depriving prisoners of due process. CDCr had tortured people through

inhumane and extreme isolation for 10, 20, 30+, and, in beloved revolutionary brother Hugo Pinell's case, nearly 46 years. Unconscionable. Now, although CDCr is no longer allowed to impose endless solitary, indeterminate SHU terms, many class members released from SHU to "General Population" have been forced to spend as much or more time locked in their cells as when they were in SHU, with little to no rehabilitative or educational programming or social interaction with other people. Also, in the Restricted Custody General Population (RCGP), a unit in Pelican Bay State Prison created as a result of the Ashker settlement, prisoners are being prohibited from interacting and participating in group activities. Ashker prisoner representatives and attorneys still need our support fighting these conditions of solitary confinement. CDCr has filed a Notice of Appeal to the Ninth Circuit about Judge Wilken's two rulings in favor of more out-of-cell time and social interaction.

Please join us outside the San Francisco Federal Courthouse on Tuesday 11:30am, and bring a friend, in a strong show of solidarity with prisoner human rights.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS TORTURE

UNITY INSIDE, UNITY OUTSIDE

IMPORTANT NOTE: August 21, 2018 is the 47 year memorial anniversary of revered prison activist, George Jackson, who was assassinated by CA guards in San Quentin prison. It is also the first day of the 2018 National Prison Strike for humane living conditions, access to rehabilitation, sentencing reform, and the end of modern day slavery.

*Meet and confers are usually private with no judge present. This one will be in the presence of Magistrate Robert Illman and not open to the public.

"We will be with the prisoners...in the courts, in the legislature, and out in the community. We will use every venue available to us, UNTIL THE TORTURE IS ENDED." Marie Levin, sister of incarcerated Prisoner Human Rights Movement Representative, Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa"

For more information: Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition 510-426-5322,

phsreachingout@gmail.com

prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com

A Belgian artist imprisoned by Israel: Free Mustapha Awad!

"Many concerned friends of Mustapha Awad and supporters of Palestine have been worried about him and his whereabouts for weeks. The situation is highly troubling – he has been in Israeli occupation custody, under harsh interrogation for 20 out of the 24 hours of the day. Today, he remains imprisoned by the Israeli occupation. The following statement was released by Raj'een Dabkeh Troupe and the "Free Mustapha" committee, launched today in Belgium. We urge all friends and supporters of Mustapha and of Palestine to distribute this widely, sign on to the statement, share the Facebook page and act for his freedom.

A Belgian artist imprisoned by Israel: Free Mustapha Awad!

We are very concerned about the fate of our friend Mustapha Awad, a young artist and a Belgian worker of Palestinian origin. Mustapha was arrested by the Israeli authorities on 19 July 2018. There are very serious reasons to fear that he is or will be subjected to torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment during his detention. Mr. Awad is a Belgian citizen of Palestinian origin; he was born in Ain el-Helweh refugee camp in Lebanon. Mr Awad was recognized as a refugee in Belgium. Since becoming a Belgian citizen, he decided to visit Palestine, his ancestral homeland. He was arrested on the border between Jordan and Palestine by the Israeli armed forces who control the Palestinian borders. Since then, he has been held in custody and interrogated. For two weeks, Mustafa did not have a lawyer; no one could defend him or demand that his most basic rights be respected, such as having contact with his family members. He only saw the Belgian consul on August 8, after 20 days of interrogation. On August 16, he appeared in court, but was again sent back to an Israeli interrogation center. This situation is unacceptable. Palestinians imprisoned in Israel are subjected to torture and all kinds of violence during interrogations. This violence includes: physical assault, severe psychological pressure, prolonged sleep

deprivation, etc. This abuse is legal under Israeli law. According to our sources, Mustapha was interrogated for 20 hours in a row at a time: three teams of interrogators took turns. In addition, Mustapha Awad has health problems and suffers from chronic, unbearable lower back pain. Mr. Awad works in Belgium, has many friends and is a volunteer in several associations. He is an artist, performs on stage and is also a cultural worker and human rights defender. He is committed to the Palestinian cause.

As co-founder of the popular dabkeh (Palestinian dance) troupe Raj'een, he has performed with the group at numerous events in Belgium and across Europe. Mustapha is a son, brother and friend of many – his family in Belgium, his family in Lebanon, his dear friends and a large community around the world that knows and supports his work.

Mustapha Awad must be released. He did not commit any crime. We are counting on Belgium to shoulder its responsibilities and protect its citizens against this arbitrary arrest and against all forms of torture and inhuman treatment.

Mustapha has always acted in defense of the human rights of Palestinians facing unjust imprisonment. Today, it is time to defend the rights of Mustapha.

Raj'een dabkeh troupe and the "Free Mustapha" Committee

Take Action!

You can help build the campaign to free imprisoned artist Mustapha Awad. Please join us by taking the following actions:

Sign on to the statement here as a group or an individual: <https://goo.gl/forms/DhqopQRBo5tNGNZj1>

Join the Facebook page -> Free Mustapha Awad <https://www.facebook.com/freemustapha>

Share this statement, the action call and the Facebook page with your friends, comrades and fellow supporters of Palestine. The campaign will be issuing more calls for action – sign up to stay involved!"

<http://samidoun.net/2018/08/a-belgian-artist-imprisoned-by-israel-free-mustapha-awad/>



**FREE / LIBÉREZ
MUSTAPHA AWAD**

**Belgian Palestinian Artist, Activist,
Human Rights Defender detained by Israel**

samidoun
PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK
samidoun.net | samidoun@samidoun.net

-Eric King

"It was just brought to our attention that anarchist political prisoner Eric King was sent to the Secure Housing Unit (S.H.U., the hole, solitary confinement, etc) yesterday (8/17/18). At this point we do not have all the details, but it does seem like Eric will be in the S.H.U for the foreseeable future given what we know so far. We will be sure to update everyone once we get more information on the situation.

Eric is so appreciative of all of the mail he had received for his birthday, but unfortunately he won't have any of it with him to respond to, so if you're interested in writing him again he'd really appreciate that. We also encourage everyone to send him a note or a postcard or anything. The S.H.U is an even darker place than general population as a lot of you are aware of, so we have a couple of suggestions of easy ways to brighten up an otherwise drab cell he'll be spending 23 hours a day in for a period of time. If folks are willing and able, it would be great to include some articles about news, books, media, scientific discoveries, etc or pictures of beautiful nature spots by printing them off of a computer (remember, prisoners cannot get articles ripped out of the newspaper, polaroids, or real photographs).

Or, if you have money burning a hole in your pocket, please also consider sending Eric a book to get him some reading material while he's in the S.H.U.

<https://www.amazon.com/registry/giftlist/OEWNQ9RMQGZR>

This is an already particularly stressful time for Eric with the struggles his partner is going through, so if you could help us pass this along and encourage folks to write to Eric he would really appreciate that.

<https://www.gofundme.com/surviving-cancer-and-a-car-accident>

Update 8/19/18: Eric is still in the SHU but has been moved to a high security federal prison. You can write to him here:

Eric King #27090-045

USP Leavenworth

Post Office Box 1000

Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

Thank you all for your continued support! Until all are free! – EK Support Crew"

<https://supportericking.org>

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

Community News, Articles and Updates

-Certain Days Calendars Now Available!

"We are happy to announce that pre-sales for the 2019 Certain Days calendar have begun! Order now and calendars will ship around September 10th. You can order in the United States, Canada and Internationally at: <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. If you would like to buy this for a person in NYS prisons (or any prisons), you can do that at: <https://www.certaindays.org/order/prisoners/>
All other orders are via *<https://www.certaindays.org/order/>
<https://www.certaindays.org/order/>>*

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"

-Save the Date: 10.19: Benefit for recently released political prisoners- Brooklyn

"Friday, October 19 at 8:30 PM

Pine Box Rock Shop

12 Grattan St, Brooklyn, New York 11206

\$10 suggested donation

(no one turned away for lack of funds)

With

High Cost

MAAFA_hardcore (<https://maafahardcore.bandcamp.com/>)

Despairwolf (<https://despairwolf.bandcamp.com/>)

Trophy Hunt (<https://trophyhunt.bandcamp.com/>)

All money raised will go to Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar and their continued work supporting recently released political prisoners.

From Certain Days:

In the last year, we have been fortunate enough to welcome home a handful of political prisoners from US prisons. Our movements have not exactly been prepared for this good fortune, and so support committees, families and friends of these folks have been forced to scramble for funds for basic living expenses. In addition to that, many of these people have been targeted in the media and beyond by various law enforcement unions and organizations, making open fundraising online a difficult proposition. We need to step up our game and aid not only the handful of political prisoners that have been released this year but also, the people who may be leaving prison soon."

-RAPP: A Question of Compassion: Parole for People Aging in Prison

"On Wednesday, September 12th, 5:30pm-8pm join us and the Vera Institute of Justice for a special event on parole, medical parole and the release of aging people in prison. There will be a wine and cheese reception held at 5:30pm. The program will begin with a Ted-style talk by RAPP Organizer Jose Saldanda, followed by a panel discussion between members of RAPP, Vera and Rachel Bedard, a Geriatrician who works with older people in prisons and jails. We will discuss the crisis of incarcerated elders, Vera's new report on Compassionate Release in New York, and how everyone can get involved in our work to release older people from prison."

The event will be held at the Vera Institute of Justice, 233 Broadway, Floor 12, New York, NY 10279. Please RSVP for the event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-question-of-compassion-parole-for-people-aging-in-prison-tickets-49190470020>

-George Lester Jackson (September 23, 1941 – August 21, 1971)

“This extraordinary video is from a 16mm film “work print” made in 1971–1972, and includes interviews with George Jackson, Georgia Jackson (George and Jonathan Jackson’s mother) and Angela Davis, while she was still in the Marin County Courthouse Jail—before her acquittal. We have not been able to identify the other prisoners. As you will see, the film has no titles or other credits. The discovery of such amazing, previously unknown historic materials always leaves us thrilled and in awe, deepening our understanding of those times and affirming the mission of the Freedom Archives.”

<https://vimeo.com/100361380>

<https://freedomarchives.org/projects/george-jackson-work-print/>



-Oscar Lopez Released After Arbitrary Detention in Panama 7 August 2018

“The former political prisoner and Puerto Rican independence activist Oscar Lopez Rivera was released by Panamanian officials on Tuesday after being detained for 18 hours at the international airport while trying to travel to the conference, “America in Dispute” being held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Lopez Rivera was held in custody by Panamanian airport authorities on his way to the Bolivian meeting despite carrying a valid passport. Alejandro Molina, the spokesman for the political activist, said Lopez Rivera was arrested on the grounds that he was an ex-convict, and as such, Panamanian law allegedly prohibits him from traveling through the country.

Not until the Bolivian government intervened in the matter was Lopez Rivera freed.

The former political prisoner was finally freed in 2017 after then President Barack Obama commuted his sentence. The activist had been sentenced to 55 years in prison starting in 1981 for sedition. He was linked to the Armed Forces of National Liberation of Puerto Rico (FALN), an organization that fought for the independence of the Caribbean island.

The organizers of the seminar – Network of Intellectuals and Artists in Defense of Humanity – denounced Lopez Rivera’s detainment as unjust and with the intent to stop him from participating in the three day meeting in Bolivia. The forum seeks to bring together intellectuals and left-wing thinkers to discuss and organize alternatives to neoliberal and imperialist aggression in the region.

Among the guest panelists are personalities such as Argentine Atilio Boron, Venezuelan William Castillo and Bolivian government minister Carlos Romero. Former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, also on the list of forum attendees, was also detained at the Honduran international airport, accused of not being vaccinated for yellow fever. The former head of state overthrown in a right-wing coup in 2009 declared that he was vaccinated." "<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Oscar-Lopez-Released-After-Arbitrary-Detention-in-Panama--20180807-0025.html>

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OSP Hunger Strike reaches 2nd week

"Youngstown, OH- Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan has been refusing food since the morning of Saturday July 28 in protest to a conduct report and new restrictions on his confinement. The charges include rioting or participating in a riot, though no riot occurred. Hasan has been held in solitary confinement for decades at the supermax prison in Youngstown Ohio. The conduct report will be handled by a Serious Misconduct Panel later this week, who will make recommendations to the Chief of the Bureau of Classification, Brian Wittrup. Brian Wittrup is also the author of the conduct report.

"This is the equivalent of a prosecutor first arguing a case, and then putting on judges robes to determine the sentence," said Ben Turk, a supporter who was named in the conduct report and will testify before the panel, "there can be no justice in such an arrangement."

The conduct report primarily stems from Turk attempting to send publicly available documents about the upcoming prison strike to Hasan. The mailrooms intercepted the paper copy of these documents, but not the copy sent through the JPay email system. Hasan believes the matter cannot be won within the ODRC, he regards it as an infringement on his, and his supporters' First Amendment rights and intends to pursue remedy through the courts. A determined human rights advocate, Hasan has engaged in many hunger strikes over his years at the supermax. His commitment to justice and the assertion of his rights in this matter is strong. Outside supporters are engaged in a pressure campaign against the ODRC, encouraging people to call, send emails, and letters to Director Gary Mohr, at his office and home address.

View the call to action here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1845174578902495/>

A copy of the conduct report is available online here:

https://share.riseup.net/#0fTFI9yer_QKIt5h0nURDw

A copy of the offending material sent to Hasan is available online here:

<https://fireinside.noblogs.org/2018prisonstrikes/> "

CONTACT: Ben Turk PHONE: 614 704 4699

-In Wake of Death, Minnesota Prisoners Speak Out FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 8.10.18

"As the Minnesota Department of Corrections ends its lockdown at all prisons except Stillwater, prisoners there are speaking out against human rights abuses and calling for the lockdown to end. According to Carlos Smith, a prisoner at Stillwater, "we are currently without any basic humane treatment here... We still have not received any showers nor are we any closer to seeing any end to this nonsense." Stillwater has been locked down since a lone prisoner killed a guard on July 18. When facilities are on lockdown, prisoners receive no more than one hour a day outside their cells. Smith says prisoners are being held hostage in a struggle between the DOC and AFSCME prison guards, some of whom are calling for the resignation of the commissioner. Beyond the lack of laundry and showers, the 1600 men inside Stillwater are facing humiliation during the lockdown. "They took two sections, about sixty of us, handcuffed together, naked. Then we sat like that in the gym for an hour and a half while they ransacked our cells," Smith reports. AFSCME, the prison guard union is looking for a bigger budget for staffing but David Boehnke of the Twin Cities Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee doesn't believe staffing alone will reduce violence. "If you don't give respect, you won't get it. Overcrowding means reduced programming and inhuman conditions - violence which begets violence," Boehnke says. "The solution is there. Release the thousands of people locked up for petty parole violations and reinvest that money into improving conditions." A 2017 study from California prisons notes a robust relationship between reducing

overcrowding and lowering prison violence. Minnesota prisons are already above maximum capacity, resulting in hundreds of people being housed in county jails while the prison population is projected to be more than 1,300 people over maximum capacity by 2022. As of July 2018 35.6% of Minnesota's prison admissions, 2771 people, were incarcerated for crimeless technical violations of parole.

Beyond the recent killing, both guards and prisoners are facing increasing violence inside Minnesota's prisons. Without changing conditions, it is hard to see an end to rising violence. But right now, Smith hopes the public will speak up to end the lockdown and its human rights abuses. "We are just sitting in these cells smelling like billy goats," he says."

Twin Cities Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, tc.iwoc@gmail.com Contact: David Boehnke, 651-315-4222 (outside), Carlos Smith (inside: subject to DOC media policy) "

-Russell Maroon Shoatz

Black August Born Day Celebration, Play & Discussion Panel for Russell Maroon Shoatz's 75th Birthday Date: Saturday, August 25, 2018 Time: 5:00pm – 9:00pm Place: African American Museum (701 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) Tickets \$10.00 Eventbrite \$15.00 @ Door

Play: Mary's Daughter - Memoirs of an Artivist is one woman play about the life and times of Melanie Carter, artistically known as the Hip Hop Artivist, [Blak Rapp Madusa](#).

Eventbrite Link:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marys-daughter-memoirs-of-an-artivist-tickets-41619876170?aff=utm_source%3Demail%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text

Panel Discussion Includes: Blak Rapp Madusa, Hip Hop Artivist, Pam Africa, MOVE, Robert Saleem Holbrook, Human Rights Coalition, Megan Malachi, Philly Real Justice, Mike Africa Jr, MOVE, Russell Shoatz III, Moderated by Lavinia Davis

The poster features the name "MAROON" in large, bold, yellow letters on a black background at the top. Below this is a black and white portrait of Russell Maroon Shoatz, a man with a beard and glasses. Underneath the portrait is a black bar with the text "BLACK AUGUST BORN DAY CELEBRATION FOR RUSSELL MAROON SHOATZ" in green and red. The central part of the poster lists the panel discussion participants in white text on a black background: "PANEL DISCUSSION INCLUDES: BLAK RAPP MADUSA HIP HOP ARTIVIST ROBERT SALEEM HOLBROOK HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION PAM AFRICA MOVE MEGAN MALACHI PHILLY REAL JUSTICE MIKE AFRICA JR MOVE RUSSELL SHOATZ III MODERATED BY LAVINIA DAVIS". At the bottom, a black bar contains the date and time "AUGUST 25, 2018 5PM-9PM" and the location "701 ARCH ST. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106". Four logos are displayed at the very bottom: a red and white logo, a green and red circular logo, a yellow and black logo, and the word "HOOD" in yellow.

-Compare US P.P. Policy with its European Allies “Britain Frees Northern Irish Prisoners “Jul 28, 2018 Scores of Northern Ireland’s most hardened guerrillas walked free today when Britain virtually emptied the notorious Maze prison to bolster the peace process in the province. Leading guerrillas from both sides of Northern Ireland’s sectarian divide were among the 86 prisoners who were released, many having served only a small fraction of their sentences. One was the Irish Republican Army’s James McArdle, sentenced to 25 years over the devastating 1996 London Docklands bombing. Another was IRA gunman Martin Mines, who famously shouted “see you in 18 months!” when sentenced only last year to 50 years for conspiracy to murder and possessing arms. Also released were IRA snipers and bombers who killed British troops and pro-British guerrillas responsible for mass shootings targeting Catholics during the 30-year conflict known as the “Troubles.” For full article please see:
<https://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=83044&page=1>

-Leonard Peltier: Benefit Concert VIP Packages “We are excited to announce the upcoming 2nd Annual Leonard Peltier Fundraising Concert to be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 in the Verizon Theater in Dallas Texas. Artists will include BJ Thomas Steve Earle and Chris Gantry, they will be joining our friends Jamey Johnson, Keith Secola, Folk Uke, Peter Coyote, and more! We are offering Leonard Peltier supporters the opportunity to purchase ILPDC VIP packages for the show. This exclusive will begin today, Tuesday, August 14 and will end at 11:59pm on August 21st. Here's a link to start your VIP experience: <http://www.doksha.com/vip-packages> Please read what Leonard shares about this exciting concert www.doksha.com “ The on-sale to the general public will begin on Monday, August 27 through the venue web site: http://theateratgrandprairie.com/verizon/?gclid=CjwKCAjw-8nbBRBnEiwAqWt1zYsM4dl-elZx1RiRBXAu1ssvrPmkEJDuhUH_CYxOBx7IfKnmOvxgohoC_NUQAvD_BwE

-Could This Be the Worst Solitary Confinement Unit in the Nation? By Jess Hallam - August 1, 2018”Dr. Craig Haney has investigated the psychological effects of prison conditions for more than 40 years, and has spent time in dozens of supermax prisons and solitary confinement units. But the conditions in the Georgia Diagnostic & Classification Prison’s solitary confinement facility, the Special Management Unit (SMU)—where incarcerated men swallow hacksaw blades and their own feces and urine in desperation, and the air is filled with “a cacophony of prisoner screams and cries for help”—may be the most atrocious he has ever encountered. “It is one of the harshest and most draconian such facilities I have seen in operation, anywhere in the country,” Haney wrote in an expert report after touring the SMU and conducting anonymous interviews with individuals confined there. Made public in full earlier this month, Haney’s report was originally submitted this May as evidence in an ongoing class-action lawsuit. The suit was originally filed pro se in February 2015 by Timothy Gumm, who was later joined by plaintiffs Robert Watkins and Johnny Mack Brown.

The plaintiffs claim that they and others in the 192-bed unit have been subjected to cruel and unusual punishment and denied due process by current and former officials at the Georgia Department of Corrections (DOC), Georgia Diagnostic & Classification Prison, and the SMU. Within just one year of Gumm’s initial filing, a striking 11 cases with similar fact patterns and claims were submitted to the same U.S. District Court. The men in the SMU are now represented by the Southern Center for Human Rights with pro bono support from the Atlanta-based firm Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton.” For full article please see: <http://solitarywatch.com/2018/08/01/could-this-be-the-worst-solitary-confinement-unit-in-the-nation/>

-US Attorney's Office That Prosecuted Inauguration Day Protesters Has History of Misconduct Findings

"Prosecutors on the "J20" case faced grave allegations of misconduct after withholding exculpatory evidence contained in videos from defense attorneys. But this is far from the first time that this office has found itself in hot water. Oliver Harris finally felt vindicated when he heard the jury announce "not guilty" last December, as the first of the J20 trials came to a close. Relief would come later. The then 28-year-old, disturbed by what he perceived as Donald Trump's violent and fascist language on the campaign trail, had traveled to Washington, D.C., on Inauguration Day—Jan. 20, 2017—to protest the Trump administration as part of a direct action organized by the group #DisruptJ20.

During the protest, which was hundreds strong, a small group destroyed property, including a police car and business windows. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), in turn, used pepper spray, tear gas, and Sting-Ball grenades against the protestors. By the end of the day, Harris was arrested, along with over 230 others, charged under the D.C. rioting statute despite no credible evidence he incited or engaged in a riot or caused any property damage. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, which handles both local and federal cases, later added numerous other charges against 214 defendants. Throughout 2017, Harris, who faced up to 60 years in prison, joined the other charged protestors and hundreds of defense attorneys to prepare for their trials. But thanks to his acquittal in December, he could go home to his partner who was pregnant with twins, return to his teaching job at Drexel University and his Ph.D. studies in chemical engineering, and resume a normal life. Earlier this month, after another trial that ended with no convictions, prosecutors finally dropped the charges against all defendants." For full article please see: <https://theappeal.org/us-attorneys-office-that-prosecuted-inauguration-day-protesters-has-long-history-of-misconduct/>

-Ankle Monitors Aren't Humane. They're Another Kind of Jail by James Kilgore and Emmett Sanders - August 4, 2018 "Ankle monitors are trending these days: Movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and former Donald Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort are under the electronic tether, and last month, in the wake of outrage over immigration officials separating families at the border, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement began monitoring migrant parents electronically rather than keeping them incarcerated in detention centers. More than 35,000 immigrants have been assigned an ankle monitor GPS unit.

They have plenty of company. According to research by the Pew Charitable Trusts, law enforcement's use of electronic monitors more than doubled between 2005 and 2015. The technology continues to gain popularity as pressure to reduce incarceration mounts. To many, electronic monitoring is humane—one that allows people "on the bracelet" to live at home and move about more freely than they would behind bars. But those who have lived under this high-tech tether—including the two of us—see it differently. For many, electronic monitoring equals incarceration by another name. It is a shackle, rather than a bracelet. The rules for wearing a monitor are far more restrictive than most people realize. Most devices today have GPS tracking, recording every movement and potentially eroding rights in ways you can't imagine.

Just ask James Morgan of Madison, Wisconsin, who spent several days behind bars because the Department of Corrections reported his monitor lost its GPS signal and reported false information about his location. Or Dustin Tirado of Los Angeles, who told us about cutting his hand in a domestic accident. The wound was bleeding profusely, so he headed for the hospital, phoning his parole officer to let him know. When Tirado arrived at the hospital, police were waiting. They took him into custody, and he spent 10 days in prison before being released.

We have been researching electronic monitoring for several years. There is no real proof that these devices make communities safer. Instead, the monitors function as an additional punishment, extending a person's sentence when they're placed on a monitor as part of parole. Or, they severely curtail the freedoms of those who are given a device before they've even been convicted. The money spent on this under-regulated and misunderstood technology would be better used to provide jobs or housing.

Here are seven things you may not know about the ankle shackle:

1. Paying for the Privilege-People on the monitor not only must live with round-the-clock surveillance; most also must pay for the privilege. Fees range from \$5 to \$25 a day, in some cases making a person's monitor fees more than their monthly rent. Missing a payment has serious consequences. In Kentucky, if you are three days late, authorities can send you back to prison.
2. Can't Touch This-Some people report skin irritations from the devices. Yet many states have made it a crime to "tamper" with or remove them; in Georgia, doing so can earn you up to five years in prison.
3. Shackled for Life-A number of states have mandatory lifetime GPS for people found guilty of certain sex crimes. In Michigan, those on lifetime GPS must shoulder fees regardless of their ability to pay. The Eighth Amendment states, "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." Doesn't a daily fee for the rest of a person's life fall into the excessive category?
4. Don't Get Sick-Some medical procedures, such as MRIs, mammograms, x-Rays, and CT scans, cannot be done while a person has a monitor. Most states have no clear policy for removing the device in case of emergency. California's rules require the person to "carry an activated ... device to the medical procedure" (e.g., into the operating room).
5. Hidden Costs Many states still require a landline telephone (yes, a landline) for their monitors, adding a cost many households have long since struck from the budget. In Iowa, if you lose or damage the tracking component of the device, you'll pay \$795 to replace it; a missing power cord sets you back \$55.
6. Can You Hear Me Now? A person's monitor must maintain contact with authorities to avoid violating the rules. However, losing signal is a common occurrence for most people on EM. The easiest way to lose connection is a dead battery. Most devices have batteries which need daily charging. While batteries are supposed to hold a charge for the entire day, they often fail, forcing individuals to either return home or plug them into a wall outlet in a public place. The most difficult moments come during power outages; Troy Hawkins, who spent time on a monitor in Wisconsin, reported that he was taken to jail for five days when a power outage caused his device to lose connection.
7. Who Owns Your Data? About 70 percent of all electronic monitoring devices have GPS capacity, (up from 2.5 percent in 2005). Where does all that tracking data go? Mostly, we don't know. The data typically belongs to a department of corrections or local sheriff's department, but several branches of law enforcement often have access.

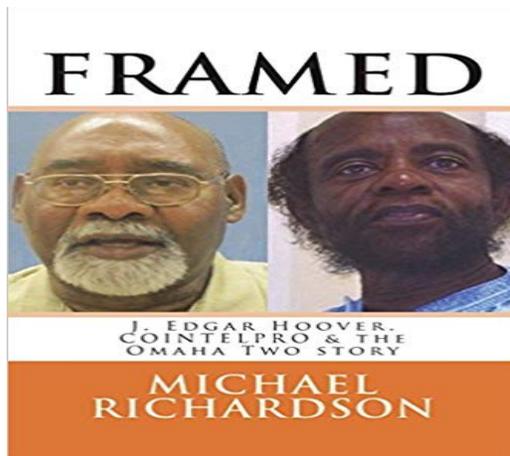
In some cases, the contracted monitoring firm owns the data. In Germany, GPS tracking data must be deleted after two months, but that's not the case in the US. In the US, at least two companies, Attenti (formerly 3M) and Satellite Tracking of People, have contracts that specify the data will be kept a minimum of seven years, often long after the person is off the monitor.

Electronic monitors are punitive devices, not an alternative to incarceration. Johnny Page, now a youth counselor in Chicago, was placed on a shackle after 23 years in Illinois prisons. After that experience of EM, he said—and we agree: "You don't have to fight for the telephone, you don't have to fight for the shower, but you're still in jail. It's just another form of incarceration."

Instead of spending money on technological punishment, political decision-makers and law enforcement should use their resources to provide support to those who are on parole, awaiting trial, involved in the juvenile justice system, or caught up in the current repressive machinations of ICE. We need genuine alternatives, not digital prisons."

"James Kilgore (@waazn1), the author of the book *Understanding Mass Incarceration* and a 2017 Soros Justice Fellow, leads the Challenging E-Carceration Project. Emmett Sanders (@EmmettSanders75), a researcher on the Challenging E-Carceration project, is co-author of the guide "Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Re-entry." They have both been on electronic monitors."

-Please be Sure to Purchase Michael Richardson's new Book " FRAMED: J. Edgar Hoover, COINTELPRO & the Omaha Two story" <https://www.amazon.com/FRAMED-Edgar-Hoover-COINTELPRO-Omaha/dp/1985021994>



-How Companies Like JPay Are Making Millions Charging Prisoners to Send An Email

Author: Victoria - August 3, 2018 “Last July, as she has for the past 10 years, Dianne Jones spent 45 minutes on a city bus heading to the local WalMart. There, under fluorescent lights, she scanned rows of brightly colored birthday cards to pick out the perfect greeting for her son—let’s call him Tim—who is imprisoned more than 100 miles from his mother’s home just outside New Orleans. The card she settled on was dark brown with trees and a birthday message that read, “For the best son in the world.” Tim was in his 10th year of a 30-year prison sentence for an armed robbery he committed at age 17; he would not be able to see, let alone sit under or touch, a tree for the next 20 years. (Citing safety concerns, Jones asked that her son’s name not be used.) After Jones, her daughter, and her three grandchildren signed the card, she mailed it off, happy that Tim would know that his family was thinking of him. Days later, the card was returned. Puzzled, she called the prison where she learned the facility had instituted a prohibition on greeting cards. If she wanted to send a card, a prison official told her, Jones would have to pass along her greeting electronically using JPay, a company bringing email into prison systems across the nation.” For full article please see: <https://www.wired.com/story/jpay-securus-prison-email-charging-millions/>

-'This is human trafficking': After Maria, Puerto Rico to move 3,200 inmates to Arizona

Oliver Laughland - August 7, 2018

“When Maria pounded the concrete walls and rusted iron gates of the Bayamón correctional complex last September, inmates here watched in fear through the reinforced windows and metal bars.

“We went without running water for weeks, without electricity for weeks,” says inmate Joseph Villalobos, who sat in the open courtyard of Bayamón’s minimum security wing in the heart of the complex’s sprawling mass of structures. “It was hard.”

The lack of communication with the outside world kept inmates like Villalobos, seven years into a 26-year sentence for what he describes as a felony offense involving kidnap, in a state of perpetual anxiety.

The shock of last year’s category five hurricane was just a precursor to the radical overhaul of Puerto Rico’s overburdened prison system that some warn may have dire consequences for the civil rights of inmates.

Six months after the hurricane hit, the island’s unelected federal financial oversight board – colloquially named La Junta – approved a suite of austerity measures, ranging from workplace benefits cuts to slashing the education budget, in an ostensible bid to rid the commonwealth of its multi-billion dollar debt crisis. The plan led to widespread protests and civil unrest in the island’s capital. Nestled away in the 200-page

document was a policy to offshore around a third of Puerto Rico's prison population – 3,200 inmates – to private facilities thousands of miles away within the US. The board claim the policy will help to save close to \$400m over four years. The government insists it will be voluntary. But advocates describe it as a disaster waiting to happen. "This is government sponsored human trafficking. You are transferring people basically against their will," said William Ramirez, executive director of the Puerto Rico American Civil Liberties Union." For full article please see: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/07/puerto-rico-prisons-inmates>

-Child Detainee Testimonies Point to Torture by Israeli Forces

August 7, 2018

"Affidavits, from a number of Palestinian children, for the Prisoners' Affairs Commission reveal that they were subjected to systematic beating and torture, during and after detention by Israeli forces, the commission said on Tuesday. Commission attorney Hiba Ighbarieh documented testimonies from three children held at Majido prison, regarding what they went through during and after being abducted by Israeli authorities. Wafa reports that Munir Dari, aged 16, from al-Eesawiyya neighborhood, in occupied East Jerusalem, told the attorney that he was assaulted by several members of the Israeli security forces, upon his detention in his neighborhood, who beat him at random all over his body. He was also subjected to beating and cursing at the Russian Compound detention center, in West Jerusalem, to pressure him into confessing to the charges against him.

Fahd Qeisieh, 17, also from al-Eesawiyya neighborhood, was beaten after being caught during confrontations with Israeli forces in his neighborhood. He said that a policeman tackled him and dragged him to a police car, where another officer stepped, with all of his weight, onto his back while two others were violently beating him, as he was forced to stay on the ground. Beating continued at the Russian Compound interrogation center, where he was hit with a stick on his hands, legs, face and back, while being forced to kneel in confession." For full article, please see <http://imemc.org/article/child-detainee-testimonies-point-to-torture-by-israeli-forces/>

-As promised, here is the Running Down the Walls 2018 Reportback!

<https://phillyabc.wordpress.com/2018/08/07/running-down-the-walls-2018-reportback/>

"Thank you for your support in making RDTW a complete success! It means a lot to us, but so much more to political prisoners. Together we raised almost \$2000 that will be split between Move 9 legal defense and the ABCF Prisoner Warchest program. Free the Move 9! Free all political prisoners!"



"Unbreakable solidarity, Philly Anarchist Black Cross"

-A New Interview with Maroon's Son, Russell Shoatz III, on Restorative Justice, Healing, and Accountability

"Maroon's son, Russell Shoatz III, was recently interviewed by Raphael Cohen, newsletter editor for the Free Maroon campaign. Conducted for Who Has Been Harmed? How Do We Heal?, a video and audio interview project created by Raphael and Adrienne Skye Roberts for the 2017-18 Yerba Buena Center For The Arts Fellowship Program in San Francisco, the discussion addresses power, harm, and accountability, offering perspectives for healing and justice that don't rely on the carceral state, emphasizing Maroon's and other political prisoners' anti-retribution sentiments.

You can listen to the full interview here: <https://soundcloud.com/raphaelcohen1980/russell-shoatz-iii-interview-with-raphael-cohen-on-restorative-justice-healing-and-accountability>

You can also watch Who Has Been Harmed? How Do We Heal? in its entirety, which includes edited excerpts from this talk as well as interview clips with artists and activists Maddy "MADlines" Clifford, Tommy Shakur Ross, Ariel Luckey, and NaTisha Hutson, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqwJo1J9MZA>

Please feel free to share these links broadly with your friends, families, and social networks!"

-Bombing murder of Omaha policeman in 1970 was used by FBI against Black Panther leaders

Michael Richardson - August 17, 2018

"Forty-eight years ago, at 2:07 a.m. on August 17, 1970, a bomb exploded in the face of Omaha Patrolman Larry Minard who was examining an abandoned suitcase in a vacant house. Minard and seven others were responding to an emergency 911 call about a woman screaming. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was called soon after the blast and was running license plate checks and calling informants before dawn.

Detective Jack Swanson arrived at a stakeout watching a suspect's house. Richard Gibson was a man of interest to Swanson according to a police report until an early-morning call from the FBI cleared Gibson.

"At this time, we were contacted by agents of the FBI who stated they had talked with Gibson at this time."

A telephone call was made to FBI headquarters from the Omaha office at 7:45 a.m. Assistant Director Charles Brennan was informed by memorandum about the call concerning the death of a policeman.

"Omaha Office offered assistance in covering out-of-state leads and FBI Laboratory facilities offered.

Omaha advised it had notified military and Secret Service, was following closely, and alerted its racial informants in pursuit of investigation."

Brennan was also assured, "Pertinent parts will be included in teletype summary to the White House, Vice President, Attorney General, military and Secret Service." For full article please see:

<https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2018/08/17/bombing-murder-of-omaha-policeman-in-1970-was-used-by-fbi-against-black-panther-leaders/>

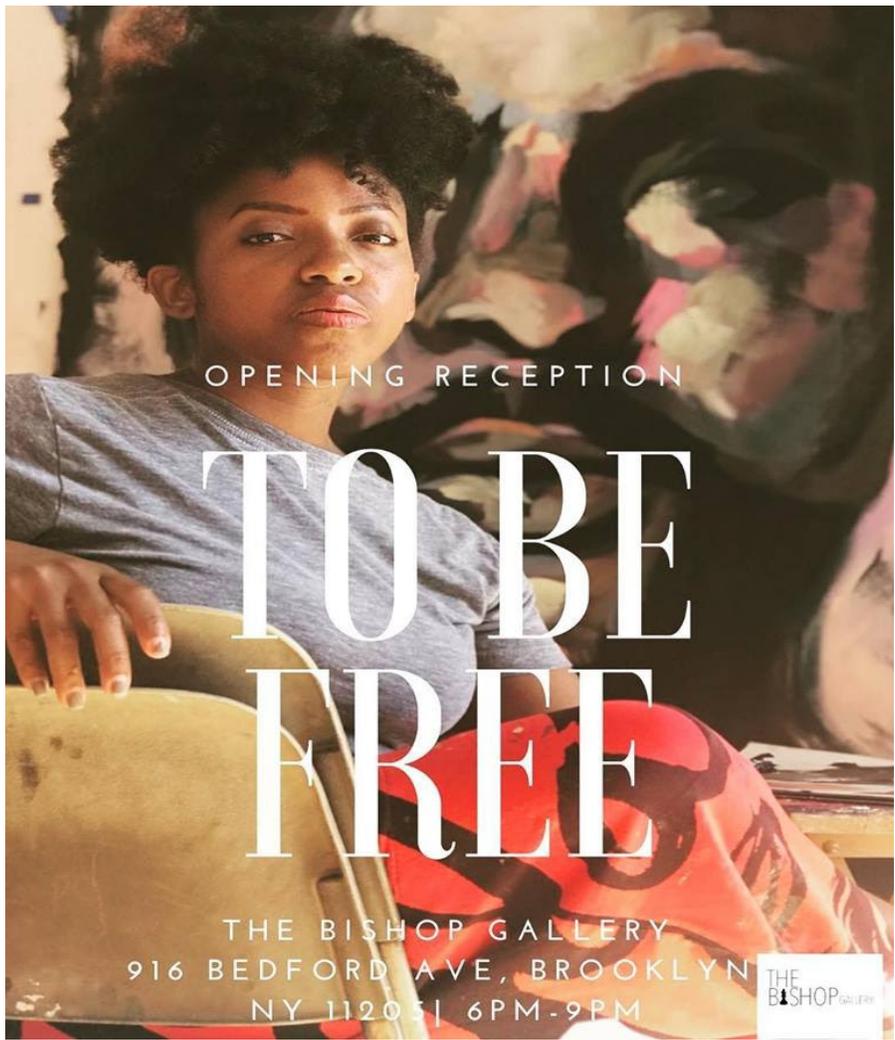
-To Be Free Exhibition opening at The Bishop Gallery 8/16 with Sophia Dawson

Opening Reception Thursday, August 16th, 6pm – 9pm Admission is Free! 916 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY — August 16th-23rd, 2018 "The Bishop Gallery is proud to present, Sophia Dawson's: "To Be Free". A week-long Pop-Up Exhibition and Fundraiser that explores the narratives of U.S. political prisoners who were jailed for their activism in the Black Liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

"To Be Free" was born after the death of Herman Wallace, one of the "Angola 3". Herman and two other men were targeted for their political activism while in prison. During their incarceration the "Angola 3" were believed to have been framed for killing a prison guard in 1971. While imprisoned, Wallace would be forced to serve 41 years of his sentence in solitary confinement, the longest time-period for any prisoner in U.S. history. Herman passed away on October 4th, 2013, three days after being released from prison. Through her larger-than-life portraits, Dawson humanizes the stories and people that others would try and paint as animals. Through her art Dawson calls attention to their continued imprisonment, while advocating for their freedom. Dedicating her life's work to exposing the stories and experiences of these

individuals as they strive to overcome injustice. The Bishop Gallery feels, “Sophia’s body of work is especially relevant in today’s society. In an America, where activists take to the streets daily to protest the latest social injustice and civil rights violations. Artist like Sophia Dawson must be given a platform, as her work directly speaks to the times we live in today.”

“To Be Free” Opening Night Reception (Thursday, Aug 16th, 2018) will take place in conjunction with BRIC’s Brooklyn Free Speech, Film Screening Series “B Scene at The Bishop: Emancipation Incarceration” an illustration of the struggle of incarcerated political prisoners of color in America by Artist / Curator / BRIC Media Arts Fellow, Sophia Dawson. There will be a special discussion with the filmmakers, artists, and Carla Usher, coordinator of the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Project Redirect Program following the screening. In addition, portions of the proceeds from EVERY artwork sold will be donated to National Alumni Association of the Black Panther Party (NAABPP).”



To Be Free Exhibition opening at The Bishop Gallery 8/16 with Sophia Dawson

-Prisoners On Nationwide Strike Demand End to Inhumane Treatment

“(Kansas City, USA) - August 17, 2018 - Prisoners within various institutions nationwide will be on coordinated work stoppages, sit-in strikes, commissary boycotts, and hunger strikes from August 21 - September 9, 2018, demanding “humane living conditions, access to rehabilitation, sentencing reform, and the end of modern day slavery.”

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak (JLS) is a network of incarcerated self-educated legal advocates. On April 22, 2018, JLS issued ten strike demands and a call for actions to be spread nationwide. The call for action was made in response to an April 15, 2018 riot at Lee Correctional Institution (Lee CI), a maximum security prison in Bishopville, South Carolina. Seven prisoners were killed in what was the deadliest prison riot in 25 years. No guards were injured in the incident. While the Lee CI riot was the largest of prison uprisings in recent memory, the Lee CI riot was not unique. System wide and longstanding practices of cruel and arbitrary abuses, the creation of hostile conditions, and demonstrated lack of regard of human life by corrections facility officials has been documented for decades. There has been a growing wave of repression and retaliation by prisons across the nation in order to subdue actions themselves, and to suppress news of actions from reaching outside supporters. Several prisons have been placed on lockdown that include the restriction or total loss of various forms of communication privileges.

Retaliation against individual prominent prisoners seen as agitators or leaders has also been documented in several states; as a small sample, Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan in Ohio and Kevin “Rashid” Johnson in Virginia have been thrown into solitary confinement, and Jason Renard Walker in Texas, while out of solitary for the moment, is facing threats and mail tampering. In recognition of the history of prison rebels and resisters, the 19 days of strike actions were called to commence officially on August 21, 2018, the 47th anniversary of the death of George Jackson, a prominent African-American prison advocate; until September 9, 2018, the 47th anniversary of the Attica Prison Rebellion, the largest prison uprising of the 1970s prison movement.

Currently incarcerated people across state borders and in various types of correctional institutions and detention facilities have mobilized in response to the calls to action, with many facilities issuing their own additional or regionally specific demands. Actions come at great individual and collective risk with communication restrictions and increased potential for retaliation. There has been a growing prisoner-led resistance movement has been shaped by national-level coordination of direct action inside prisons. Resistance has come in various forms with calls or campaigns for abolition, reform, decarceration, and policy change. Outside support has also come in various forms including coordinated demonstrations, media attention, and grassroots, community based organizing. The 2018 nationwide prisoner strike demands and calls for action have already spread widely, and the movement for outside support has been growing to meet it.

ABOUT

The Nationwide Prison Strike has been supported by a network of groups including Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, Free Alabama Movement, the Fire Inside Collective, and Millions for Prisoners networks. The objectives of these groups is to work together to increase the capacity for the strike demands to be met. These groups function as advocates, liaisons, and supporters to build bridges for outside support for inside coordinated actions. We advocate prison abolition."

Media contact: Amani Sawari

Email: prisonstrikesmedia@gmail.com

Prisonstrike.com / sawarimi.com

-What's Really Happening With the National Prison Strike? Wenting Li for The Marshall Project, Aug. 24, 2018

"Action is limited so far, but organizers are cheering the media attention. For several weeks, a group of inmates has been calling for a national prison strike to protest what organizers say are inhumane conditions inside the nation's prisons. Using contraband cell phones and with the help of outside volunteers, inmates in South Carolina and Alabama spread word of the strike on Facebook and Twitter and published their demands online and in prison newsletters. Organizers, both in and outside of the prison, say they encouraged inmates across the country to refuse to work or spend money to curtail the profits they say prisons and private companies make off their incarceration.

In the days leading up to the proposed start on Aug. 21, representatives for the strike said they anticipated demonstrations by inmates in as many as 17 states. But four days into the declared protests, they say they can confirm actions in only a handful of states. Organizers say they have confirmed accounts of participation at Northwest Detention Center, an immigration detention center in Washington; Folsom State Prison in California; McCormick Correctional Institution in South Carolina; and Toledo Correctional Institution in Ohio. They have relied mostly on the word of families and volunteers who have been in touch with participating inmates. Yet despite the strike's limited scope and the difficulty of corroborating the organizers' claims, national and local media have covered the strike in earnest, some calling it "the largest national prison strike in US history."

History shows that political actions by prisoners have had mixed results at best. Some prison reform advocates say that fear of reprisals coupled with the difficulty of communicating between prisons makes widespread action unlikely. Still, some say the media attention is a small victory in that it has brought the issue of inhumane prison conditions to a wider audience.

Here is a guide to how the strike garnered national media attention and what it tells us about both the aims of the organizers and the challenges of reporting on America's prison system.

How did inmates organize it?

Initially, there were talks among Jailhouse Lawyers Speak (JLS), a self-organized collection of anonymous activists incarcerated throughout the United States, and other activist inmates to plan a strike in 2019. But they decided to move up the timeline after seven inmates died during a riot in April at Lee Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in South Carolina. Members of JLS say the violence was a direct result of crowding at the prison, coupled with the practice of housing inmates from rival gangs on the same tier. It isn't the first time JLS has called for a strike. In 2016, a group of incarcerated activists known as the Free Alabama Movement (FAM) called for a work stoppage on Sept. 9 to protest the slavery exception in the Thirteenth Amendment, which bans unpaid servitude in the United States except as punishment for a crime. That year's strike call was supported by JLS and by the International Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), a socialist labor union that aims to unionize prison laborers. Committee members amplified the strike news on Twitter and Facebook, and wrote about it their prison newsletter.

To spread the word in 2018, JLS reached out to a woman named Amani Sawari. Though Sawari is not a veteran political organizer, she has crafted a campaign that put this effort in the national media spotlight. She works for her church during the week and does hair on weekends, but for a year she wrote for a prison abolition newsletter called, "I Am We," that is circulated in some prisons. She says JLS asked for her help in posting their demands online and serving as the strike's official spokesperson.

A JLS member also reached out to an inmate who goes by the pseudonym, "Swift Justice," who has been imprisoned in Alabama for more than 20 years. Justice frequently writes for the San Francisco Bayview, a black nationalist newspaper that also makes its rounds among inmates. He communicates with the outside world using a contraband cell phone.

Justice supported the proposed strike plan, and promoted it on his Facebook and Twitter accounts. He also says he reached out to a few contacts at other prisons that he has made through his advocacy work.

"It went big real quick," he said.

IWOC and Sawari coordinated solidarity efforts outside. They have garnered more than 150 endorsements for the strike, many from local chapters of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and other left-leaning organizations. And they have organized scores of demonstrations outside of prison facilities

nationwide, which have been documented on the prison strike website. Members of IWOC and the endorsing organizations continued to spread word of the strike on Twitter, using the hashtag #August21. Exactly how many inmates heard the call for the strike is impossible to say. But on Aug. 21, the anniversary of the killing of political activist George Jackson in a California prison in 1971, the idea of a large scale prison strike had already made its way from prison periodicals and leftist blogs into the mainstream media. What has the media coverage focused on? On the first day of the strike, Sawari appeared on Democracy Now alongside an IWOC representative to discuss the strike's goals with Amy Goodman. NPR and its affiliates reported the strike on several of their news programs. The Washington Post wrote about the strike and published a companion opinion piece by criminal justice columnist Radley Balko. The Guardian, New York Magazine, Vox.com, Al Jazeera, BBC World News, Mother Jones, and many other outlets have all covered the strike and its goals.

Most have focused on demands for prisons to eliminate what the organizers call "modern day slavery," in which inmates perform labor for little or no pay. Nick Tabor at New York Magazine declared that the strike "will likely turn out to be the largest and most ambitious prison strike in U.S. history, eclipsing even the 2016 protest in which 24,000 prisoners participated."

The number of prisoners who struck in 2016 is unconfirmed. And the 2018 numbers so far do not suggest the strike will be larger and more robust than past efforts. Still, organizers note that the media coverage has been dramatically different this year.

"We were not expecting this," said Krystal Rountree, a spokesperson for JLS. "We have had so much media that we can not handle all the requests. In 2016 it was way different. I was on Al Jazeera two days ago talking about the strike and the reporter asked me if the strike was a success. I said 'are you kidding me, I am on Al Jazeera talking about something the prisoners have brought out.'"

Some outlets simply reposted unchecked information put out by the outside strike organizers, including details about how many prisons are participating. Others balanced the organizers' accounts of the strike with official statements by state corrections departments.

The Marshall Project reached out to several corrections departments as well as the Federal Bureau of Prisons. So far, officials in South Carolina and Florida, as well as the BOP, say they have no confirmed work-stoppages, contradicting the organizers' claims. Officials in Washington, Ohio, California, and North Carolina have yet to respond to requests for comment. When questioned about the opposing narratives, Sawari responded, "many inmates are taking part in ways that might be less visible, such as refusing to spend money in the prison commissary."

So was the strike simply a PR stunt?

No, organizers say, but generating media attention was a main goal.

"The long term goal is really about bringing awareness to the issues," said Rountree. "No one is deluded and thinks that after Sept. 9 we are going to have all these changes to the system."

Criminal justice reform advocates point out that inmates can't freely choose how to spend their time, and that the fear of retribution by prison officials undermines any attempt at mass demonstration.

"What is far more significant, is that thanks to cell phones and prison newspapers like the Bayview and Prison Legal News, people responded with a coordinated articulation of what the problem is and what the demands are," said Heather Ann Thompson, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning-book about the Attica uprising, "Blood in the Water." "Whether or not they are able to stage a walkout because of fear of reprisals doesn't matter as much as the public recognition of how bad the nation's prisons really are."

So what are the takeaways?

First and foremost, the call for a strike and the subsequent media attention underscores how difficult it is to learn or understand what is happening in prisons across the country.

"Prisons are black boxes," said David Fathi, who serves at the director of the ACLU prison project. "There is very little information available about what happens in prisons."

The United States does not have a regulatory body like the ones in Canada or France that are tasked with monitoring prison conditions and reporting information to the public. Without the oversight, lawsuits filed by inmates are one of the main ways details about prison conditions become public knowledge.

Second, many of the organizers of the strike say that they are just getting started, and that incarcerated people should lead in the movement for criminal justice reform. Organizers noted plans for upcoming

campaigns to restore voting rights to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and are continuing to write, tweet, and build coalitions both inside and outside of prisons. They are encouraged by the support they have received from organizations like the ACLU and Vera Institute for Justice. And finally, some advocates say the proposed strike and the resulting media coverage could mark a crucial turning point in criminal justice reform efforts. Nick Turner, president of Vera, likened the strike and the media attention to the Black Lives Matter movement. Though police shootings were nothing new, he said, it was video footage of police killing unarmed black men and women that ignited public outrage. In turn, the public outrage put pressure on public officials which ultimately led to the White House commissioning a Task Force on 21st Century Policing. "But no one could possibly point out an analogy within the prison system that would allow the same thing to happen," he said. "The media calling attention to the strike, making sure the story is being told about what it is like to live in a prison and see the dehumanization, actually allows people to come to a conclusion about whether their own assumptions about prisoners are right or wrong."

-Towards a Culture of Transformative Justice

WHAT: Transformative Justice Workshop

WHEN: 3pm, Sunday, August 19th, 2018

WHERE: The Base – 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221 (directions below)

NOTE: The Base is on the ground floor, is wheelchair accessible, and has a gender neutral toilet.

COST: Free

"Hot on the heels of NYC ABC's letter-writing dinner in observance of Black August, we are excited to host an event to help all folks engaged in revolutionary struggle. While our organizing is primarily focused on support for political prisoners and prisoners of war, we understand the need for developing and sharing skills to build a world without prisons. To that end, we are excited to host a restorative justice workshop. Folks are facilitating restorative justice trainings across the country, sharing knowledge about alternatives and resistance to the carceral state's so-called "justice."

In this workshop we will discuss the principles of transformative justice and how to apply them in order to destabilize abuse culture and make our communities safer, without cops or the state.

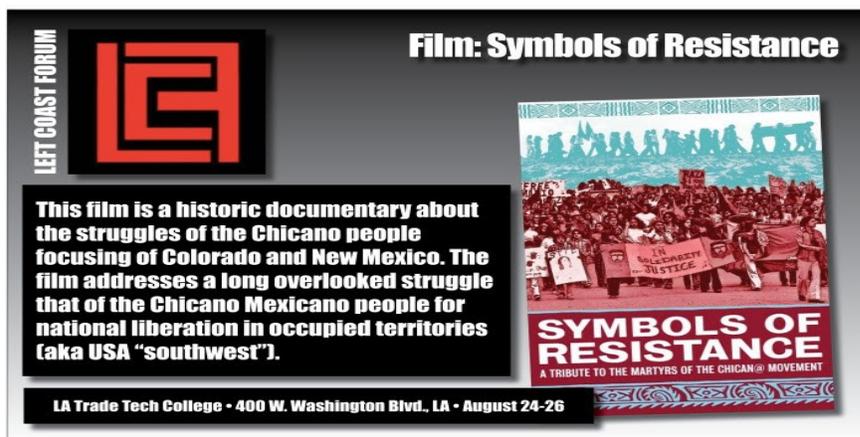
Strong movements and interdependent relationships make attempts to shut down our struggle obsolete.

Let's build our capacity for defending our communities and movements together!

This workshop will be lead by one of our comrades, an anti-capitalist and feminist activist and survivor of gendered trauma, who has been learning about transformative justice in radical spaces both through literature and trial & error in order to strengthen her community and organizing spaces in Denver."

<https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2018/08/09/transformativejustice>

-Historic Documentary: Symbols of Resistance



LEFT COAST FORUM

Film: Symbols of Resistance

This film is a historic documentary about the struggles of the Chicano people focusing on Colorado and New Mexico. The film addresses a long overlooked struggle that of the Chicano Mexicano people for national liberation in occupied territories (aka USA "southwest").

LA Trade Tech College • 400 W. Washington Blvd., LA • August 24-26

SYMBOLS OF RESISTANCE
A TRIBUTE TO THE MARTYRS OF THE CHICANO MOVEMENT

“Join Karla Ortiz and Guillermo Suarez M., as we present this historic documentary SYMBOLS OF RESISTANCE at the Left Coast Social Forum on August 25th at 5 pm. at Los Angeles Trade College.”

“This documentary commemorates 9 individuals in the Chicano Mexicano movement for self-determination, whose lives were cut short during the struggle in New Mexico and Colorado. This historic documentary documents their involvement in the various issues struggles of the time: Police and INS brutality, educational access, community struggles and the struggle to reclaim our land stolen in the U.S. invasion of Mexico. These struggles still form the heart of our people's struggle.

More than just a commemorative nostalgic overview, this presentation discussion is a continued call to action, to continue to resist the on-going colonization of our people and the occupation of our homeland since 1848. Karla Ortiz, a teacher at the week long Tierra Amarilla Youth Liberation Institute, will discuss these experiences as well as the current struggle to defend freed land from the current efforts by the state of New Mexico to reclaim land that was militantly occupied in 1988 by the Mexicano people of Tierra Amarilla. Guillermo Suarez M, is a long time activist member of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional, will discuss the importance of the SYMBOLS OF RESISTANCE to the on-going struggle for self-determination and national liberation of our people.”

For national liberation, Karla Ortiz Guillermo Suarez M.

Copies of the video will be available for purchase at the event, to support the resistance at Tierra Amarilla.”

-New Resource: Fact Sheet on "Unmasking Antifa" Act

"The National Lawyers Guild and the Academic Solidarity Network have teamed up to challenge the "Unmasking Antifa Act of 2018." This bill was introduced in the House in July by Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY) and co-sponsored by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC). This proposed bill states that anyone wearing a "disguise" who injures, oppresses, threatens or intimidates a person exercising their constitutional rights is subject to imprisonment for up to 15 years.

The resource guide, written by Guild member and NLG Mid-Atlantic Regional VP Noah Patton, covers the contents of the bill, its lack of constitutionality, what it might mean for protesters, and how to challenge it should it move forward. Please read and share!" nlg.org/new-resource-fact-sheet-on-unmasking-antifa-act/

-REPORT BACK on the July 18th, In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela panel and Demonstration:

"Revolutionary greetings and solidarity to the Jericho Movement and Baba Jalil Muntaqim. IDOC Watch, as a partner organization of the New Afrikan Liberation Collective, would like to present this report as a reflection on the recent July 18th, In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela panel and demonstration. We would like to touch on several points which demonstrate what we believe to be a strengthening of the push for International recognition of political prisoners and prisoners of war as well as expanding the struggle against the prison slave complex domestically.

Background

IDOC Watch is a prison abolitionist organization founded in 2017 by inside and outside cadre. The organization was designed to coordinate both inside and outside committees to expose the various abuses and corruption in the IDOC as well as establish programs to meet grievances, provide education, prepare for re-entry, and any other needs faced by Indiana's almost 30,000 inmates.

A qualitative step in our work came in August of 2017 when we partnered with Kwame Shakur of the New Afrikan Liberation Collective to hold a rally in front of the IDOC headquarters as part of the Prison Lives Matter campaign. Cadre from IDOC watch were alerted to the call after discovering an article in the San Francisco Bay View authored by Kwame Shakur. The event was a point of first direct contact with NALC and IDOC Watch cadre and has since been the foundation from which we have connected with several other political prisoners and prisoner of war. IDOC Watch at that point had already been working with Shaka Shakur, co-founder of the NALC, and has since maintained a productive relationship with him.

In the months following the August 11th Prison Lives Matter demonstration, IDOC Watch has been

building its chapters, expanding its network of supporters, strengthening its media outlets, and coordinating responses to abuses throughout the IDOC system. We have been part of directing a multitude of phone zaps for prisoners facing issues of discrimination, neglect, physical and mental abuse, etc. We have held regular educational events utilizing texts by and about prisoners and connecting these issues to wider anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist struggles. In March of 2018, we held a panel on issues faced by women prisoners with esteemed scholars and activists Victoria Law and Andrea Richie. In addition, we have devoted significant time to research into the structure and operation of the IDOC. A survey is currently being distributed to dozens of prisoners in hope of deepening our understanding of the conditions in the IDOC and inmates attitude toward them.

All this time we have held a close working relationship with the NALC and its cofounders. Our cadre have acted in secretarial roles for the organization and helped its message to reach Indiana prisoners and nationally. This experience has been instrumental in learning about the particular struggles faced by political prisoners and specifically New Afrikan Political Prisoners. We have gained significant knowledge of the COINTELPRO style tactics of the IDOC administration and how they relate to the wider forms of oppression directed against all inmates. Early in 2018, Kwame Shakur was adamant that an event should be held in the summer as part of demonstrating strength, building the coordinating committee for the Prison Lives Matter campaign, and above all building a new front in FROLINAN. After several discussions around dates and times, it was finally in accordance with the proposal put out by Jalil Muntaqim to make Nelson Mandela International Day a rallying call for Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War that it was decided to hold the event on July 18th of 2018.

Coordination

For us, the panel was not only an opportunity to engage with and learn from various New Afrikan political organizations, but also an opportunity to build solidarity in the struggle against prisons (namely, criminalization), capitalism, and imperialism across amerikkka and outside of its borders. After collectively reflecting on the panel, we intend to coordinate in various ways with Jericho and George Jackson University, in particular. The panel and demonstration also served as a gauge for the IDOC's concern with national solidarity regarding political prisoners, and prisoners generally. The presence of approximately 15 state troopers, in uniform, and closing of access to the headquarters building to the public was an indicator that the coordination between IDOC Watch and the Jericho Movement, as well as the other organizations, is a threat to them.

Coordination with IDOC Watch and any group is ideally one that builds national and global solidarity among politically-similar groups, gives greater recognition to prisoners' struggles in Indiana and elsewhere, is actively working to combat hegemonic narratives of prisons and their purpose, strives to better the immediate conditions of prisoners, while also realizing the necessity of abolishing them and liberating captive nations, and is striving to build a mass movement for prisoners and against capitalism and imperialism at large. We are all pleased to have had the opportunity to learn from and work with a member of the Jericho Movement, Bilal Sunni Ali, and are excited to receive you all's feedback and, hopefully, thoughts on coordination and partnership between our two organizations.

Opening a Front in Indiana

In his call for the July 18th event, Kwame Shakur noted the relative invisibility of Indiana political prisoners in the national consciousness. Indiana is rarely thought of in the legacy of prison struggle or as part of the New Afrikan struggle for liberation. There are various possible reasons for this. Of the many long term political prisoners in the U.S., incarcerated during the height of COINTELPRO repression against Black Nationalist and revolutionary formations, Zolo Agona Azania is perhaps the most well known to be captured and held in Indiana. Zolo was fortunately released in February of 2017. However, there have been at least two successive generations of political prisoners, prisoners of war, and politicized prisoners in the Indiana camps. Their exposure has suffered from the ebb of revolutionary activity generally and not since the early 1990's when resistance to supermax facilities found a scene of battle in Indiana, has there been significant attention paid to political prisoners here. The censorship against the San Francisco Bay View and literature espousing revolutionary consciousness, and now the unprecedented spread of opioids

and other narcotics in the prisons has led to a severe lack of organizing and consciousness raising. Above

all, however, this lack can be attributed to the absence of a well-organized network of cadre bringing the realities of Indiana prisons to the light of day. No doubt there has been numerous dedicated individuals that have not once ceased their work in supporting Indiana's Political Prisoners, but often this activity was carried on clandestinely and the wider base of support was not developed to a point that could dialectically reinforce the actions undertaken in the prisons. This type of work requires inside and outside coordination on a large scale, requiring organization that can grow and adapt as well as pass on knowledge to up and coming cadre.

IDOC Watch's partnership with NALC has helped to develop this political perspective in various ways not the least of which was introducing our cadre to the works of Jalil Muntaqim. At this point, IDOC Watch works directly with every one of the most influential political prisoners in Indiana and is helping to carry their message and influence to all prisoners fighting for their human rights and dignity. As a new front in the international movement to liberate political prisoners, Indiana's prisoners will benefit from the exposure and solidarity from a multitude of cadre and human rights organizations. At the same time, it will demonstrate that political prisoners exist in every state in the country, even an isolated mid-western state like Indiana, and that here, too there are revolutionary organizations fighting for their liberation. The July 18th demonstration outside the IDOC HQ brought home the fact to the IDOC administration that their actions do not go unnoticed and that not only national but international solidarity had come to their doorstep. Further, IDOC Watch has used the opportunity to build relationships with other Indiana-based organizations that have show significant interest in bringing the prison struggle into the mainstream of localized politics. Struggles around prosecutorial misconduct in Elkhart county, immigrant detention, and other related issues have organizations interested in working with IDOC Watch and by extension NALC.

Attention of Local Prisoners and Supporters Building a Rearguard

If New Afrikan political prisoners and prisoners of war, and the cadre organization that constitute FROLINAN are the "tip of the spear" in the anti-imperialist struggle, then the rearguard is based in all those groups and individuals in the domestic united states and throughout the world that oppose U.S. domestic colonialism. The partnership between IDOC Watch and NALC has provided an opportunity to overcome the gap between NAIM and prisoners more broadly who are separated unconsciously and/or intentionally by national lines. As IDOC Watch builds its network of cadre and supporters throughout the state it will at the same time introduce these individuals to the vanguard role of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, and with time we hope they and their supporters will look to the PP's and POW's as leaders in their own struggle.

A step towards this realization was made at the July 18th event where several groups and individuals interested in the broader prison struggle were introduced to the political orientation of organizations like NALC, Jericho, NABPP-PC, and GJU. The broader movement has much to learn from these organizations and IDOC Watch is serving as a medium to broadcast their message. As these ideas become embraced within the Indiana prison movement, we will strive to consolidate a base of support that can back up the efforts to liberate PP's and POW's.

Conclusion

The July 18th was as much a conference as a panel. Much of the most productive dialoguing and planning took place after the event itself was over. Cadre in IDOC Watch benefited greatly from the criticism offered by the seasoned and experienced comrades of Jericho, GJU, NABPP-PC, etc. Since the 18th, repression against Kwame Shakur has intensified, with him being moved to the Secure Housing Unit at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. However, this same prison holds many of our best comrades and the potential for planning and coordination is increased by the move. IDOC Watch will move forward with building our base and consolidating our program and organization. We hope to maintain consistent communication with Jericho and await any suggestion on how our work can be helpful to the national/international effort to liberate political prisoners and prisoners of war."

Jericho Movement's Current Work and Progress

National Jericho members are planning the yearly retreat. It will take place November 2nd-4th in Portland, Oregon. We are very excited to be doing a retreat on the west coast and we are currently working on lodging. Approximately 12 Jericho members will be present.

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.

The Jericho Movement has initiated as well as supported and participated in many rallies, events and calls to action this month. 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.

Jericho meetings occurred during the month of August across the nation. The campaign "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela" met in NYC on August 11th. The next meeting is September 8th at 12pm EST.

Jericho Chapters and Affiliates Activities (but not Limited to):

NYC Jericho endorsed many actions and events, made two prison visits, sent two food packages; attended many events including: Running Down the Walls, MOVE 40th Anniversary; Sophia Dawson Art Exhibit; Maroon 75th Birthday Celebration, Mumia Court Date in Philly. They also participated in four radio shows "Ralph Poynter "What's Happening" Tuesday nights at 9pm. "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela" monthly meetings are organized by NYC Jericho.

Ashanti Alston did an interview with one of the Malcolm X Grassroots movement members on the Sally O'Brian's "Where We Live" Show on Political Prisoners and Black August. Link to follow in next newsletter. Baltimore Jericho participated in a powerful Black August Event-details to follow in next newsletter! Oregon Jericho participated in coordinating, outreach and making arrangements for the Jericho yearly conference which is in November 2018. Oakland Jericho endorsed five actions, financially assisted two requests, assisted comrades in medical need as well as began planning for two events TBA. Chair activities highlighted above.

NYC Jericho at Running Down the Walls



“Take a Knee” Exhibit 2017 attended by NYC Jericho Ann Jaffe (2 pictures)

“This portrait of Colin Kaepernick was created to tie his struggle for human rights with struggles for human rights in the past. His portrait is juxtaposed with an iconic image of the 1968 Olympics where Tommy Smith and John Carlo raised their fists in solidarity with the Black Panther Movement that also advocated for an end to police brutality.”





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 Counsel 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:

For tax deductible receipt, send donations to:

National Jericho Treasury
Mail to: "Jericho Treasury/Michael Alston"
Ashanti Alston
[162 Miller Ave](#)
[Providence, R.I. 02905](#)

Alliance for Global Justice
Subject Line: Jericho
Mail to:
Elane Spivak Rodriguez
Alliance for Global Justice
[225 E. 26th Street, Suite 1](#)
[Tuscon, Arizona 85713](#)

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