

The Dragons Fire

THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

in Fierce Determination Since 1996

Vol.(12), Dec/Jan 2018-2019

<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.

“Three classes of men will be cut-off from the benediction of heaven. An oppressor, those who aid and abet oppression and those who acquiesce – conform to and tolerate – oppression.”

Ali ibn Abu Talib

(may ALLAH be pleased with him and bless his countenance)

Jericho Movement's Current Work and Progress

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

Thinking forward-we will be updating our website, increasing our international reach to build continued solidarity and plan to create additional resources for our Political Prisoners/POW's and their families. The Jericho Movement has initiated as well as supported and participated in many rallies, events and calls to action this month.

Jericho Boston 2018 Events (6 month Report)

In August we hosted numerous events to commemorate Black August.

Black August film series

During Black August, Afrikan/Black people, from all over the Afrikan Diaspora celebrate resistance and honor the struggles of our ancestors in the Liberation movement. Jericho - Boston held a three part series of films about Black Liberation in the United States of North America. We screened:

- 1) The FBI's War on Black America
- 2) Assata Shakur's Eyes of the Rainbow
- 3) The Farm: Angola, USA

We shared food and discussion at these events, with approximately 25 people per film screening.

Open Mic

To celebrate the creativity of the struggle, and the power of revolutionary expression, we hosted a night of poetry, music, dance, and other artistic elements that honor our struggle for freedom and honor those who have given their lives to the struggle. It served as an opportunity to build with each other to put an end to this racist prison system that targets and represses poor and working-class folks, especially those who are Black and Indigenous. 40 people attended.

Running Down the Walls: 5K Run

On Indigenous People's day, and Day of the Heroic Guerilla, Jericho Boston hosted a 5k, "Running Down the

Walls" to raise funds for current and former political prisoners in the US. More than 20 people from children to elders walked and ran Jamaica Pond in Boston to raise money and show solidarity with all Indigenous People, and our Heroic Guerillas trapped behind bars. Most of the funds raised went to Leonard Peltier, and the rest will be added to funds we raise at our next event and go to Red Fawn Fallis. More than 20 people attended.

Film Screening & Discussion: The Murder of Fred Hampton

In December 2019, Jericho Boston screened The Murder of Fred Hampton, a documentary released in 1971 that highlights the life, revolutionary organizing, and assassination of Fred Hampton by the Chicago Police Department. We dialogued via Skype with Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. during our discussion. We also took the opportunity at this event to honor Tina Williams, a lifetime freedom fighter and powerful force for radical change in Boston, who spent time behind bars. A light dinner, dessert and refreshments were served. Over 40 people attended, and a number of them expressed interest in working with Jericho. We've reached out to these folks, and invited them to our first open meeting, scheduled for the first week in February, 2019.

NYC Jericho Chapter Report

NYC Jericho visited Jalil with Pam Hanna on Dec. 16, right before he received news of his parole denial. We also visited on Dec. 25 and New Year's Day. Ann J and Tarik will be visiting Jalil on Jan. 13, 2019.



We visited Joy Powell with Pam Hanna and her daughter Ksisay on Dec. 23. She had gifts for her granddaughter, which we packaged and mailed to her. Anne Lamb also visited Joy on Jan. 6 and brought her a food package.

Joy is working on having her conviction overturned. She has been doing this pro se. Anne L called the court in order to get a postponement for Joy's submission of documents to the court, which was granted. Due date was Jan. 9, 2019, but the court agreed to a postponement until March 15, 2019.

Joy Powell #07G0632 is requesting that we do a phone campaign to Commissioner Annucci and Bedford Hills in order to regain access to the prison law library so she can have meaningful communication with the court. This is essential at this time. The C.O. who is in charge of the law library has arbitrarily banned Joy from the library.

People need to call Annucci at 518-457-8126 and Bedford Hills at 914-241-3100 (ask to speak with superintendent, which will probably not happen). Be polite but firm. State that you are calling regarding Joyce Powell #07G0632 and request that she have access to the prison law library. This is her right, and she is being denied arbitrarily and capriciously by one C.O. People should also write to Annucci: Anthony J. Annucci, Dept. of Correctional and Community Supervision, The State Office Building Campus, Albany, NY 12226

NYC Jericho also participated in the demonstrations for Mumia Abu-Jamal on Dec. 3 (last hearing before Judge Tucker's decision) and Jan. 5 (after Judge Tucker's decision) in Philadelphia. At the meeting

following the Jan. 5 rally, we broke up into work groups and took on tasks to help in the fight to Free Mumia. We also attended Campaign to Bring Mumia Home's event on Jan. 12, 2019 at the People's Forum.

NYC Jericho & ProLibertad-Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners hosted a Winter Solstice Holiday End of the Year Party on December 22, 2018 at the Freedom Hall, 113 West 128th Street, New York, NY. The party Celebrated Victories, Remember Ancestors, and Strengthen the Movement. A fun and revolutionary time was had by all! Check out NYC Jericho & ProLibertad's amazing homemade Coquito!



Chairman's Corner

No News this Month!

Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War

POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE MONTH

No Highlights this month, please check our next Issue.

Medical Updates

Kojo Bomani Sababu (Grailing Brown) Medical Alert: NYC Jericho received the following message from Kojo on Dec. 26, 2018

"On Thursday, I went to have a routine checkup from medical and my blood pressure was 224 over 124. I was taken to the emergency room of hospital by ambulance and stayed handcuffed to a bed until they found a method to lower my pressure, which took another day.

I was saturated with medicine on my return and had to have bed rest.

My rights were requested if I died. I told them I was muslim and to contact an Imam if such occurred. I feel okay at the moment but my neck area is quite stiff.

Pass on the info to the rade's and tell them I am okay momentarily.

Much love to you all!! Kojo"

Veronza Bowers

Veronza had a hip replacement and is up and running, and doing very well.

Legal Updates

Message From Jalil Muntaqim to Friends & Supporter



December 18, 2018

"Dear Friends & Supporters:

As many of you have heard, I was once again denied parole for the tenth time. I was given a 15-month denial, essentially because I did not answer a specific question to the satisfaction of the parole commissioners, despite the fact that my answer was an honest one. This definitively speaks to the arbitrariness and subjectivity of parole commissioners' discretion to decide to release or hold a prisoner. In the same regard, it is difficult to know exactly what each of the three parole commissioners want from a prisoner sitting before them, especially when honesty is a rare quality in this type of situation.

I am extremely grateful for all of the letters, well wishes and support. This denial will be appealed.

Yours in struggle, Jalil"

You can write to Jalil at: Anthony Jalil Bottom #77A4283
Sullivan C.F. P.O. Box 116 Fallsburg, NY
12733-0116

11th Circuit Court of Appeals to hear Imam Jamil Al-Amin's Appeal- IMAM JAMIL AL-AMIN (formerly known as H. Rap Brown) Status Update: COURT HEARING APRIL 2019!

Greetings of Peace,

"IJAN has just heard that the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has called for oral arguments on Imam Jamil's Appeal. They have scheduled it for the week of April 29, 2019.

Imam Jamil and the attorneys handling the appeal were notified yesterday. This is good news.

IJAN will be discussing future follow up. Please be on lookout."

Mumia Abu-Jamal Granted Rights Appeal!

"Judge Tucker granted Mumia new appeal rights. This is a decision that Mumia can file a new appeal to the PA Superior Court on all the issues that were denied by the PA Supreme Court while Castille was a PA Supreme Court Justice. All Mumia appeal denials from 1998-2014.

It was denied on the Williams argument, but granted on the general issue that Castille should have recused himself on the grounds that it created an "appearance of bias" for him to be a Justice in Mumia's case. I haven't seen the decision yet to give you a run-down of Tucker's exact reasoning.

But this is a win -- opens the door to Mumia getting a new trial--or dismissal of charges--after an appeal to the PA courts. Based on Krasner's court filings and recent statements on WHYY, Krasner/Phila DA will appeal this decision by Judge Tucker. We need to be clear that Krasner stands with the FOP to keep Mumia locked in prison for the rest of his life.

We will be ALL OUT against Krasner appealing this decision and ALL OUT for Mumia's freedom. --- Rache Tucker, Leon

Order Granting PCRA Petition in Part; Denied in Part AND NOW, this 27th day of December, 2018, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED, that Petitioner Wesley Cook's, also known as Mumia Abu-Jamal, "Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and for Collateral Relief from Criminal Conviction Pursuant to the Post Conviction Relief Act, 42 Pa. C.S. Section 9541, et seq.," is DENIED IN PART and GRANTED IN PART. Petitioner's Post-Conviction Appellate rights regarding personal significant involvement by a justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court are DENIED. Petitioner's Post conviction Relief Act appellate rights are hereby GRANTED and reinstated nunc pro tunc. Petitioner is advised that he has thirty (30) days from the date of this docketed order to file a notice of appeal to the Pennsylvania Superior Court, on the grounds of the appearance of bias and impropriety. 12/27/2018 2 Tucker, Leon Memorandum Opinion Filed"

This week for Mumia - Keep the pressure on Krasner! Jan 14th

On January 9, reports surfaced that on Dec. 28, DA Larry Krasner and his staff "found" six boxes of files, most with Mumia's name on them, in a remote, nearly inaccessible storage area while "looking for furniture." As the boxes were marked #18/29, 21/29, 23/29, 24/29, 29/29 and one unlabeled box, this is evidence of the possible existence of even more boxes of files related to Mumia's case that were not made public during his initial appeals hearings.

On Dec. 27, Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker issued a ruling favorable to Mumia that will allow him to present evidence of innocence. DA Krasner has until Jan. 26, 2019 to appeal. That these mysterious boxes appeared the day after Tucker's decision raises even more concerns over the inability of the office of the Philadelphia district attorney to maintain secure records in one of the city's most well known cases. It should also be further grounds that the DA's office, including current occupant DA Larry Krasner, stop standing in the way of justice for Mumia and not appeal Tucker's ruling.

Over the next week the following activity will take place in Philly around this case:

On Tuesday, Jan. 15 in Philadelphia there will be a press conference at 11am, location TBD. For more information respond to this email or visit our website at www.mobilization4Mumia.com.

Donations are also needed for the work ahead so please sign up to be a monthly supporter when you visit the web page. Also sign the petition to Krasner at: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/krasner-do-right-by-mumia> “

Gov. Brown orders DNA testing for Kevin Cooper!

"EXECUTIVE ORDER B-61-18

Pending before me is an application for executive clemency submitted by Kevin Cooper, an inmate at San Quentin State Prison. In 1985, Mr. Cooper was convicted of murdering Douglas and Peggy Ryen, their 10-year-old daughter Jessica, and 11-year-old Christopher Hughes. 8-year-old Josh Ryen was severely injured during the attack, but survived. Mr. Cooper received a sentence of death from the Superior Court and all his appeals have been exhausted. Two prior unsuccessful clemency petitions were made to Governor Schwarzenegger. I have been asked in connection with this clemency application to order further forensic testing in order to evaluate Mr. Cooper's guilt or innocence." For full article please see:

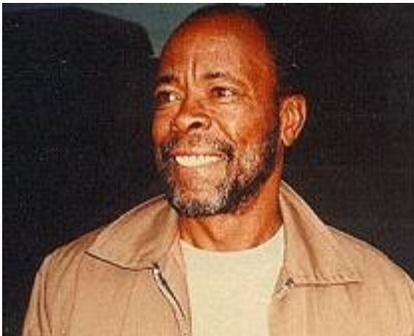
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kevin-cooper-jerry-brown-1983-chino-hills-calif-quadruple-slayings-new-dna-tests-ordered/>

Birthdays

Please send a card!

January

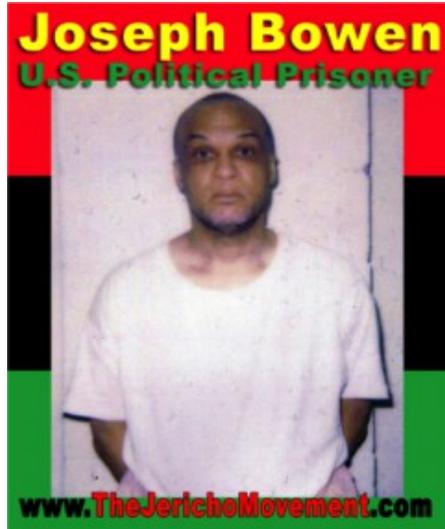
Sundiata Acoli (Squire) -Birthday: January 14, 1937



“Sundiata Acoli is a Black/New Afrikan Political Prisoner of War. A tireless worker for Black Liberation, Sundiata was a prominent member of the New York State Chapter of the Black Panther Party. After acquittal from the NY Panther 21 Conspiracy Trial Frameup and being continually targeted by the FBI's illegal COINTELPRO operation, Sundiata continued the struggle underground with the Black Liberation Army. In 1973 he, Zayd and Assata Shakur were ambushed by New Jersey state troopers. Zayd Shakur was killed, while Assata was seriously wounded and taken into custody. One state trooper was killed in the attack and another injured. In a political charged and biased trial Sundiata was sentenced to life plus 30 years. In 2010 Sundiata was denied parole, but the fight for his freedom continues.”

Please write Sundiata at: #39794-066, FCI Cumberland, P.O. Box 1000, Cumberland, MD 21501

Joseph Bowen-Birthday: January 15, 1948



Affiliation: Black Liberation Army

Captured: 1973: Life Without Parole

"Unless I do something to get myself out of this hole, these people will keep me in this hole until I am dead." - JoJo Bowen, who has been in solitary confinement for 26 years.

Write him in the following manner:

Smart Communications/PA DO

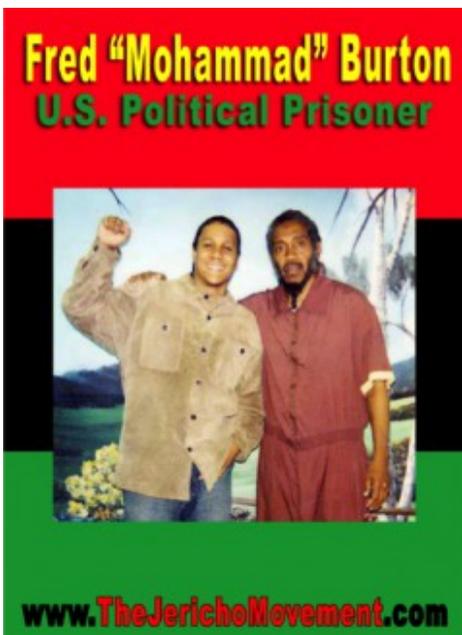
SCI Fayette

Joseph Bowen AM-4272

PO Box 33028, St Petersburg, Florida 33733

December

Fred "Muhammad" Burton Birthday 12/15/1946



Fred "Muhammad" Burton #AF 3896

SCI Somerset, 1590 Walters Mill Road, Somerset, PA 15510
Birthday: December 15, 1946
Affiliation: Black Unity Council
Captured: 1972: Life without Parole IN PRISON 42 YEARS
<http://www.advocateforjustice.net/SupportFreedomForFrederickBurton.html>
<https://www.thejerichomovement.com/political-prisoners-birthdays>

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

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

From the Masses to the Masses by Jalil A. Muntaqim



“In December 2018, I received a letter from activists in Indianapolis who are working to implement aspects of the National Strategy of Frolinan, established in my book *We Are Our Own Liberators*. Their letter informed they have successfully obtained a building to create a hub for community organizing, and asked for my suggestions for their next move. They identified themselves as NALF members; as such I encouraged them to internalize the ideological and political determination as projected in the Three Phase Theory for National Independence, the first phase being “Class Struggle for National Unity” as part of their development of “decolonization programs”.

Briefly, it is important to note the Three Phase Theory forwards the idea that the Black nation body in the U.S. is suffering the full weight of institutional racism that is tantamount to a colonized people. This definition and experience for many has created a neo-colonial relationship between members of the Black nation who represent the leadership of Black folks to the colonial governing institutions of power and authority. Because of their vested interest in forging a political and economic relationship with the representatives of the colonial institutions, they often betray or diminish any prospects of Black folks governing themselves, controlling the means of production in their communities, and developing independent institutions void of colonial government influences. Obviously, this socio-economic and political dynamic lends to contradictions and divisions in aspired goals to be achieved in the best interest of Black folks. Hence, there is a need for class struggle, challenging the Black bourgeoisie, demanding them to be more responsive to the needs of the oppressed and repressed Black nation. In essence, there is no forward progress without struggle, and this maxim first applies to forging united action among Black folks in their challenges to the neo-colonial representatives and colonial institutions of oppression.

Developing decolonization programs implementing the ideological and political ideal of class struggle demands that progressives' working relationship with the masses of Black folks, the members of the community, be inclusive and comprehensive. Decolonization programs evolve from the principle of "From the Masses to the Masses," acknowledging the issues identified as problems demanding to be addressed by the masses. The inhabitants of the community are the best to identify the issues demanding immediate response, i.e., organizing by progressives in support of the oppressed masses. On both local and national levels, it is important to develop a tactical determination to implement the class struggle for the purpose of establishing decolonization programs. In this regard, it is offered that such political determination should be defined as "Building Community, Creating Autonomy, Establishing Liberated Territory."

1. Building Community: This may comprise several modes of thinking and doing subject to the needs of the inhabitants of the oppressed communities. For example, the proliferation of gentrification in established Black communities, resulting in disbursement and displacement of people and destruction of communities in urban centers, creating housing disparity and homelessness. To challenge, protest and inhibit the destruction of established communities, the development of Housing Trust Fund Associations and Cooperatives is an organizing means and method toward Building Community. It is suggested that progressives establish Peoples' Assemblies similar to what activists are achieving in Jackson, Mississippi. Thus, there is a need to bring the community together in town-hall meetings to identify and discuss problems confronting the community with the specific purpose of collectively discovering solutions that include community involvement.

As this example purports to counter gentrification, it would require the development of a Cooperative Housing Fund of some kind to encourage the residents of the community to pool their resources toward purchase and ownership of dwellings and buildings in the community. The maxim is that when folks look at impoverished communities, some see blight while others see opportunity. For progressives, their vision should be one of seeing opportunity for Building Community.

This process serves as a means toward wealth building in the community, where residents of the community seek to take charge and ownership via tenant associations, home improvement/renovation programs, etc. (the purchasing of foreclosed houses and buildings for renovation), occupation and community wealth building. This was the reality of Tulsa, Oklahoma, before the 1921 white riot and mass murder, and it represents to a degree the work being conducted in Jackson, Mississippi (Jackson Plan), to encourage Building Community.

Activists are hereby encouraged to investigate State and Federal laws and programs that provide grants and low-interest loans for this purpose, applying the same means and methods by which outside investors gentrify Black oppressed communities. For instance, under HUD and FHA there are (42 USCA §5313 and 42 USCA §1437f) Urban Renewal–Urban Development Programs that provide assistance for the purchase of foreclosed houses and buildings, and low-income housing renovation. These programs, largely unknown to the inhabitants of the community, are available to those organized or established as businesses to grow wealth and/or gentrify communities. It is extremely important that activists seek to utilize these programs to the extent they serve to organize the community to invest in their own interest in preserving and strengthening the community. The cooperative organizing in the community to appropriate funds for the purchase of real property by community residents and renovation of homes/properties is an aspect of manifesting the principle of From the Masses to the Masses. This initiative counters outside real estate investors and developers moving in and gentrifying poor and oppressed communities, displacing and making homeless those inhabitants.

Needless to say, this course of action serves to raise consciousness to have the community invest in their own sense of self, community ownership beyond State and Federal challenges and demanding neo-colonial representatives in class struggle to support these demands of the community. This action allows progressive activists to target a specific issue to forge community responsibility that broadens the political consciousness of resistance. Ultimately, this is part of the decolonization process toward a revolutionary future.

Creating Autonomy: Building community as here suggested creates the prospects of autonomous socio-economic and political development in the targeted community, As mentioned above, the task is to view the impoverished community as an opportunity for organizing and to forge autonomous regions of decolonized communities that are self-serving and self-supporting in their everyday operations. This includes developing community security operations, educational programs, subsistence programs (food coops), child care facilities and other decolonization programs. The ideological and political foundation of Creating Autonomy is manifested via the fight to control the resources and building collective wealth in cooperatives and associations inclusive of community residents' participation in participatory democratic leadership.

Establish Liberated Territory: By virtue of creating autonomous regions, essentially empowering the community to control the resources of the community, it is possible for the community to become self-governing, establishing itself as liberated territory. These liberated territories will have become organized socio-economically (financially), and politically, with the governing body of the Peoples' Assembly integrated into the working dynamics of the communities' social order. At this stage of development, the community may be in a position to demand the withdrawal of the police and other institutions not controlled or influenced by the Peoples' Assembly governing body.

This is the immediate task of progressives and revolutionaries who are preparing a revolutionary future. This strategy will demand that poor inhabitants take ownership of their community, employing cooperative institutions to purchase foreclosed houses and buildings, and obtain funding to renovate homes, and/or control housing projects, creating a socio-economic and political environment of collective investment in community building. It lends to raising consciousness about the governing relationships between the community inhabitants, the colonial government, and the various entities that exploit the community. It can empower the community to believe they have a vested interest in controlling, if not owning, the economic institutions of the community, beginning where we live and how we live. As an example, the fight against gentrification and displacement is ultimately a fight for control of the community by its poor and oppressed inhabitants. The Peoples' Assemblies are the foundation by which the community is organized in their own interest for the improvement of their livelihood. It is held that people do not fight for ideas, but they will fight for improved living and working conditions by which revolutionary ideas become tangible and are manifested in material existence.

This strategy also lends to the dynamics of class struggle for national unity within our national liberation struggle. It promotes the Three Phase Theory for National Independence, the theoretical foundation of our entire struggle.

Remember: We Are Our Own Liberators!

Build to Win

Jalil A. Muntaqim “

“About the writer: Jalil Abdul Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom), with 47 years of political internment, is one of the longest held political prisoners in the world. He has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and Certificates in Architectural Drafting and Computer Office Management. He is the author of “We Are Our Own Liberators,” a compilation of prison writings. Many of his essays have been published in anthologies such as “Schooling a Generation,” ed. Chinsole (2002); “The New Abolitionists: (Neo) Slave Narratives and Contemporary Prisoners' Writings,” ed. Joy James (2005); “This Country Must Change,” ed. Craig Rosenbraugh (2009). Jalil's articles have appeared in the NY Amsterdam News, the San Francisco BayView, and many progressive publications. His most recent book, “Escaping the Prism—Fade to Black,” is a compilation of poetry and essays with an extensive afterword by Prof. Ward Churchill, published by Kersplebedeb Pub. & Dist. in Canada; it can be purchased at Amazon.com, from Barnes & Noble and AK Press. Jalil is the co-founder of the Jericho Amnesty Movement. For more information on Jalil's conviction and fight for parole, check: www.freejalil.com.

To understand further the pragmatic objective here presented, read “Jackson Rising—The Struggle for

Economic Democracy and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, Mississippi” by Kali Akuno & Ajamu Nangwaya Cooperative Jackson, also “We Are Our Own Liberators,” by Jalil Muntaqim.”

Message from Sundiata Acoli

"Warmest Greetings -i wish you a Very Happy Holiday Season and i thank each of you for your Very Solid Support. Struggle. Sundiata"

Living in a Food Desert--This article is by our inside editor, political prisoner David Gilbert.

Prison is bad for our health in so many ways: separation from loved ones, daily stress, questionable medical care. On the positive side, many of us exercise regularly. But when it comes to nutrition, prison can be a wasteland. Diet is a key to avoiding such difficult illnesses as diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, which hit African Americans and Latino/as especially hard. Exercise and nutrition also help with staying mentally sharp as we age. Most of us know the broad guidelines, such as to have five to seven helpings of fresh fruit and vegetables a day – but we don’t get that even in a week. While the situation may seem bleak, there’s a lot more we can do to help ourselves, both in the choices we make and the policies we fight for.

When there’s cake in the chow line, almost everyone goes for it, but hardly anyone picks up the weekly helping of coleslaw – cabbage is highly nutritious. When we go to commissary, guys haul in the bear claws and potato chips but almost never the brown rice. In a way these choices make sense. Deprived of so many pleasures, we come to relish the rush of biting into some junk food. Fat, salt, and especially sugar are all addicting. That’s why food processing companies work to get kids started with the likes of Fruit Loops and then calibrate the amounts of sugar, fat, and salt in foods to keep us hooked. Simple carbohydrates such as white flour, potatoes, and white rice are also problematic because they break down so quickly to sugar in our bodies.

Peer education can make a big difference – that’s when some homeboys and homegirls learn the ins and outs, and then we all work together as a community. That approach played a major role when we first faced the frightening prison AIDS crisis in overcoming the panic, building support for our brothers and sisters with AIDS, and getting into the nitty gritty of prevention. We can apply that method to nutrition. Just like having workout partners leads to more consistent exercise, we can become positive eating partners. Tastes are cultivated; we can learn to appreciate healthier foods – and even to tolerate those overcooked vegetables to get some kind of leafy greens into our lives. While the limitations are frustrating, there are some additional things we can do: 1. Encourage our friends to get off junk food – sugared drinks are the worst – and to prioritize whatever healthier options are available. 2. Lobby for commissary and package provisions for fresh produce, whole grains, beans, and nuts (some commissaries offer multi-vitamins, but we should try to get them with minerals too, which are equally important). 3. Push for prison food partnerships with local, preferably organic farmers, and develop prison gardens for our own consumption.

David Gilbert #83-A-6158

Wende Correctional Facility

3040 Wende Road

Alden, New York 14004-1187

For the listing of Prison Health News’s many helpful articles

<https://fight.org/programs-and-services/prison-health-news/>

[https://fight.org/programs-and-services/prison-health-news/?](https://fight.org/programs-and-services/prison-health-news/?fbclid=IwAR2amIWvo7mYgDsIPx8GYDWn9KY7a7c3FGbL-P48VDp8uOqMW3KgH5D5MV4)

[fbclid=IwAR2amIWvo7mYgDsIPx8GYDWn9KY7a7c3FGbL-P48VDp8uOqMW3KgH5D5MV4](https://fight.org/programs-and-services/prison-health-news/?fbclid=IwAR2amIWvo7mYgDsIPx8GYDWn9KY7a7c3FGbL-P48VDp8uOqMW3KgH5D5MV4)>

Those who choose to take on the formidable challenge of a vegan diet in

prison can get information from The Guide for Vegan Prisoners / The Vegan

Society / Donald Watson House / 21 Hylton St. / Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HJ / UK

Vegan prisoners can also reach out to Support Vegans in the Prison System /

PO Box 18576 / Minneapolis MN 55418 / supportvips@riseup.net

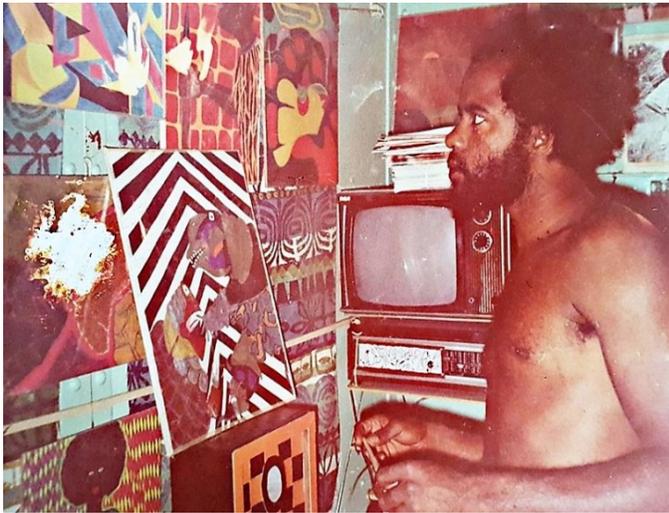
Check out the featured article for January in the 2019 Certain Days calendar. This is the first article printed in our brand new calendar which hopefully, is hanging on your wall! If you have not purchased one yet, be sure to order from:

<https://burningbooks.com/products/certain-days-2019-calendar-awakening-resistance>

<https://www.certaindays.org/>

For general guidelines: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics / 120 South Riverside Plaza, Ste 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995; 800-877-1600.

Prison wisdom of Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa-Prison wisdom from one who has passed on to the ancestors richardsonreports Posted January 11, 2019



Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, former David Rice, in his prison cell (credit: Melissa Rice)

"Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, former David Rice, died March 2016 serving a life without parole sentence at the Nebraska State Penitentiary for a crime he says he did not commit. During his life Mondo was a prolific writer and over time shared much wisdom."

"We are living in a society in which people are commonly judged on the basis of how much stuff they have. For an African who may already be operating under the burden of "racial" self-hatred, the added burden of lacking money and the things it buys shakes his sense of self-worth. If one lacks a feeling that he is worth something, his life loses its value. A person who sees life as being worthless is willing to risk that life over practically nothing and may be willing to put the lives of others who look like him at risk as well."

"When we, as a community, do not help instill knowledge, healthy pride, and wisdom in our children, we are setting them on paths by which they may not live long enough to become men and women."

"Today, too many of our young people—in particular, males—are slaves to guns, slaves to violence, slaves to the idea that their African lives aren't worth anything, slaves to the idea that their lives aren't worth living."

"Today, we should be reflecting on what to do to counter the messages being delivered to our children and youth by school curricula, television, movies, video games, the music industry, and other institutions that are making slaves of our youth to violence, materialism, etc. Today, we should be reflecting on what to do to free ourselves from the invisible chains that bind our heads and spirit."

"When you have a sense that you do have a worth and that the things you need for value do not come from material things, then you are going out of your house every day to do positive and constructive things for people you love and getting that love back in return, you don't care whether or not you have good shoes. You are getting your nutrition from the spiritual stuff that is happening. You don't have that sense of self-worth when material things are eating you up."

"There is a lot things about life we don't understand, not only life in general but our own lives and I guess maybe what it comes down to is you. On the one hand, you have to have a sense of your own importance, but at the same time you have to have a sense of your own insignificance. There is a balance there....But at the same time, I believe in the traditional African idea in this regard, that I don't get my meaning from me, but that I get my meaning from my community."

<https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2019/01/11/prison-wisdom-of-wopashitwe-mondo-eyen-welanga/>

"Mondo's prison wisdom is excerpted from my new book, FRAMED: J. Edgar Hoover, COINTELPRO & the Omaha Two story, in print edition at Amazon and in ebook. Portions of the book may also be read free online at NorthOmahaHistory.com. FRAMED is also available to patrons of the Omaha Public Library."

Community Calls for Action

NYC: Rally to free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian prisoners

Tuesday, 15 January, 5:30 pm, Washington Square Park, New York City

"We urge you to join us for an International Week of Action (samidoun.net/2018/12/call-to-action-international-week-to-free-ahmad-saadat-15-22-january-2019) between **January 15 and 22, 2019** to free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian prisoners! On January 15, 2019, we will mark the 17th anniversary of Sa'adat's arrest by the Palestinian Authority in the context of "security cooperation" with the Israeli occupation. After a violent attack on the PA's Jericho prison in 2006, where Sa'adat was held under United States and British guards, Ahmad Sa'adat and his comrades are serving lengthy sentences in Israeli prisons. Sa'adat was sentenced to 30 years in prison, convicted in an Israeli military court of leading a prohibited organization and "incitement." Sa'adat is a leader in the Palestinian prisoners' movement and the Palestinian national liberation movement. He is a figure of international importance and political clarity, targeted behind bars in an attempt to isolate him from his political role. He stands alongside nearly 6,000 fellow Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails on the front lines of the liberation struggle. As such, he is a symbol of Palestinian, Arab and internationalist resistance to capitalism, racism, apartheid and colonization." For full article please see: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/527977194349764>

[Pnews] Sign the petition! Support Justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal!

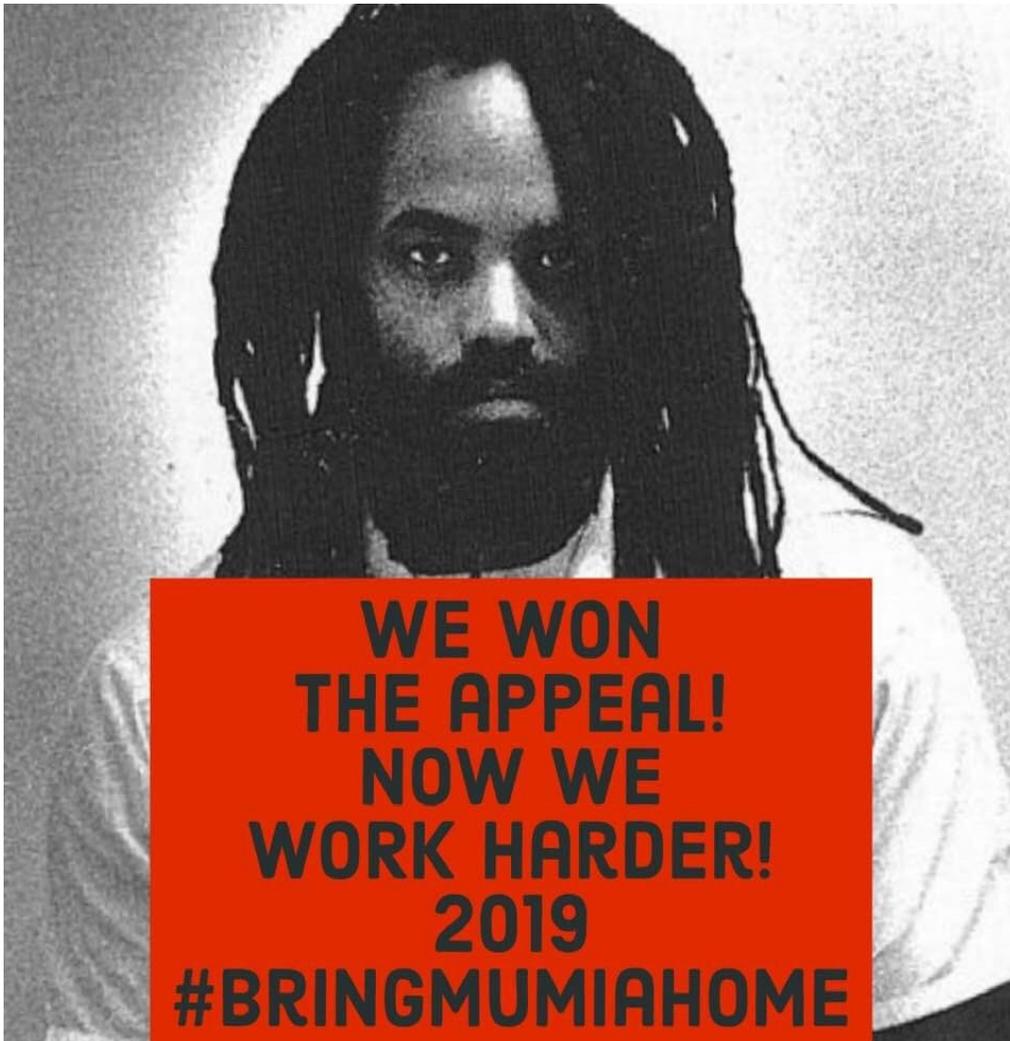
"I signed a petition on Action Network telling Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner to "Don't Stand in the Way of Justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal! Don't Appeal Judge Tucker's Decision!"

Mumia Abu-Jamal has always maintained his innocence in the 1981 fatal shooting of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. His prosecution was politically-motivated because of his Black Panther Party membership, his support of the MOVE organization and as a radical journalist. His 1982 trial and subsequent 1995 PCRA appeals were racially biased: the prosecution excluded African Americans from the jury; and PCRA trial Judge Albert Sabo, the same judge in Abu-Jamal's initial trial, declared, "I'm gonna help them fry the n---r." On Dec. 27, Mumia Abu-Jamal won a significant case before Judge Leon Tucker in a decision granting him new rights of appeal.

Tell Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner: We call on you to do the right thing. Do not stand in the way of justice. Do not appeal Judge Tucker's decision. As a progressive attorney you ran for Philadelphia District Attorney on a platform that included standing "for justice, not just for convictions." You promoted reviewing past convictions and freeing the wrongfully convicted. In Philadelphia, Abu-Jamal's frame-up stands out as the city's most notorious wrongful conviction.

We call on you to cease defending former Philadelphia DA and later PA Supreme Court Judge Ron Castille's now-discredited claim of impartiality. It was a people's movement that paved the way for your election – not the financial backing of the FOP or the establishment including judges like Castille.

Show your supporters that your campaign promises meant something. That your concern for justice extends to controversial cases your predecessors held untouchable



Allow Abu-Jamal to go forward with re-arguing his appeals, which Judge Tucker states “would best serve the appearance of justice.”

Can you join us and take action? Click here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/krasner-do-right-by-mumia?source=email&>

Thanks!"

Network to free Mumia Call for Emergency Response

“On Dec. 3rd, Judge Leon Tucker heard final arguments in Mumia Abu-Jamal’s two-year-long appeal case and announced that he would issue a decision at a future time. The decision could come down at any time so we are asking everyone to be prepared to respond.

If Tucker rules in Mumia’s favor, we will rally at DA Krasner’s office to say #FreeMumia! and to tell Krasner: DO NOT APPEAL! If Tucker rules against Mumia, rally at the DA’s office to let them know we will continue the fight in the courts and on the streets.

All supporters are being asked to sign up for immediate email notice by clicking on the link below. You can also complete this through our website at www.mobilization4Mumia.com

Pledge to Take Action to Free Mumia: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/freemumia> “

Victory for Mumia - come out in his support on Dec. 28th outside DA's office in Philly. 4-6pm, 3 S. Penn Square

"Ruling on an appeals petition for Mumia Abu-Jamal, on Dec. 27, Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker found that former Justice Ronald Castille should have recused himself because of statements he made as a prosecutor about police killers that suggested a potential bias. They included campaign speeches and letters advocating the issuance of death warrants in such cases.

The ruling gives Mumia the chance to re-argue his appeals because of that perception of bias. While Tucker rejected defense arguments that Castille had played a "significant" role in Abu-Jamal's appeal when he was Philadelphia district attorney and then ruled on the case as a judge, his decision none-the-less is a victory for Mumia.

Knowing that Tucker's decision could be appealed by DA Krasner, a demonstration will be held on Friday, December 28th at 4pm outside his office at 3 S. Penn Square (near City Hall & Juniper St). This will be a victory celebration, a call for future actions and a notice to Krasner that the movement to free Mumia will not back down."

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S APPEAL RIGHTS RESTORED. EMERGENCY RALLY SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 2019, TO DEMAND DA KRASNER NOT CHALLENGE JUDGE'S RULING

"Mumia Abu-Jamal won a significant case before Judge Leon Tucker in a decision announced on Dec. 27. Current DA Larry Krasner should cease defending former Philadelphia DA and later PA Supreme Court Judge Ron Castille's now-discredited claim of impartiality.

Krasner should not challenge Judge Tucker's decision and should allow Abu-Jamal to go forward with re-arguing his appeals, which Judge Tucker argues "would best serve the appearance of justice."

RALLY ON SATURDAY JAN. 5, 2019 AT NOON In front of the DA's office, 3 S. Penn Sq. across from City Hall. Abu-Jamal's supporters will rally to demand Krasner not challenge this decision.

Pam Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal announced, "The people's movement is responsible for this victory."

A new appeal opens the door to Mumia's freedom – a new trial or dismissal of the charges.

The decision by Court of Common Pleas Judge Leon Tucker grants Mumia Abu-Jamal new rights of appeal. Tucker ruled former PA Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille denied Abu-Jamal fair and impartial appeals by not recusing himself from the defendant's appeals from 1998-2012. The ruling referenced Castille's public statements of being a "law and order" prosecutor, responsible for 45 men on death row, the support of the Fraternal Order of Police and the new evidence of Castille's having singled out men convicted as "police killers." It all created the appearance of bias and impropriety in the appeal process.

Judge Tucker's ruling means that Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeals of his 1982 conviction, that he was framed by police and prosecution manufacturing evidence of guilt and suppressing the proof of his innocence as well as other due process trial rights, are re-stored and must be re-heard in the PA appeals court.

Abu-Jamal has always maintained his innocence in the fatal shooting of police officer Daniel Faulkner. His prosecution was politically motivated because of his Black Panther Party membership, his support of the MOVE Organization and as a radical journalist. His trial was racially biased: trial judge Albert Sabo declared, "I'm gonna help them fry the n---r," and the prosecution excluded African Americans from the jury. After 37 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, the charges should be dismissed and he should be freed." From: Free Mumia Coalition info@freemumia.com PRESS ALERT - Dec. 28, 2018

Urgent Action - Support Transfer for Leonard Peltier-January 6th

"Dear Friends and supporters,

At our legal visit yesterday, Leonard told us that his case manager had submitted his request for a transfer on Wed, 1-2-19. He was cautiously excited and felt his transfer could happen within a few months BUT he didn't rule out the fact that his transfer might have to be fought in the courts.

We put together this information for you to send letters of support for Leonard's transfer. There are suggested letters, as well as points of information should you care to write your own letter.

Thank you for your support and if you get a return reply we would appreciate it if you would share it with us. Sincerely, ILPDC Board and National Office

Email, fax, call or write sample letters:

Email: GRA-DSC/PolicyCorrespondence@bop.gov

Phone: 972-352-4400 Fax: 972-352-4395

GRAND PRAIRIE OFFICE COMPLEX, 346 MARINE FORCES DRIVE, GRAND PRAIRIE, TX, 75051

Sample Letter:

RE: LEONARD PELTIER REGISTER NUMBER 89637-132

To whom it may concern:

Leonard Peltier #89637-132 has requested a transfer from the facility at Coleman, Florida to the facility at Oxford, WI. I am writing to support Peltier's transfer.

The reasons for transferring Peltier to Oxford include:

- Oxford is approximately 1,300 miles closer to Peltier's home and family.
- Oxford is closer to the Native communities related to Peltier.
- Peltier has multiple medical issues some extreme and potentially life threatening.
- Oxford is in proximity to the Mayo Clinic and Federal Medical Clinic in Rochester.

Transfer from Coleman to Oxford is therefore consistent with the spirit and intent of BOP policy and will serve to allow more family visitation and improve medical services to Peltier. Therefore, the transfer should be permitted.

Sincerely,

or

Dear Madam/Sir;

I am writing to express my support for the transfer of Mr. Leonard Peltier 89637-132 to FCI Oxford WIS.

Mr. Peltier is approaching his 75th birthday and had done over 44 years in Federal Custody. It is time that he be assigned a Federal facility closer to his family and an expert medical facility, like the Mayo Clinic.

The Oxford Facility is within a day's drive for Mr. Peltier's family in MN & ND and only 2 ½ hours from the Mayo clinic, which will provide the best health care necessary for the elder Mr. Leonard Peltier.

Thank you for considering Mr. Peltier's request for a transfer to FCI in Oxford.

Sincerely, "

Support Water Protector Legal Collective Beyond Standing Rock

Water Protector Legal Collective

"Dear Friend:

We hope you enjoyed reading our first newsletter last week! (If you missed it, [click here](#)) In it, you'll find a glimpse of the innovative and unique legal advocacy that supporters like you made possible over these past two years.

As this year comes to a close, we send this warm thank you for your solidarity and ask that you consider making a financial contribution at this critical time for the planet, to help us bring this work to Indigenous-led environmental struggles in other parts of the country.

WPLC has stayed on the ground in North Dakota even after all the cameras left. We are still here, following through on the commitment we made in Oceti Sakowin camp – to provide the best possible legal representation and advocacy to every Water Protector who was arrested there. Our civil litigation for the horrific police violence that cold night in November at Backwater Bridge is ongoing, as is our international advocacy to keep the world's attention on the affront to Indigenous sovereignty and other human rights violations that Indigenous people and their allies experienced at Standing Rock.

None of this could have happened without the generous financial support of people like you. We are so deeply grateful and humbled by your trust and by your participation in this important work.

This past weekend we concluded a strategic planning retreat where we renewed our commitment to provide legal support, advocacy and knowledge-sharing to Indigenous-led environmental and climate justice movements. At WPLC, we envision a world where Indigenous peoples are centered and guiding the world to protect the environment for all. We need your help to realize this goal.

Moving forward, we are utilizing the lessons we learned at Standing Rock to shape our work. In addition to continuing our core legal support and advocacy work, we are stepping up our investment in education and skill-development for Indigenous people at every level of what we do. Legal education is an investment in the future through building a new generation of movement legal advocates who are from the Indigenous communities we work in and serve.

You can make your donation tax deductible, either online at NLGF , or by check payable to NLG Foundation mailed to 132 Nassau St., Ste. 922 New York, NY 10038. If a tax deduction is not needed we ask you to please contribute directly to WPLC by mail (Mandan address below), or online here.

In solidarity, Sarah Hogarth, Interim Director

PS: Please follow our Facebook and website for updates or to make a contribution online.

<https://waterprotectorlegal.org/> “

Network to free Mumia Call for Emergency Response

“On Dec. 3rd, Judge Leon Tucker heard final arguments in Mumia Abu-Jamal’s two-year-long appeal case and announced that he would issue a decision at a future time. The decision could come down at any time so we are asking everyone to be prepared to respond.

If Tucker rules in Mumia’s favor, we will rally at DA Krasner’s office to say #FreeMumia! and to tell Krasner: DO NOT APPEAL! If Tucker rules against Mumia, rally at the DA’s office to let them know we will continue the fight in the courts and on the streets.

All supporters are being asked to sign up for immediate email notice by clicking on the link below. You can also complete this through our website at www.mobilization4Mumia.com

Pledge to Take Action to Free Mumia:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/freemumia> “

IMAM JAMIL AL-AMIN (formerly known as H. Rap Brown) Status Update: COURT HEARING APRIL 2019! KEEP FIGHTING the Gag Order!



Sign The Gag Order Petition

Imam Jamil Al-Amin (f/k/a H. Rap Brown) has been hounded for more than 50 years for his ability to Speak Truth to the wrong, oppression and injustice suffered by humanity, especially the millions of descendants of the African Slave Trade in the US—the economic foundation of this country. Since the false charges in 2000, he has been denied his human & civil right to speak. Imam Jamil’s character & principled life is a Light for justice—for All the oppressed: ENJOINING THE GOOD, OPPOSING ALL WRONG. He is a Link between the Black Community & the Muslim Community and the Link of Justice for All Humanity. He stands for Unity of the entire Muslim Community! He, like many other Freedom Fighters from the 1960s, has been hounded ever since—from the US government’s COINTELPRO attacks then to their continued languishing in US prisons today. Imam Jamil has spent all his adult life standing for human good and

against oppression: From building Unity between street organizations at Peace Summits across the country, to peace in West End Atlanta; Speaking Truth to Power from Alabama, and in the global arena, his life embodies Malcolm X: "I'm for truth, no matter who tells it; I'm for justice, no matter who it's for or against."

SIGN THE PETITION: kundnani.org/jamilalamin/

CALL THE BUREAU OF PRISONS 520.574.7300

Legal

The Legal Campaign to Free Imam Jamil is building a multi-level strategy: within the U.S. court system at the state and federal levels and in the United Nations international system of Courts. Imam Jamil's legal appeals case, at the state level, challenges to Georgia's factual and circumstantial contradictions, withholding of information, manipulations, pressure tactics and outright lies. At the federal level is the challenge to the federal government's trampling of Imam Jamil's First Amendment Rights to speak & write. The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has scheduled Oral Arguments for April 2019.

More fundamental than civil or constitutional rights are HUMAN RIGHTS—rights of all human beings, regardless of who they are & where they live. The FBI has admitted in 44,000 pages, so far, that it has hounded Imam Jamil Al-Amin for more than 50 years—for speaking out against the oppression faced by Black & other people inside the U.S. and elsewhere by the U.S. government. El Hajj Malik Al-Shabazz (Malcolm X) warned that the U.S. must be taken to the World Court. The US is guilty of violating the Human Rights of Imam Jamil, as well as dozens of other political prisoners because they dared to speak and stand for justice and right, against oppression and wrong, as well as the rights of the millions of African descendants of slavery.

Execution by Medical Neglect

While Imam Jamil continues to face and fight several physical health issues, his spirit remains strong. Prison authorities continue to claim medical care, BUT they are only "monitoring" his condition of smoldering myeloma (a form of blood cancer) and treating the symptoms of Sjogren's Syndrome.

TO HELP/FOR MORE INFO:

IMAM JAMIL ACTION NETWORK

www.imamjamilactionnetwork.org

facebook.com/imamjamilactionnetwork

Southern 252-907-4443

North East: 215-738-8807

Mid-West 216-215-0165

West Coast: 929-363-6649

Media Contact: 929-363-6649

WRITE IMAM JAMIL AL-AMIN

#99974-555

USP Tucson

P.O. Box 24550

Tucson, AZ 85734

To Send Commissary Payable to him:

Send a MONEY ORDER to:

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Jamil Al-Amin #99974-555

P.O. Box 474701

Des Moines, IA 50947-0001

Call to Action: International Week to Free Ahmad Sa'adat and All Palestinian Prisoners

"Dear supporters of Palestinian freedom, On 25 January 2008, Ahmad Sa'adat - prominent Palestinian national leader, global left internationalist and the general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - was sentenced to 30 years in Israeli prison.

On 15-22 January 2019, the anniversary of Sa'adat's detention by the Palestinian Authority as part of its security coordination with the Israeli occupation, activists and organizers around the world will

participate in an International Week of Action to Free Ahmad Sa'adat. Please share this information and these materials with your comrades, groups and organizations and participate in the week by organizing events, posting photos on social media or discussing in your community. We have posters, flyers and more to help with your actions!

The poster for the week is available in more than 10 languages - please see below and at our website to download materials. Let us know about your events at samidoun@samidoun.net - we will add them to the growing list of actions to free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian prisoners.

Solidarity, The Samidoun team”

Save the Date: Parole Justice Advocacy Day in Albany on January 29th

“You're receiving this message because you joined advocates across the state last June for an emergency action for parole justice. Since we were together in Albany, lots has happened in the world of New York State parole and politics. The Parole Board's release rates remain historically high while thousands of people are still annually denied parole, and the NYS Senate has flipped to being democratically controlled. There have been some successes but much more needs to be done.

Please join the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign, Parole Preparation Project and other advocates and communities across New York for an all-day parole justice advocacy day on Tues, Jan. 29th in Albany. We'll meet with legislators, march and rally in support of our advocacy demands (see here).

RSVP to join us on January 29th in Albany:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeN6blXUUhOT5jkQTBILkF8oG-mDSdL7set3Ma-TcZYfCqAw/viewform>

Free transportation will be provided from NYC and other regions of the state as needed. Food will also be provided. We have a real chance this legislative session to ensure that all incarcerated New Yorkers have a fair and meaningful opportunity for parole release. Join us on January 29th and help us get there.

Thanks and happy holidays,

Dave George

Dave George , Associate Director

Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP Campaign

168 Canal Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10013

631.885.3565 ddgeorge23@gmail.com Pronouns: he, him his “

Community News, Articles and Updates

Philly D.A.'s Office finds file boxes in Abu-Jamal case by Robert Moran, Updated: January 9, 2019-9:53 PM

"The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office has informed a judge that prosecutors have found six boxes of files in the case of convicted cop-killer (sic) Mumia Abu-Jamal that may be significant to his appeals effort. Or, they could just be copies of existing documents.

In a Jan. 3 letter to Common Pleas Court Judge Leon W. Tucker, Assistant District Attorney Tracey Kavanagh wrote that the boxes were discovered Dec. 28, a day after Tucker ruled that Abu-Jamal can reargue an appeal before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

In his 36-page decision filed Dec. 27, Tucker noted that prosecutors had failed to produce two documents they were obligated to preserve while Abu-Jamal's appeals were active. The unavailability of the documents could be prejudicial to Abu-Jamal, but the prosecutors' conduct was not egregious, Tucker said. Kavanagh wrote in the Jan. 3 letter that the District Attorney's Office was reviewing the contents of the six boxes and the judge was welcome to take a look, too.

Ben Waxman, spokesperson for District Attorney Larry Krasner, said Wednesday in an email that the boxes were being made available for review to Abu-Jamal's lawyers. The letter was released to the media Wednesday.

Kavanagh explained that on Dec. 28, "the D.A. and members of his staff went to a remote and largely inaccessible room of the District Attorney's Office marked 'Storage,' looking for office furniture." For full article please see: <http://www.philly.com/news/mumia-abu-jamal-daniel-faulkner-boxes-case-files-20190110.html>

What the Government Shutdown Really Means for Federal Prisoners-By Daniel McGowan, Paralegal, Criminal Law Reform Project JANUARY 11, 2019 | 2:00 PM

"Last week, USA Today ran a hit piece on federal prisoners with the tabloid headline, "Government shutdown: Federal inmates feast on Cornish hens, steak as prison guards labor without pay." Not to be outdone, The Washington Post followed this up with their own shameful story under the headline, "I been eatin like a boss': Federal prisoners served steak by unpaid guards during shutdown." The problem here is twofold. First, the shutdown has nothing to do with the food served to federal prisoners and, second, the food descriptions are wildly exaggerated.

I should know. I was a federal prisoner from 2007 to 2013 and ate thousands of meals during that time. Twice a year — usually Thanksgiving and New Year's Day — federal prisoners receive "special" meals for the holidays. These meals are rare, highly anticipated, and a touch above the low-quality food prisoners get the rest of the year. While the article used "steak" in the headline for impact, it was a little more accurate in the article, referring to the meal as roast beef. Mind you, this roast beef is not the corner delicatessen version but a grey, rubbery, low-cost version.

As offensive and archaic as these articles were, the worst aspect is they conflate a long-standing holiday meal tradition within the Bureau of Prisons with President Trump's government shutdown. There is no fairness in blaming federal prisoners for the situation BOP staff find themselves in due to Trump's shutdown — but it sure makes for good clickbait. Unfortunately, the government shutdown has very real impacts on federal prisoners, which the reporters ignored in their attempt to generate outrage.

With budgets frozen, daily life in prison will become even more miserable. Delays in mail being delivered; unstocked commissaries; shuttered gyms; and no classes, visits, transfers, or library access take a toll on peoples' well-being and the relative peace in the federal prison system. I recall during potential shutdowns in the 2000s that even toilet paper was being parceled out at the rate of one roll per week.

During the current shutdown, the BOP has furloughed a portion of its staff and is making other staff work without pay, restricting many aspects of prison life even more than usual. My experience in federal prison was that during budget crises or potential shutdowns, all programs perceived as extras or nonessential were canceled or curtailed. And I would argue that much of what the BOP perceives as "extra" is actually essential.

According to The Marshall Project, at some facilities, social visits were canceled during the holiday season due to the lack of staff in the visiting room. Visits are a critical part of prison life. They help prisoners connect to the outside world, build and repair relationships with their families, and aid reentry, all of which contribute to reducing recidivism.

I also worry about the prisoners who are waiting for compassionate release. The program has already been criticized by criminal justice reform advocates for how slow it processes applications, and the shutdown will only make this worse. Despite the fact that elderly and terminally ill prisoners' lives hang in the balance, the BOP will consider compassionate release "nonessential." The result: People will die in prison while their applications go unread.

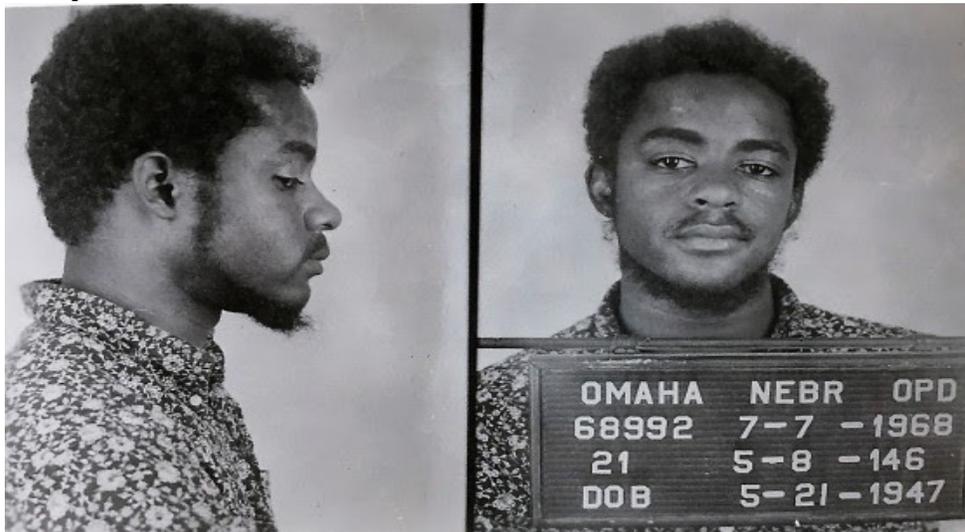
Then there's the mental health aspect to the shutdown. A significant number of people in federal prison also require mental health treatment, which will not happen while the government is shut down. A little-known fact is that all staff at a federal prison can be assigned security details, in my personal experience, and the shutdown will likely increase this. If the psychology staff is required to operate as guards, then there is no staff to run the mental health programs.

Finally, I worry about what it must be like to be in federal prison right now with prison guards and staff upset and angry about the government shutdown. Articles that conflate the government shutdown with holiday meals are grossly inappropriate and will only create an even more hostile environment if guards' resentment against prisoners grows.

So ignore the stories about prisoners living it up during the shutdown. The reality is that prison conditions have and will only continue to deteriorate as the shutdown deprives the BOP of the resources it needs to be fully staffed. Prisoners will face the worst of the shutdown, a fact the hit pieces ignore. That's the real story, not prisoners getting a holiday meal that I assure you is just a notch above inedible."

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/prisoners-rights/medical-and-mental-health-care/what-government-shutdown-really-means-federal>

Growing up black in Omaha included loitering arrest for poet activist David Rice by richardsonreports



David Rice, later Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, was arrested in July 1968 for loitering in Omaha and fined twenty-five dollars. credit: Omaha Police Department)

"What were we but strangers to the land where we were born." -Mondo

"Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, former David Rice, was a poet, artist, writer, and civil rights activist. Mondo was also affiliated with the Black Panther Party as Minister of Information for Omaha's chapter of the National Committee to Combat Fascism. Mondo's activism with the Panthers led to his conviction for the 1970 bombing death of an Omaha policeman.

Before Mondo's arrest for murder in a case manipulated by the infamous COINTELPRO program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation he was arrested by Omaha police for loitering. Mondo and ten other people were picked up during a police sweep to empty a parking lot. The July 7, 1968 arrest went to court a month later. The ten other people all had their cases dismissed for insufficient evidence. Mondo, who was covering the police action for the Buffalo Chip newspaper, went before a different judge who found him guilty of failure to disperse and fined him twenty-five dollars.

Mondo died in March 2016 at the maximum-security Nebraska State Penitentiary serving a life without parole sentence for a crime he said he did not commit. Edward Poindexter, a co-defendant and Chairman of the NCCF chapter, remains imprisoned, forty-eight years later. COINTELPRO was terminated by J. Edgar Hoover ten days after the Omaha Two trial ended in April 1971. Before his death Mondo, in a prison interview, described growing up black in Omaha.

Mondo was educated in Catholic schools and was one of the few black students in class during high school. Mondo attended St. Benedict's grade school and Creighton Preparatory High School, an all-boys school.

“While I was at Creighton Prep I did become aware of some things. I was a member of Young Christian Students that started to become aware of civil rights issues.”

Mondo asked a white girl from another school that was in his youth group to attend the homecoming dance. “That weekend she apparently told some friends. By the time I got to school on Monday it was all over Creighton Prep. Being naive and thinking I was one of the boys I'm not feeling it was a big deal but there were quite a few people at Prep that thought it was a big deal. People were talking about what they were going to do to me or to her. In one class they used the class time to talk about me. They were talking about bringing rifles and this kind of stuff. Eventually what happened was her parents told her if she went to the dance she would need to find new parents.”

“So there were things like that I had to learn about. You can turn back the hands of time on the clock but you can't turn real life back. Sometimes I wish I had gone to a predominately African high school but I didn't and I had to learn some things. I had to deal with inner conflict, but my attitude is the things that you live bring you to where you are.”

“I was, I think a junior in high school when I began to truly see that racism and injustice generally might be more than just aberrations....I was convinced that the oppression of African people, and other people of color, in this country was no accident, no mere flaw in the system.”

“I was in Omaha all my life up until the time I got convicted and I had been involved in rights kinds of issues when I was in high school, probably seventeen, maybe a little younger and so by the time I was eighteen I had already started being watched by the police....I had become accustomed to being occasionally followed, seeing cars and police cars go up and down in front of where I was staying. I had gotten really good at being able to identify those unmarked cars because there would be a certain way they'd be driven and they had certain colors. Colors that were supposed to be inconspicuous, but you know nobody in the neighborhood would actually buy a car that color, like a funny brown and brownish green and so forth, almost solid camouflage colors, gray. We knew who it was.”

In March of 1968, several months before the loitering arrest, George Wallace came to Omaha and held a large rally at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. Inside the auditorium, five thousand supporters gathered to place Wallace on the Nebraska ballot. Fifty black protesters, including Mondo, were given delegate passes by Wallace's security personnel and allowed onto the arena floor where they took up position standing in front of the podium, blocking the view of those seated in the front rows.

Wallace delayed his entrance for an hour while tension mounted between the protesters and the seated Wallace supporters. Jeers, shouts, and booing greeted Wallace from the protesters when he started to speak. Wallace snorted: “These are the free-speech folks you know. And these are the kind of folks the people in this country are sick and tired of.”

The crowd roared in agreement while the demonstrators began tearing up their protest signs and throwing the bits of cardboard and stick at the podium. Police moved in on the group while Wallace crowed, “Ladies and gentlemen, I want to say that you ought to be thankful for the police of Omaha.” Mondo was in front of the podium when the police assault began. Mondo was spotted by one of the policemen he regularly taunted. “We were up front sandwiched between the stage and the Wallace supporters. We were heckling, a good line of heckling. Then I saw Duane Pavel come out with a can of Mace and gets me right in the face. It knocked me out. Some people rushed me and picked me up and took me out of the auditorium. I could hear all hell breaking out but I didn't know what was going on.”

The Buffalo Chip described the frenzied scene. “The unarmed demonstrators turned to flee, and the police followed them, beating them on the back of the head as they ran. As the demonstrators tried to escape, people picked up folding chairs and beat them as they ran by, or threw chairs at them.”

The blood rage spilled out of the auditorium into the streets and turned to riot. Mayor A. V. Sorenson said in an interview that the police were quick to use their clubs. “Their procedure was to use their clubs at the slightest provocation.”

The next night Mondo was out talking to angry black residents of the city. Mondo wrote an account of his own angst and the mood on the streets for Buffalo Chip. “As I prepare to retire to the bed, I consider the animal activities of the Omaha Police Department, the unabashed lying of our news media, and the

unlimited stupidity of Mayor Sorenson. And I hope that the metal Citizens' Protection sticks, which I am passing out, will help the police get the kind of justice they have asked for."

Mondo's taunting of the police marked him for harassment. After Mondo joined the Black Panthers and took on local leadership he was targeted by COINTELPRO agents of the FBI. In December 1969, J. Edgar Hoover ordered Special Agent in Charge Paul Young to get Mondo off the streets. The bombing murder of Patrolman Larry Minard in August 1970 was pinned on Mondo and Ed Poindexter despite a confession from a fifteen year-old that planted the bomb. The two men were never again to walk Omaha streets and spent the rest of their lives behind bars.

This article contains excerpts from the new book FRAMED: J. Edgar Hoover, COINTELPRO & the Omaha Two story. The book is available in print from Amazon and also in ebook format. Portions may be read online free at NorthOmahaHistory.com. Patrons of the Omaha Public Library also have access to the book. <https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2018/12/17/growing-up-black-in-omaha-included-loitering-arrest-for-poet-activist-david-rice/> "

Woman who climbed Statue of Liberty in immigration protest found guilty

Victoria Bekiempis - December 17, 2018

"An activist has been found guilty of a series of federal crimes after she climbed on to the base of the Statue of Liberty this summer to protest against the US policy of separating migrant families and holding children in detention. Magistrate judge Gabriel Gorenstein convicted Therese Patricia Okoumou, who goes by Patricia, on Monday afternoon after a one-day bench trial in New York, asserting that the protester's political and moral motivations did not trump the law". Please see full article at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/17/statue-of-liberty-climber-trial-us-immigration>

"NOTE: If you send the updates & announcements to Joseph Dibee or Casey Brezik, they have new addresses":

Joseph Dibee #812133

11540 NE Inverness Drive

Portland, Oregon 97220

Casey Brezik #1154765

Farmington Correctional Center

1012 West Columbia

Farmington, Missouri 63640

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FILM FESTIVAL

The African American Museum & Library at Oakland is proud to present our annual film festival honoring the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's films include episodes from the series The African Americans: many rivers to cross : an unprecedented journey through African Americans history and Black America since MLK: And still I rise.

African American Museum & Library at Oakland

659 14th St. Oakland, California 94612

Monday, January 21, 2019

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Be sure to check out DJ Free Leonard's Spiritual Resistance at!

"New Album "Spiritual Resistance" by DJ Free Leonard Featuring: B-Legit, Casual of Hieroglyphics, Umar of The Last Poets, Young Dirty Bastard of Wu-Tang and Baby Eazy E

1/1/2019 All Digital Outlets. Happy Holidays!"



NW Peltier Support Group & Oregon Jericho Present: Music for Life & Freedom for Leonard!

OREGON JERICHO & NW. LEONARD PELTIER SUPPORT GROUP HOST

LEGAL DEFENSE FUNDRAISER FOR INDIGENOUS POLITICAL PRISONER LEONARD PELTIER 89637-132

Sunday January 20th 2019 8pm. -11pm

Mississippi Pizza 3552 N. Mississippi Ave. Portland, OR97227

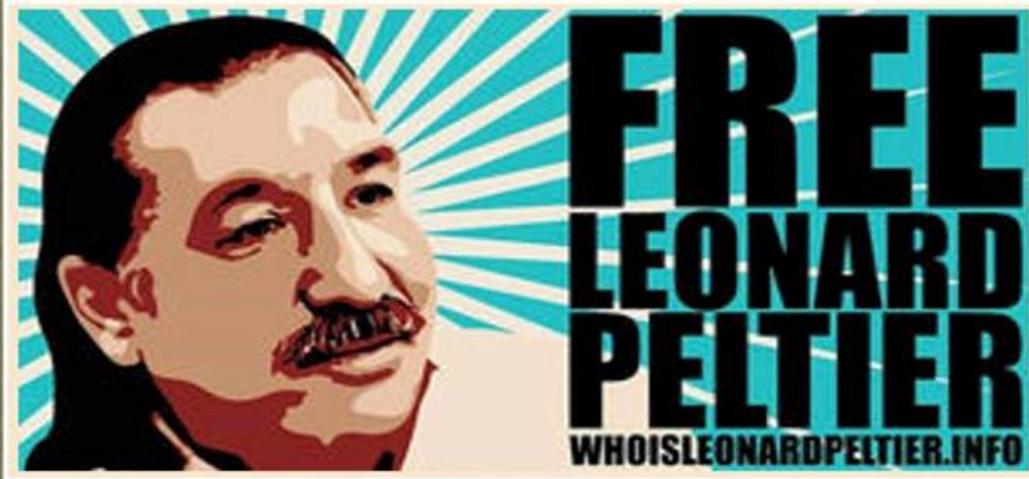
All ages until 9p.m. & Disability Affirmative

Co-sponsors: Red Lodge Transition Services, Civil Liberties Defense Center, Prison Pipeline Collective, Portland Prisoner Support, Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education

<https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/home/events/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events,278854699641476/>

NW PELTIER SUPPORT GROUP & OREGON JERICO PRESENTS



MUSIC FOR LIFE &
FREEDOM FOR LEONARD!

A Performing Arts Benefit for Leonard Peltier

\$10-50
Donation
@ door

Sunday, January 20th 2019
8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
All ages until 9:00 p.m.
Disability Affirmative
Mississippi Pizza
3552 N Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97227

Featuring
West Coast Blackbear
Walidah Imarisha
1,000 Fuegos
DJ Swerv
DJ Free Leonard & more!

Join us for an evening of speakers,
spoken word, hip hop and
indigenous music and performing
arts. Support legal defense efforts
for indigenous, long-term and u.s.-
held Political Prisoner Leonard
Peltier. To learn more & donate:
www.whoisleonardpeltier.info



Help with Legal fees for Leonard's 1st Amendment Case out of Tacoma Wa. pretrial work Trial late 2019/early 2020

Tension and Isolation at al-Demon Women's Prison December 18, 2018

"On 17 Dec 2018 Addameer's lawyer and director Sahar Francis visited al-Demon prison where all Palestinian women detainees are held currently. Sahar's visit did not last for even 15 minutes as the prison administration canceled the visit and informed Sahar that there is an emergency situation. It came to

Addameer's knowledge today, 18 Dec 2018 that women in detention are still targeted especially those who were transferred from Hasharon prison after protesting the operation of the cameras.

Prisoners at al-Damon informed Addameer's lawyers that the prison administration asked some workers from the civil prisoners to repair the sewage system in room number 11 in the Women section at Al-Damon. The room has 7 women prisoners who went into their recreational time during the reparations. Though, the deputy administrator of the women's section claimed that she have asked the women to stay in the toilet during the reparations rather than the yard. The women reaffirmed that they did not know of such a request and this is why they went to the yard to take their recreational time.

The women in detention added that the prison administration got outraged and took the prisoner Yasmin Sha'ban to isolation. Yasmin was put in the lawyer's visit room from 12 PM until 5:30 PM and she was sentenced in a disciplinary hearing to have no family visits for a month, a fine of 100 – 600 Shekels from the canteen money, and to receive no letter for two months". Please see full article at: <http://www.addameer.org/news/tension-and-isolation-al-demon-womens-prison>

Incorrigibles: Bearing Witness to the Incarcerated Girls of New York

"On October 11, 2018, we hosted the opening of our latest exhibition *Incorrigibles: Bearing Witness to the Incarcerated Girls of New York*.

Thank you to everyone who came out and showed support! We want to send a huge thank you to the Brooklyn Federal Courthouse and Judge Robert Levy, for inviting *Incorrigibles* to install this exhibition in the Honorable Charles P. Sifton Gallery, and to For Freedoms for including our exhibition in their 50 States Initiative.

The *Incorrigibles* exhibition will be up and available for viewing until February 15, 2019. The Brooklyn Federal Courthouse is located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, in Brooklyn, NY. Gallery hours are 8:30 AM-5 PM Monday through Friday.

Visit the Exhibition! We are happy to provide walk-throughs of the exhibition! We have hosted groups including I Am Every Girl, student mentors from Saint Ann's High School, and others! Please help us spread the word about the exhibition! Email us at info@incorrigibles.org to schedule an informational tour or visit with a group.

Save the Date! On Thursday, January 31st, 2019, *Incorrigibles* will be hosting a free public event to accompany the exhibition at the Brooklyn Federal Courthouse. Join us for a night of storytelling, discussion, and exploration of the past, present, and future of girls' justice here in New York.

Featuring women who were sentenced to the New York State Training School for Girls in the 1960's and 70's; academics such as Judith Resnik (Yale) and Shabnam Javdani (NYU); judges from the Brooklyn Federal Courthouse; advocates; and directly impacted girls; this panel event will bring experts together around the same table to acknowledge past and current abuses against girls, and to discuss how to create a world free from these injustices.

Be on the lookout for an official announcement and RSVP link in the upcoming weeks! We wish you all a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely, The *Incorrigibles* Team #incorrigiblegirls "

Post-Prison Homecomings

Photographs by Brian L. Frank, Text by Jaeah Lee Audio edited by Erika Lantz, Published in partnership with The Marshall Project

"When young men arrive at Pine Grove — California's first and only remaining rehabilitation camp for serious or violent juvenile offenders — they notice the trees. Pine Grove, also known as "fire camp," sits in a small valley just above the snow line, between a casino and the western Sierra Nevada. The second thing they notice is that there is no barbed wire surrounding the property.

Marcus Tapia, Kermit Moore, and Kain Castro came to Pine Grove in 2016. Tapia and Moore had grown up in Los Angeles, raised primarily by their grandparents. Tapia was imprisoned for armed robbery and gun possession; Moore for attempted murder. Castro had grown up in Salinas, where he lived with his mother, brother, and sister. In his teens, he was arrested and sent to prison for assault. Each earned their

placement at Pine Grove with a record of good behavior and by taking classes and programs. Like the others at the camp, Tapia, Moore, and Castro learned to contain fires, fell trees, and clear flood channels. "Everything was good about it except the time, you know?" Tapia says. "Because time kills you." For Moore, Pine Grove felt like a "neutral zone" — for once, his gang or race didn't seem to matter. For Full article, Photo's, Video's please see: <https://story.californiasunday.com/post-prison-homecomings>
"This photo essay was produced in partnership with The Marshall Project, a nonprofit newsroom covering the U.S. criminal justice system. Brian L. Frank was a 2017 Catchlight Fellow working in collaboration with The Marshall Project. Catchlight is a nonprofit dedicated to visual storytelling and the power of photography to drive social change."

[Pnews] Hunger Strike Continues at Northwest Detention Center; ICE and GEO retaliate with threats of solitary confinement December 27, 2018

Contact: Carly Brook carlybrook329@gmail.com 206-697-2749

"Hunger Strike Continues at Northwest Detention Center; ICE and GEO retaliate with threats of solitary confinement; Caravan Members Arrive to NWDC

Tacoma WA -- Up to 32 hunger strikers continue into the 13th day of food refusals in protest of deplorable conditions and abuse they face at the Northwest Detention Center, despite threats of solitary confinement and force feeding. The long list of abuses reported at the Northwest Detention Center include food served spoiled or with maggots and other bugs, payment of only \$1 per day, harassment from guards, and repeated denial of adequate medical attention.

This round of hunger strikes began on Tuesday, December 11, when up to 40 immigrants detained at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma began refusing meals to protest the abhorrent conditions they face. People from additional pods joined the protest, and as of Friday, 32 were reportedly refusing food. One detained activist listed the group's demands as follows: "I am part of a group of detainees that are going to go on hunger strike as the only way to protest and shine a light on the abuses that we suffer here. We are going on strike because: 1) the abuse of the NWDC Director; 2) The abuse of the guards; 3) The lack of medical attention; 4) the bad food; 5) the salary of a \$1 per day; and 6) that they rob our property."

Strikers have reported threats that they will be force fed and sent to solitary confinement if they continue to strike or strike again in the future. Nevertheless, detained activists in two pods continue to refuse food. "The persistence of these activists in the face of retaliation just goes to show how bad conditions really are in the detention center," states NWDC Resistance member Andrea Marcos. One hunger striker released this statement, illustrating the lack of medical care in the facility and retaliation people detained face for speaking out about these conditions, "I have had a throat infection for more than 15 days and they have only given me salt and ibuprofen. Recently, myself and others from our pod have been receiving medical treatment from the officers. We went on a hunger strike and I lost more than 15 pounds and I plan to continue the strike. It is not fair that they decreased our food, and threatened to remove our tablet, TV and phone yesterday. An officer threatened to send me to a "punishment cell" for not wanting to eat breakfast." This strike is the latest in a series of strikes protesting conditions inside this notorious facility. It follows the November 24th death of hunger striker Amar Mergensana while in ICE custody in Tacoma. The Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General has opened an investigation into the circumstances leading up to Mergensana's death.

NWDC Resistance invites Tacoma residents to support detained activists at a Solidarity Rally outside the Northwest Detention Center on Sunday Dec. 30 from 1:30-4:30 PM, calling on GEO Group not to retaliate with the use of solitary confinement, threats of force feeding, or otherwise violating detainees' free speech rights. <https://www.facebook.com/events/394069814663522/> The group continues to urge Governor Jay Inslee to visit people detained in his state and hear their concerns first-hand. For live updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/NWDCResistance/>.

NYC Jericho just received word that Jeremy Hammond has been moved

His new address is:

Jeremy Hammond #18729-424

FCI Memphis

PO Box 34550
Memphis TN 38184

"Please remember that his birthday is coming up on January 8. Send him a card or letter to let him know that he is not forgotten! Also please note that with this transfer comes one important change with the rules about books. While at FCI Milan, books were allowed to be sent to Jeremy from private individuals. This is no longer the case. All books sent to Jeremy must now come directly from a publisher or distributor (such as Amazon, AK Press, PM Press, etc.). Used books from Amazon are fine.

While we are relieved that he has gotten to his final destination and that it happened quickly and that Jeremy arrived safely, this is not the outcome that either we or Jeremy wanted. We had hoped that FCI Milan would have allowed him to stay so that he could have completed his education, as he was only one semester away from graduation, and he was very much enjoying his studies. It is absolutely ludicrous that Jeremy was forced to suffer over one month in SHU, loss of privileges, and removal from an environment where he was not only learning and actively attempting to better himself, but where he had no other major disciplinary infractions, all over the ridiculous charge of accidentally bumping a guard with a door he could not see through as he was exiting his unit.

Prisons can, at even the best of times, seem Kafkaesque, but this situation went above and beyond the normal levels of absurdity and cruelty. According to the disciplinary hearing officer's (DHO) report, it was the guard who made this situation something it didn't need to be. When he was accidentally hit with the door, it was the guard who escalated the situation by confronting Jeremy, asking, "Do you really want to be pushing on me like that?" instead of just accepting that maybe it was an accident caused by the fact that a windowless door was opened and he was standing too close. No injuries were sustained, no harm was caused, but because there was "unwanted touching", Jeremy was charged with assault. All because of a door.

This situation is an example of something no bill, no law can ever reform. From the incident itself to the aftermath of being denied a chance to see the video that could have cleared his name and placed in SHU where his mail was delayed and books were denied on the whim of one man, the system worked as it has always worked, as it was designed to work. Prisoners are afforded no rights. In the DHO report, the reasoning the prison gave as to why they were upholding the finding of assault was, "The DHO has no reason to believe that the reporting officer is not being truthful in their written report, as the staff member was merely acting in routine performance of their duties and has nothing to gain from fabrication of the charge. [Inmate Hammond], on the other hand [does], in order to avoid the consequences of your actions." In other words, prisons and their representatives never lie, but prisoners do. Prison guards are given the presumption of innocence, prisoners are given the presumption of guilt. We see this over and over not just within the prison system, but in the wider system of policing and law enforcement – the presumption of innocence is given to those in power. How many times have we heard that cops "feared for their lives"? And over and over, this presumption results in people suffering and dying and no one ever being held accountable.

Several years ago, while Jeremy was still at FCI Manchester, there was another incident where Jeremy was placed in SHU. There was another threat of a transfer. While he was waiting to find out his fate, the warden came to visit and spoke with him. The warden told him, "You're no longer our problem." While that situation didn't end in a transfer, I tell this story because it epitomizes not only the way Jeremy is viewed by the BOP, but how all prisoners are viewed. They are not viewed as human beings worthy of dignity, respect, and basic human rights. They are "problems". They are subhuman. They are objects to be dehumanized, abused, mistreated, and controlled. It is for this reason, and many others, that we fight not for milquetoast reform, but for complete and total prison abolition. Nothing less will restore the rights and dignity of the millions locked in cages in the US prison system.

Love and Rage,
Grace North"

Durham NC Becomes First City to Ban Training By Israeli Police and Then be Forced to Reconsider It

"Israel has become the hub to train the world's police in military tactics, based on its 42 years of occupation on the West Bank. Here in the United States, literally dozens, if not hundreds, of U.S. police departments are being trained in military tactics, intelligence and community control by the Israeli police. The Baltimore police, in the city where we broadcast from, are being trained by Israeli security forces, along with places like Washington D.C. down the road and the New York Police, who also maintain a full time office in Israel.

The nature of the Israeli army has morphed over the last four decades into a national police force to control Palestinians in the occupied territories. The world is learning and they are training. Resistance to this movement came to a head in Durham, North Carolina, where movements like Demilitarize Durham2Palestine and one of its member groups, Jewish Voices for Peace, organized intensely. That pushed the Durham City Council to vote on and pass a resolution that read in part, "The council opposes international exchanges with any country which Durham officers receive military style training since such exchanges do not support the kind of policing we want here in the city of Durham." It may have been the very first time that a city council has taken such action in the United States." For full article please see: <https://therealnews.com/stories/durham-nc-becomes-first-city-to-ban-training-by-israeli-police-and-then-be-forced-to-reconsider-it>

BK/NY Tues, Jan 8 – Ltr-Writing Dinner For David, Jalil, and Joy

<https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2019/01/03/nys2019>

WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinner WHEN: 7pm sharp, Tuesday, January 8th, 2019

WHERE: The Base – 1302 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11221

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

COST: Free

While the majority of Americans use New Years Eve as an excuse to drink as much alcohol as they can consume only to 'turn over a new leaf' the following day by joining a gym, we at NYC ABC are doing the work we always do. We were excited to see your smiling (albeit it rain-drenched) faces at our annual New Year's Eve Noise Demo at MCC in Manhattan. And as per usual, we will be kicking off yet another calendar year of bi-weekly letter writing nights and hope to see y'all there, too. NYC ABC is starting the first month of the year by focusing on comrades near to us, both in affinity and proximity—David Gilbert, Jalil Muntaqim, and Joy Powell, three of our New York state political prisoners. David Gilbert was moved in 2016 to Wende Correctional Facility, luckily closer to some comrades and unfortunately farther from others. **David** is a long time anti-racist and anti-imperialist who is serving a life sentence for his involvement as a white comrade to the Black Liberation Army during an attempted expropriation, better known as the Brinks Robbery. He has continued the struggle while held captive. For more information, visit <http://www.thejerichomovement.com/profile/gilbert-david>

Jalil Muntaqim has been rejected by the New York state parole board a total of ten times. December 2018 was the last time Jalil appeared before the Board, and the tenth time he has been denied, despite having an excellent record and meeting all requirements to be released on parole. Jalil has submitted a request to Governor Cuomo requesting commutation of sentence to time served, as the parole board is obviously biased. A fair and just parole hearing is impossible for Jalil and our other New York State political prisoners. More information at <http://www.freejalil.com>

Reverend Joy Powell was warned by the Rochester Police department that she was a target because of her speaking out against corruption. On many occasions, Rev. Joy held rallies and spoke out against the police brutality and "police justifications" in Rochester, New York. As a result, she was accused and convicted of 1st Degree Burglary and Assault. Rev. Joy has filed multiple grievances for sexual assault and religious discrimination among other things, and has been repeatedly denied medical attention for her diabetes and asthma. For more information on how you can help support, visit <http://freejoypowell.org> We expect to see you on Tuesday. If you can't make it, please take the time to write a letter to David, Jalil, and Joy:

David Gilbert #83-A-6158
Wende Correctional Facility
3040 Wende Road
Alden, New York 14004

Jalil Muntaqim* #77-A-4283
Sullivan Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 116
Fallsburg, New York 12733-0116
*Address envelope to Anthony Bottom.

Reverend Joy Powell #07-G-0632
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 1000
Bedford Hills, New York 10507-2499

Cyntoia Brown Will Go Free in August, But There Are More Survivors Behind Bars Who Still Need Help

Jan 8, 2019, 4:22pm Victoria Law

"After 14 years behind bars, Cyntoia Brown will soon be walking out of the prison gates.

In 2004, when Brown was 16, she had run away from home and was living with a man named Kut Throat in a Nashville motel. At his insistence, she engaged in street-based sex work, leading to her fateful encounter with 43-year-old Johnny Allen. After haggling with her over the price, Allen brought Brown back to his house where, she later told a judge, his behavior frightened her. When he seemed to reach for something underneath the bed, Brown believed he was reaching for a gun. She shot him with the gun she kept in her purse. She then left, taking Allen's money and two of his guns; in court, prosecutors argued that Brown had gone to his house intending to rob him.

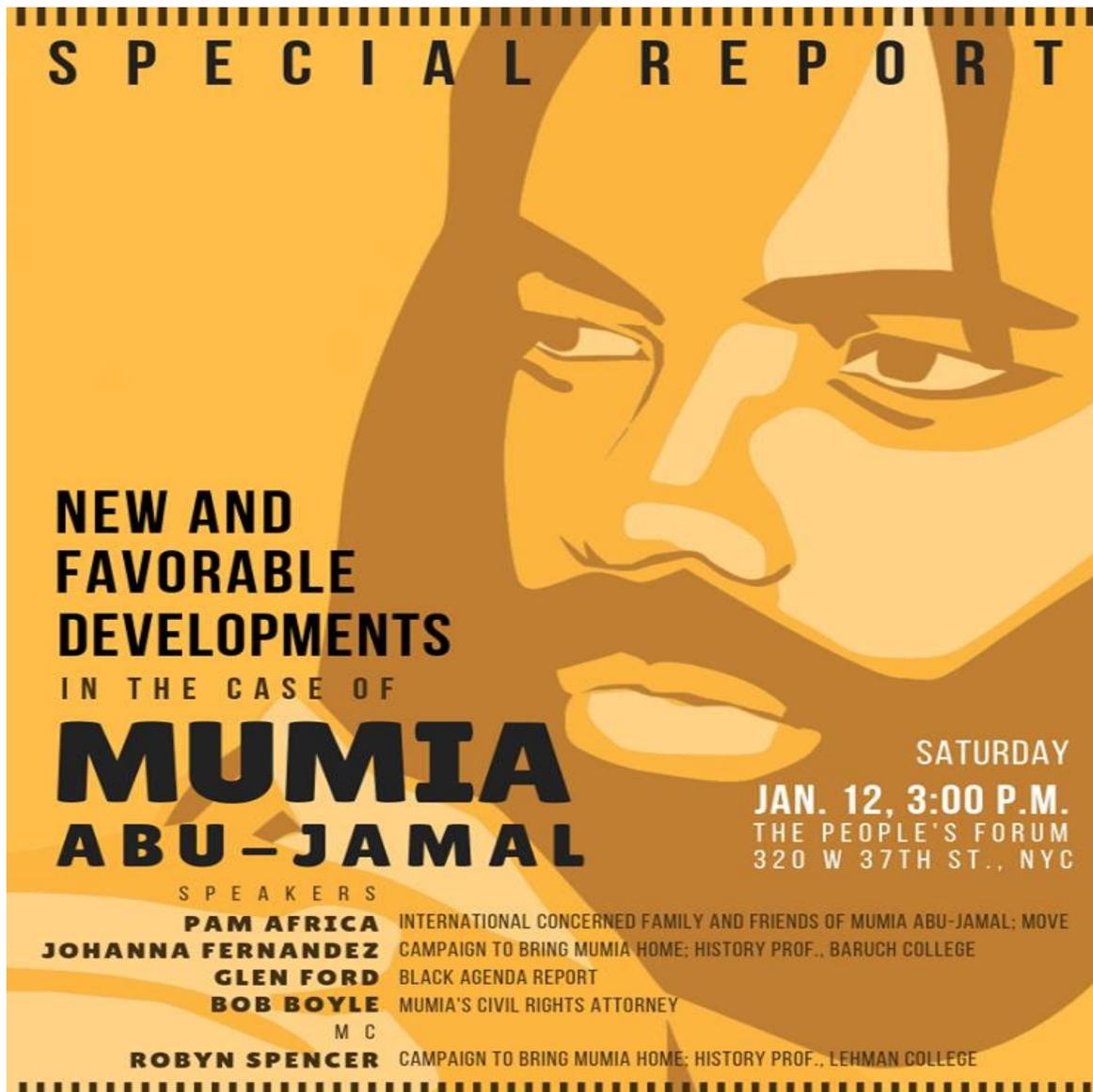
Two years later, she was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. She became one of more than 100 people in Tennessee sentenced to life in prison as teenagers—and one of countless women throughout the United States who has survived violence only to be sentenced to decades, if not death, behind bars.

Though the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that life without parole for those convicted as juveniles is unconstitutional, Tennessee did not revise its laws to allow people sentenced to life as juveniles to apply for resentencing. Instead, it allows for the possibility of parole for everyone sentenced to life in prison only after they have served 51 years. In December 2018, Tennessee's Supreme Court ruled that the same laws apply to Brown, meaning she would not have a second chance until at least age 67. But on Monday, January 7, outgoing Gov. Bill Haslam (R) commuted Brown's sentence to time served. Brown, now 30, will be eligible for release August 7. She will remain on parole for the next ten years." For full article please see: <https://rewire.news/article/2019/01/08/cyntoia-brown-will-go-free-in-august-but-there-are-more-survivors-behind-bars-who-still-need-help/>

This Just In from The Campaign To Bring Mumia Home: "A Special Report Back in the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal"

"On Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., there will be a community event featuring a special report on the momentous new developments in the Mumia Abu-Jamal Case. For the first time in 37 years #MumiaAbuJamal has won a favorable ruling in the City of Philadelphia that will allow him to present evidence of innocence, leading to his release from an all too common American nightmare; wrongful incarceration.

This event will be at the new, cutting-edge, progressive movement space in New York, The People's Forum (located at 320 West 37th Street in Manhattan) and will bring together five powerful voices to discuss these developments, explore the history of the case, the present the reasons why Mumia's freedom would signal a blow to White Supremacy in the United States, and will highlight the struggle that made possible this unforeseen victory. The panelists will also discuss what is necessary to secure Mumia's freedom.



FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- » Mumia's attorney JUDITH RITTER
- » PAM AFRICA, the longstanding leading voice in the movement to #FreeMumia
- » JOHANNA FERNANDEZ, filmmaker, professor, and specialist in the case
- » GLEN FORD, journalist + founder of Black Agenda Report

Philadelphia's native son, imprisoned author, radio journalist, and former Black Panther, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has always been a free man. But after 37 years in prison (28.5 of which he spent in the haunting solitude of death row) an unprecedented opening in his legal case could set free the political prisoner known the world over as the Nelson Mandela of the US prison system.

On December 27, 2018, Judge Leon Tucker of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas rendered a decision that grants Abu-Jamal the right to resubmit requests for appeals hearings which he filed between 1996-2012. The ruling established that these hearings were either not heard or denied because one of the lead judges reviewing his appeals, Ron Castille, had a conflict of interest.

Judge Tucker argued that as judge of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Ron Castille made inappropriate statements and engaged in behavior that flagrantly violated the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Conduct, and the laws deriving from that, which state that if there is even the appearance that a judge might be biased in a case, it was the duty of that judge to recuse himself from said case. The ruling sets precedent for the freedom of other imprisoned people in Pennsylvania and across the country whose rights have been similarly violated.

Written in clear and dramatic language the opinion affirms that "Justice must be completely just without even a hint of partiality, lack of integrity or impropriety."

MEDIA CONTACTS

Gwen Debrow (917) 678-5449 Carlito Rovira (917) 603-3064 bringmumiahome@gmail.com

Follow on Twitter: @BringMumiaHome Follow on Instagram: @BringMumiaHome

Like the Facebook Page: The Campaign To Bring Mumia Home"

See No Evil: Pentagon Issues Blanket Denial That It Knows Anything About Detainee Abuse in Yemen Alex Emmons - January 7, 2019

In a previously unpublished report to Congress, the Department of Defense said that it has found no evidence of detainee abuse by U.S. allies in Yemen, contradicting reports from journalists, human rights groups, and a U.N. panel of experts that documented torture by U.S.-backed forces.

The carefully worded report sent to the House and Senate Armed Services committees last month denied that U.S. forces had ever observed or reported detainee abuse by allies and partner forces fighting in Yemen. The report, which was required by an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for this fiscal year, contained a classified annex not seen by The Intercept.

"DoD takes detainee abuse allegations and the investigation of detainee abuse very seriously, whether it occurs in U.S. or foreign partner custody," said the two-page report. "Based on information to-date, DoD has not developed any independent, credible information indicating that U.S. allies or partners have abused detainees in Yemen." For full article please see: <https://theintercept.com/2019/01/07/yemen-prison-torture-uae-dod/>

Jailhouse lawyers murdered by medical neglect: The California Medical Facility administrators have blood on their hands

by Chairman Kijana Tashiri Askari, reporting for the W.L. Nolen Mentorship Program

Kijana Tashiri Askari

"By definition of the law, prisoners have a clearly established constitutional right to medical care, and this is per *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97 (1976).

But apparently, this law is not applicable to New Afrikan Black People, based upon an 1857 United States Supreme Court decision in the *Dred Scott* case, where the justices ruled that Black people, whether slave or free, and their descendants, "regarded as beings of an inferior order, [were] so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect." For full article please

see: <https://sfbayview.com/2019/01/jailhouse-lawyers-murdered-by-medical-neglect-the-california-medical-facility-administrators-have-blood-on-their-hands/>

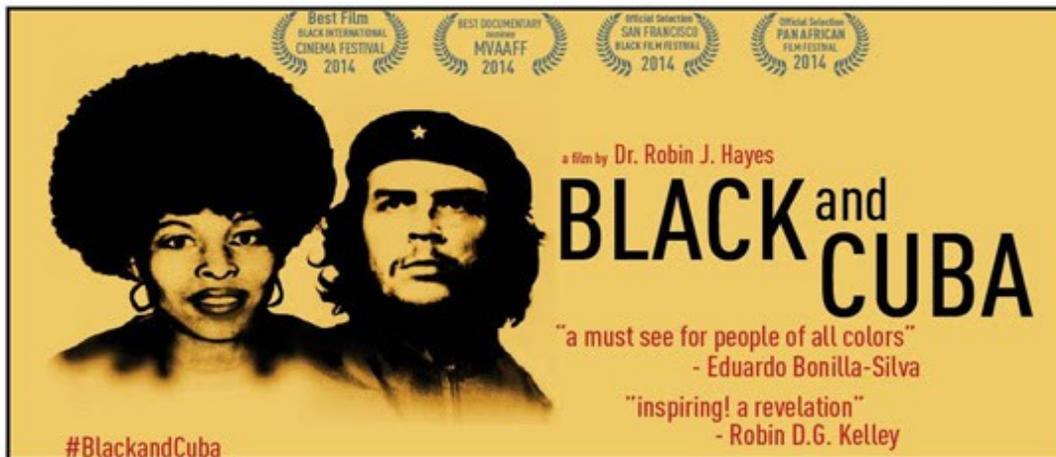
Cuba and Puerto Rico Events in Jan/Feb

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

www.ProLibertad.org ProLibertad@hotmail.com

Facebook.com/ProLibertadFC Twitter: @ProLibertad
Instagram: @ProLibertadFC ProLibertadTV/YouTube Channel
Telephone: 718-601-4751

Venceremos Brigade Cuba Film Festival



Join the Venceremos Brigade in the screening of Black and Cuba, followed by a brief information session on the upcoming 50th contingent of the Venceremos Brigade this summer!

The documentary "Black and Cuba" tells the story of Black resistance reading group, comprised of Black Yale graduate students who were inspired to take a trip to Cuba in 2002 and witness firsthand "how revolution lives". All proceeds will go to support scholarships for folks who will be participating in the upcoming 50th anniversary brigade to Cuba.

Saturday, January 26, 2019 @2:30 pm - 5:00 pm
The People's Forum 320 West 37th Street
(between 8th & 9th Avenues) Take the A,C,E to 34th St.-Penn Station/8th Ave.

Cost: Sliding Scale \$5 - \$15
(nobody will be turned away due to lack of funds)



For more information on the Venceremos Brigade, please consult:
Website: <https://vb4cuba.com/> Email: vbrigade@gmail.com
Twitter: @VB4Cuba Instagram: @VB4Cuba

What the Government Shutdown Looks Like Inside Federal Prisons Family visits canceled, guards driving for Uber, rising tensions and more.

By Eli Hager

"The partial U.S. government shutdown is now in its third week, due largely to President Trump's insistence that Congress give him more than \$5 billion for a border wall he says will keep criminals from entering the country through Mexico. Meanwhile, the federal employees tasked with keeping the nation safe from people convicted of crimes—prison guards—are laboring without pay.

Because the federal Bureau of Prisons is operating without funding, it has furloughed up to half of its 36,000-person staff, including many who provide therapeutic programs for prisoners and other services considered not to be "essential." And the agency is asking its remaining employees to keep working unpaid, focusing on maintaining security even if that's not usually their primary job.

This could remain the state of affairs until the next pay cycle in late January at the earliest—or even for months or years to come, according to Trump, who on Sunday threatened to declare a national emergency in order to bypass Congress in the funding dispute.

"It's an absolute disaster," said John Kostelnik, president of the American Federation of Government Employees chapter in Victorville, California, home to one of the nation's largest concentrations of federal prison guards. "I have staff that are resorting to getting second employment—like Uber driving." Kostelnik points out that many federal corrections officers had already been overwhelmed by the Trump administration's immigration policies: Victorville, for example, took in about 1,000 immigrant detainees in June.

"It was a mission that was just thrown on us," Kostelnik said, adding that guards were not provided sufficient training or additional staff to handle the influx of detainees. "And oh by the way, now you're not getting paid?"

In an email, the Bureau of Prisons did not respond to specific questions about conditions for officers and inmates but said the lack of funds from Congress means that only those employees whose duties involve "the safety of human life or the protection of property" are permitted to work.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

The shutdown is having other consequences inside federal prisons as well. At some facilities, inmate visits with their families were canceled during the holiday season due to the lack of funds, according to interviews with staff and emails with prisoners. Inmates who are terminally ill and awaiting "compassionate release" to die at home with their families now must wait even longer because their applications are going unread. And in at least one instance, a prison had to stop ordering food and toiletries for prisoners to purchase at commissary, an inmate said.

"They're out of most of everything," Seth Piccolo, a prisoner at the Petersburg correctional facility in Virginia, wrote in an email on CorrLinks, an app used by federal inmates. "Bad things seem to happen when prisoners don't get their chips..."

The more urgent problem, said Robert Hood, former warden of the federal supermax penitentiary in Florence, Colorado—where inmates such as Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber, are held—is the possibility of mental-health staff being furloughed for a significant period of time.

"Most B.O.P. facilities will run without the myriad of programs normally offered" to address the needs of dangerous or mentally ill prisoners, Hood said.

Another developing consequence of the shutdown is that the First Step Act, a celebrated prison-reform bill signed by Trump last month, may now partially be put on hold. According to the new law, the federal prison system has 210 days to develop a risk-assessment tool for evaluating which inmates can safely be released, which was already a short timeframe for it to be implemented successfully. The bureau is also supposed to be recalculating the earned "good-conduct time" that some prisoners should be getting off their sentences. That's now all been sidelined, said Jack Donson, a former employee of the agency for two decades who is now a consultant and regularly communicates with staff and prisoners.

Inmates are emailing prison administrators saying, "Hey what's going on with my sentence?" Donson said. "There are going to be inmates who are past their correct release date," he said, "and that will manifest in frustration and them acting out."

The B.O.P. said in a statement that it will continue to work on the law's implementation, including by identifying prisoners who stand to be affected. For officers, the pain of missed paychecks is just beginning to set in. Some of those furloughed have seen the shutdown as a vacation, since it's lasted only a few weeks thus far. But others who live paycheck-to-paycheck or have impending medical, childcare, mortgage or gas bills—given their long drives to remote prisons—are feeling increasingly desperate.

Since federal prison employees can be transferred around the country, some of those most affected are ones not getting reimbursed for travel costs. Others said they are particularly concerned about going into debt; they said that could get them fired in the future, if the agency sees them as susceptible to bribes by inmates. Don Drewett, a corrections officer in Otisville, New York, who is also the national legislative coordinator for the Council of Prison Locals, said the shutdown will cost the government more in the long run. To avoid further lawsuits like the one already filed by two prison guards on Dec. 31, the B.O.P. may eventually have to pay extra overtime to everyone who's been working unpaid.

"Here you are in this terrible setting, this slow psychological grind" of working in a prison, said Drewett, and now you have to watch the news to see if you'll be getting paid?

"You hear about the politics of, Oh it's just \$5 billion for a border wall, get over it and fund it and then we won't have a problem.... Well, I find that to be a really crass, insensitive position. That's not really understanding the human component here." <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/01/07/what-the-government-shutdown-looks-like-inside-federal-prisons>

NLG Southern Region Statement Supporting Angela Davis and the BDS Movement January 9, 2019

"Atlanta, GA—The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute announced it was canceling its gala and rescinding the Fred Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award that was to be given to activist and scholar Dr. Angela Davis, a vocal supporter of the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement for Palestinian rights.

As lawyers, law students, legal workers, and activists we are dedicated to the elimination of racism in all of its forms. Living in the South we know the importance of place, and how it interacts with our memories and narratives moving forward. Lest we forget that it is here, at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI), that one can look across the street at the 16th Street Baptist Church, a place that reminds us of the suffering and oppression of black people, and also symbolizes hope and resilience. It is deeply disappointing that BCRI has retracted the invitation and canceled the awards dinner for its Fred Shuttlesworth Award. Also, it is appalling that the award would be rescinded due to Dr. Angela Davis's support of Palestinian political prisoners, and the nonviolent Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

The BDS movement is part of a long tradition of freedom movements using economic pressure as a non-violent tactic. This legacy is particularly strong in the American South. In fact, Omar Barghouti, a co-founder of the movement, points out BDS was "inspired partly by the American civil rights movement." The well-documented and internationally recognized violations of Palestinian human rights by the Israeli government and military are an intentional consequence of ideological, political, legal, economic, and military systems known better as Zionism. BDS is not, and should never be confused with, anti-semitism. Rather, it is our moral consciousness put into action. Suggesting that BDS is synonymous with anti-semitism invisibilizes Jews, including members of the NLG Southern Region, who oppose the state of Israel's human rights record and support BDS as a non-violent resistance strategy. Palestine matters because ending colonialism matters. Palestine matters because we must stand up and say that all people have the right to dignity, and self-determination. Palestine matters because the fight against global white supremacy won't be over until the structural inequalities throughout Israel/Palestine are addressed and made right.

This week the US Senate attempted to bring bill S1 to the floor that would attempt to silence the BDS movement and chill our freedom of speech. Dr. Angela Davis has always spoken truth to power, and devoted much of her lifelong activism to international solidarity. By connecting U.S. grassroots campaigns against state violence and racism to movement struggles in other parts of the world, Dr. Davis helps the

world become more intimate. She brings us closer to understanding the nature of justice, and that the collective work needed to dismantle systemic injustice requires that we call out all oppression. As Dr. Davis said, "the rescinding of this invitation was thus not primarily an attack against me but rather against the spirit of the indivisibility of justice". <https://www.nlg.org/nlg-southern-region-statement-supporting-angela-davis-and-the-bds-movement/>

THE PEOPLES MARCH – the Fifth Annual March to Reclaim King’s Radical Legacy-

A Mass mobilization Jan 21 all-day

"The Peoples March – Reclaim King’s Radical Legacy



We will hold Oscar Grant Plaza from sunrise to sunset. The schedule is still evolving, and includes an entire day of events, remembrance, building, and organizing. There will be hourly rituals, including the sounding of a gong and lighting of torches to call our attention to the ways our community is harmed by violence.

The tentative schedule is below:

7:20 am – 7:45 am – Sunrise Ceremony and Launch of Tiny Home Building Project

8:00 am – 9:00 am – Morning meditation and Sound Healing. Families with children are invited to participate. Free breakfast will be served until the March steps off.

9:00 am – 10:30 am – Kids teach-in and Family March around the plaza

10:30 am – 11:00 am – Storytelling, Sound Healing and Rituals for kids and families

11:00 am – 1:30 pm – Program & March!

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm – March ends with Celebration

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm – People’s Assemblies & Lunch:

Housing/Homelessness

Development/Displacement

Inner Communal Violence

Public Safety/Use of Force Campaign

Oakland Schools/Teachers Strike

Sanctuary

Mini First Responder Training

4:30pm-5pm – As the last torch is lit, we will chant Oscar Grant’s name as well as the names of all of the other victims of police brutality over the last ten years. When you hear the gong, we will move into the Sunset Ceremony

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Sunset and Lead to Life Ceremony

You can keep up to date in real time on APTP’s Facebook event page,

For the 5th year running, the Anti Police-Terror Project calls the Bay Area into the streets for the People’s March to Reclaim MLK’s Radical Legacy.

January 2019 marks the 10th anniversary of the murder of Oscar Grant. This year, we honor the mothers of those lost to police violence, and

Our Facebook event page will have the full schedule, as it’s developed. Please join, share and follow it:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/306880009918687/>

It’s also been another 10 years of gentrification. Another 10 years of displacement. Another 10 years of a worsening houselessness crisis. Another 10 years of the Bay Area’s elected leaders putting profits over people. Another 10 years of government for and by developers, tech companies, and banks — instead of for and by the People.

The People have had enough. On Jan. 21, we march for justice for all victims of police terror and their families. We march for housing as a human right. We march for a just economy that meets everyone’s human needs. We march for real community safety, which means defunding the police to invest in our communities. We march for quality education for all our kids. We march for real sanctuary in the Bay. We march for a sustainable climate and healthy environment for all families.

We demand a Bay Area for All of Us. We demand a Bay Area for the People.

Demands:

– Justice for ALL victims of police terror and their families

Housing as a human right

– A just economy that works for everyone, putting people over profits; living wage jobs with dignity for all and community benefits

– Community-based public safety: Defund the police

– Quality education for all: No cuts, no closures

– Real sanctuary for all: Abolish ICE

– Environmental justice and healthy communities

– Indigenous sovereignty and respect for sacred sites "

<https://occupyoakland.org>

Resisting Imperialism: Voices from the Migrant Caravan @ 518 Valencia: The Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics

Jan 17 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

"Join us for political education that will connect the struggles of the migrant caravan at the US-Mexico border to other anti-imperialist border struggles in El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Yemen and Palestine.

We will also be fundraising to help support the needs of the migrant caravan at our border. See below for where to send your donations today.

Translation headsets will be available.

SPEAKERS

Veronica “Beby” Aguilar – Pueblo Sin Fronteras

Chris Lopez- School of America Watch, East Bay Coordinator

Pierre Labossiere – Haiti Action Committee

Ashwak Hauter, former AROC Collective member

Carlos Manuel Martinez – Ashwak and Carlos recently returned from Tijuana, after close consultation with organizations providing legal and medical support for migrants and asylum seekers.

Make donations to:

Al Otro Lado: <https://alotrolado.org/take-action/donate/and> Enclave Caracol through “Cash App” using @enclavecaracol@gmail.com

Enclave Caracol, an autonomous project in Tijuana, organizes material support for the caravan and coordinates with Al Otro Lado, an NGO that provides free legal support to asylum-seekers and coordinates volunteer efforts on the ground.”

Kevin Cooper: My thoughts on Gov. Brown’s executive order

“I write this missive to you so that you will hear from me about how I feel and what I think going forward in this fight for my life.



“Free Me!” – In decades on death row, Kevin Cooper has become a powerful artist. This is a 28-by-22-inch painting in acrylic on canvas. – Art: Kevin Cooper, C-65304, 4-EB-82, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA 94974 (retrieved from: <https://sfbayview.com/2019/01/kevin-cooper-my-thoughts-on-gov-browns-executive-order/>)

Like all of you, I am happy that we have finally “won” something from some entity in this state. But after learning what exactly outgoing Gov. Brown wrote in that executive order I am not as excited as I was at first, or should be.

Gov. Brown waited until there were about 10 working days left in his administration before he granted us this “very limited DNA testing order and special master to oversee the testing” while denying us what is possibly the most important thing that we requested when we asked for a special master and DNA testing, which is an “innocence investigation.”

This innocence investigation is very, very important because it will allow if only for the first time expert witnesses for us to be heard in an open forum. These expert witnesses are a memory expert, a former FBI profiler, a former FBI special agent, a certified laboratory auditor and an appeals attorney who has extensive experience in death penalty cases. None of these top experts have ever testified in any court about what they know about this case.” For full article please see: <https://sfbayview.com/2019/01/kevin-cooper-my-thoughts-on-gov-browns-executive-order/>

My divine connection with the great Veronza Bowers January 2, 2019 by Domita White

"I was introduced to Veronza Bowers by a fellow inmate who told me that Veronza was a former Black Panther who had been serving 46 years in prison. I was immediately interested in connecting with this iconic figure in the Black Power Movement, as my late dad was also a former Black Panther. So, on Aug. 14, 2018, thus began my journey into a beautiful, lifetime connection.



Carolyn King and Lei'Lani and Domita White visit Baba Veronza Bowers on Nov. 3, 2018. Picture retrieved from: <https://sfbayview.com/2019/01/my-divine-connection-with-the-great-veronza-bowers/>

My 15-year-old daughter, Lei'Lani, my dear friend. Carolyn King, who is a school principal, and I were greeted by a couple of friendly officers at the front desk at FMC Butner. As we entered the visiting area, we saw the setup of plastic chairs and small tables that were arranged for visitors and for the men that they were there to see at the prison. As we waited for Veronza, I watched the interaction of the children with their fathers, mothers with their sons, wives with their husbands etc.

Although Veronza and I are not related by blood, I refer to him with respect as Baba Veronza. He instantly became family to me the moment that we began communicating.

I was super delighted as he managed to maneuver his walker and pressed his way towards us with such difficulty and excruciating pain. But, in spite of his physical pain and his housing circumstances, he had the most beautiful and gleeful smile. It made me forget that we were actually behind prison walls." For full article please see:

<https://sfbayview.com/2019/01/my-divine-connection-with-the-great-veronza-bowers/>

Legacy
Reginald Dwayne Betts
after George Jackson

**"Because something else must belong to him,
More than these chains, these cuffs, these cells—
Something more than Hard Rock's hurt,
More than remembrances of where men
Go mad with craving—corpuscle, epidermis,
Flesh, men buried in the whale of it, all of it,
Because the so many of us mute ourselves,
Silent before the box, fascinated by the drama
Of confined bodies on prime-time television,
These prisons sanitized for entertainment &
These indeterminate sentences hidden, because
We all lack this panther's rage, the gift
Of Soledad & geographies adorned with state numbers
& names of the dead & dying etched on skin,
This suffering, wild loss, under mass cuffs,
Those buried hours must be about more
Than adding to this surfeit of pain as history
As bars that once held him embrace us."**

(<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/legacy-0>)

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. The campaign "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela" met in NYC on December 8th from 12pm-3pm and January 12th at 12pm. For February's meeting please contact Please contact: nycjericho@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming involved. We invite you to support this initiative. Everyone is encouraged to check out the website <http://spiritofmandela.org>

"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 forums for truth-telling, where witnesses listen and reflect upon voices "from the margins" to organize for an end to structural and militarized state violence. Jalil Muntaqim has called for campaigns "in the spirit of Mandela," where the international social and political context which helped revise the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in 2015 be utilized in the case of those incarcerated in the U.S. Our International Tribunal will call for testimony from both sides of the wall, both on issues of the torturous conditions of political imprisonment and on the root colonial and neo-colonial conditions and repression which inevitably lead to growing numbers of political prisoners. We will not separate the work to free our prisoners with the work to free the land, and for ultimate liberation of all."

As we continue to launch the In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela, Bring Back the International Jurists Campaign, we are providing links to some important documents. One of these is the United Nations Mandela Rules, unanimously passed by the Security Council in December of 2015. Another important document is Jalil Muntaqim's essay regarding the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the International Jurists. Please see links and Docs at: <http://www.freejalil.com/2017juristsUN.html> **also in German!!** [Click here to read the Report of International Jurists—Visit with Human Rights Petitioners in the United States, August 3-20, 1979.](#)

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

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

“Greetings of Peace!

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

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

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

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

We realize that we have a difficult job ahead, but the more national and international solidarity we garner, the greater the chances for victory. We hope you will join the campaign by -

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

Your input is valued at any level.

In solidarity,

The National Jericho Movement
In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Coalition”



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

Moving Forward

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

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

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

Gratitude and Appreciation

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

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

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

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

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

As you know, the obstacles to helping free our political prisoners are immense. It is to challenge the super power and its many facets. It is to fight repression through education, organizing, mobilizing, and creating

a movement that embraces freedom and dignity for all people and freedom for all political prisoners.

Your financial support at this time is needed for Jericho's continued work and effectiveness.

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

Free all Political Prisoners!

In struggle and gratitude, The National Jericho Movement

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

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

There are two ways to make a donation:

Please make non-deductible donations to:

National Jericho Treasury

Mail to: "Jericho Treasury/Michael Alston"

Ashanti Alston

[162 Miller Ave](#)

[Providence, R.I. 02905](#)

For tax deductible receipt, send donations to:

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.