

The Dragons Fire



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

Ho Chi Minh

THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

in Fierce Determination Since 1996

April 15-May 15, 2020, Vol. 26

<http://www.thejerichomovement.com>

P.O. Box 2164 Chesterfield, Virginia 23832

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2. Secretary: Adam Carpinelli
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4. Fund Raising Chairperson: A'isha Mohammad
5. Dragon Fire Newsletter Editor: A'isha Mohammad

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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 Prisoners/Prisoners 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 Prisoners and Prisoners 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 Prisoners/Prisoners of War. We envision the day when they **all** will walk free and into their family's arms-who have been waiting for decades. We hope you join us in making this a reality.

**Beware of the supplication of the oppressed,
even if he is an unbeliever, for there is no barrier between it and Allah.**

Source: Musnad Ahmad 12140, Grade: Sahih

Jericho Movement's Current Work and Progress

Jericho actively maintains direct connections with our Political Prisoners by visiting or writing them monthly. We also maintain contact and assist their families. We monitor health & legal status and provide support and intervention. We hold political education classes, table at events, travel to 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 and teleconferences occurred during the month nationwide.

We are currently focusing on the campaign “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela”, raising funds to support our PP’s financially, and addressing health and legal issues. We are actively involved in the Covid-19 prison crisis and are attending numerous online meetings, calls to action, as well as strategizing on gaining the release of our Political Prisoners. We are happy to announce our new PA Jericho Chapter.

Jericho Retreat: Jericho was in the process of planning our yearly retreat in Rhode Island, July 2020, but plans are now on hold due to the pandemic.

Jericho Highlights and Tributes

Please check Back Next Month

Chairman's Corner

As-salaamu ‘alaykum!

Dear Comrades, Friends, Supporters and Families,

I personally wanted to share some thoughts and observations. First, we acknowledge the wonderful, consistent work that our editor, Sister A’isha Mohammad, has done in making sure that our *Dragon Fire* Newsletter is completed monthly. One of the underlying thoughts and objectives of *Dragon Fire* is to serve as a clearinghouse of information on updates and efforts to free Political Prisoners confined in jails and prisons in the United States, as well as around the world. Jericho respectfully acknowledges the innumerable initiatives of activists, lawyers, community organizations, and even politicians to demand prisoners be released. The scourge of the COVID19 has opened a unique opportunity for more prisoners to be released from jails and prisons. Organizations and politicians who would normally not be addressing prison overcrowding are doing so now. And as it should be. Jericho strives to ensure that

Political Prisoners, many who have been in prison close to 50 years, be included in those being released. Many of these prisoners, who have dedicated their lives in fighting against the same police violence and racism we continue to see today, are at extremely high risk for contracting the Coronavirus due to their age, weak and compromised immune systems, diabetes and respiratory conditions. Please send information of the initiatives that you are involved with so that we may post it on our website and in *Dragon Fire*. It is very important to seize the time in maximizing on our efforts by building networks among us that recognize, acknowledge and support other efforts to free political prisoners. Let us reach beyond our own enclaves and list serves and join together in the broader march for freedom and freedom of all Political Prisoners.

Jihad Abdulmumit,
National Jericho Chair

Jericho sends it appreciation and gratitude for being awarded a \$4000 grant from the RESIST Foundation. RESIST is a foundation that supports people's movements for justice and liberation. We redistribute resources back to frontline communities at the forefront of change while amplifying their stories of building a better world.

Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War

Medical Updates

Joyce Powell-Joyce who is currently at Bedford Hills says she was in the infirmary for more than a week, feeling sicker and sicker every day. When it was obvious she needed a ventilator, she was finally taken to an outside hospital, where she spent more than a week. Thankfully, Joyce received excellent care in the outside hospital, **and she has recovered from COVID-19.**

Ed Poindexter

Ed has diabetes. He underwent triple bypass heart surgery in 2016. After several falls, he chooses to use a wheelchair. He has a cataract that makes it impossible for him to read. If you would like to write him a letter, it must be typed with 18 point or larger font. Put a large note on the envelope so that he knows that you are aware of his eye issues and have included a letter in a type that he can read. The Nebraska Department of Corrections does not plan to allow him to have surgery because "he has one good eye."

Maumin Khabir

Maumin suffers from C.O.P.D. (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), severe emphysema and is asthmatic. He also experiences chronic back pain due to bone degeneration. Maumin was held at USP Terre Haute and had been requesting a transfer to a medical facility for over 5 years. It was only until a public campaign put pressure on the BOP that he was transferred to Springfield where he was given less than a year to live. In **2013**, he applied for and had a physician at Springfield sign a

recommendation for compassionate release, but this was denied by the warden. As of **2015**, he has less than 5% lung capacity, and relies on oxygen. He has applied for a lung transplant (his son has offered to give a lung) but was rejected. The BOP has changed physicians on him and has received a variety of conflicting reasons as to why he has been denied necessary medical treatment for the last few years.

Legal Updates

Imam Jamil Al-Amin High Court Declines Case of Imam Jamil Al-Amin

“The Supreme Court is declining to take the case of Imam Jamil Al-Amin, fka H. Rap Brown, as is usual, the justices didn't comment Monday in turning away Brown's case. Brown had argued his constitutional rights were violated at trial.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

Jeremy Hammond : NOTE

If you send the updates/announcements packet to Jeremy Hammond, he has been moved:

Jeremy Hammond #151960859

Grady County Jail, 215 North 3rd Street

Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018

Ruchell Magee—“There is a petition to free Ruchell Cinque Magee, a political prisoner incarcerated since 1970. We plead for the release of Ruchell Cinque Magee who was sentenced and incarcerated in 1970 and is still serving an unjust sentence at the ripe old age of 80. Please read this short article to about revolutionary Magee's story: <https://sfbayview.com/2017/02/ruchell-cinque-magee-sole-survivor-of-the-aug-7-1970-courthouse-slave-rebellion/> Kiilu Nyasha, the author of the article linked above sharply points out that "so-called law enforcement in this country lets police and prison guards murder with impunity, while our Black brothers and sisters wind up serving life without the possibility of parole even though they never got that sentence.” Sign: <https://www.change.org/p/governor-galvin-new-some-california-to-pardon-ruchell-magee-from-prison-being-incarcerated-since-1971-a-prisoner-who-s-been?signed=true>

Jalil Muntaqim



“Jalil Muntaqim was given a 12-month hit by the NYS Parole Board. This was a unanimous decision by the Board, despite the fact that Jalil has been in prison since August 28, 1971 As many of you know, Jalil has been to the parole board twelve times since 2002, when he first become parole eligible. Jalil has been denied each time for a variety of reasons, all of which are tantamount to the nature of the crime—something that will never change. Pursuant to NYS Constitutional Article IV, Section 4, Jalil has filed an

Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served with NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

Governor Cuomo has the authority to grant the Application and order Jalil's immediate release from

NYS DOCCS custody. Since the Application's submission it has been revealed that the NYS Board of Parole had a "secret deal" with the NYC Police Benevolent Association (PBA), permitting them to submit opposition letters directly to the Board of Parole from their website. These opposition letters negatively influenced the decision-making process, ensuring Jalil would not receive a fair and impartial parole hearing. During Jalil's 2014 parole hearing, he was told that "current and former members of law enforcement" were parole commissioners, many of whom decided to deny his release. On December 4th & 5th, 2016, The New York Times published an extensive exposé entitled "The Scourge of Racial Bias in New York States Prisons" that informed: "The racism can be felt from the moment a black inmate enters New York's upstate prisons." This implacable racism has been institutionalized in the entire parole system, permitting subjective biases of parole commissioners to influence parole decisions. Since the submission of the Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served, Governor Cuomo has received many letters and communications urging him to grant Jalil's Application.

However, due to the revelation of political collusion between the Board of Parole and the PBA, and the PBA/media backlash and scrutiny of the Parole Board's release of Jalil's co-defendant, it has become necessary to launch this initiative in support of Jalil's Application. Jalil exceeds all requirements for release. His release on parole has been supported by activists, academics and community leaders from across the country and around the world, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the family of one of the victims. The political nature of his conviction has prevented parole commissioners from giving fair and impartial consideration to his release, despite the overwhelming community support.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: During his 48+ years of his imprisonment, Jalil has accomplished the following: Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, Certificate of Architectural Drafting, Certificate of Computer Literacy. He has established many programs, such as the first Men's Group for therapeutic training in the NY State prison system, an African/Black Studies program, a computer literacy class, a Sociology class and a poetry class. He has received two commendations for preventing prison riots. He has raised money for the children's fund, was office manager of the computer lab and a teacher's aide for GED classes. Jalil is also the recipient of several certificates for rehabilitation programming, and is a published author, poet, educator and blogger. As a human rights advocate, he had the first U.S. prisoners national petition heard and recorded by a Special Committee at the United Nations on U.S. prisons and the existence of U.S. political prisoners. He has litigated several civil rights complaints on behalf of prisoners. In 2000, Essence magazine featured an article on father-daughter relationships. The article, entitled "Daddy Says," quoted Jalil stressing the importance of maintaining these relations even during incarceration. We are requesting that Friends and Supporters call, tweet, email and write NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office and appeal to him to grant Jalil's Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served.

We also request that this initiative be widely posted on social media platforms, encouraging freedom loving people around the world to join in this initiative. Since this will be ongoing, we propose that people tweet and/or email Governor Cuomo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and call and write the Governor every Tuesday and Thursday." Communications to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office must refer to Jalil as: ANTHONY JALIL BOTTOM, 77A4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 116, Fallsburg, New York 12733-0115. Write the Governor: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York Executive Chamber, State Capital Building, Albany, New York 12224 Call the Governor: 1-518-474-8390 Tweet the Governor: @NYGovCuomo Email the Governor: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form> For more information concerning Jalil's case, check his website: www.freejalil.com and <https://thejerichomovement.com/>

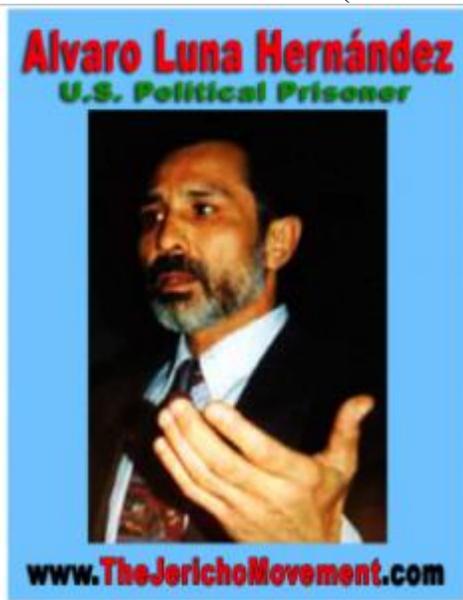
Birthdays: Please Send a Card!



**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!**

May Birthdays

Alvaro Luna Hernandez (Xinachtli)-Birthday: May 12th



Chicano Political Prisoner

Contact Information/Prison Address

#255735 James V. Allred Unit

2101 FM 369 North, Iowa Park, TX 76367, United States

Birthday: May 12, 1952

Affiliation: Chicano Political Prisoner

Captured: July 18, 1996: 50 year sentence.

Alvaro Luna Hernandez (Xinachtli) is a political prisoner of the State of Texas and the U.S. government. He is nearly 24 years into a 50 year prison sentence for an "aggravated assault" conviction stemming from a July 1996 incident in which he disarmed a Brewster County Sheriff attempting to shoot him. Alvaro vehemently denies the charge that he assaulted the Sheriff. To Mexican-Americans in the cities, slums, plains, deserts, and prison cages of the Southwest, he is a civil rights hero, a Chicano freedom fighter true to his barrio roots and eternally fearless in the face of injustice. For years, he has been

internationally recognized by amnesty movements and human rights lawyers and experts as a U.S. political prisoner, yet inside the United States, the name Alvaro Luna Hernandez remains largely elusive on the lips of progressives and social justice advocates. <http://FreeAlvaro.net>
LET FREEDOM RING-WWW.KERSPLEBEDED.COM/letfreedomring.html

Kojo Sababu Bomani- (BROWN, GRAILING KOJO)-Birthday: May 27th



BLACK LIBERATION ARMY
 Contact Information/Prison Address
 #39384-066 USP Canaan,
 P. O. Box 300, Waymart, PA 18472,
 United States

Affiliation: Black Liberation Army Captured: 1975: Life

"... we must make great strides, reorganizing ourselves to embrace the difficulties we face. I have no solutions but I will say this: There are some great political minds contained in America's prisons, which are growing old as their era of life departs, this resource needs to be tapped before it expires. Do not abandon the political prisoners and POW s, they are still insightful with their knowledge and experience."

April Birthdays

Romaine Chip Fitzgerald: Birthday- April 11, 1949



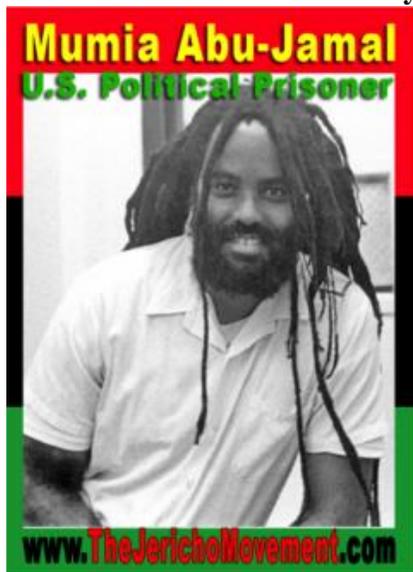
Contact Information/Prison Address
 #B-27527 CSP-LAC, P.O. Box 4490 B-4-150
 Lancaster,, CA 93539 United States

Affiliation: Black Panther Party- Longest held Black Panther Political Prisoner

Captured: 1969 - Life

"The prison administrators and their advocates within the state want to create fear in the minds of the public in an effort to persuade the people to give state authorities carte blanche in the inhumane treatment of convicts, and allow the prison administrators to operate without oversight and accountability." <http://www.freechip.org>

Mumia Abu Jamal: Birthday-April 24



Black Panther Party - Move
 Contact Information/Prison Address
 Smart Communications/PA DOC
 Abu-Jamal, Mumia #AM 8335 SCI-Mahanoy, P.O. Box 33028
 St Petersburg, FL 33733, United States
 Affiliation: Black Panther Party, MOVE
 Captured: 1981-Life without parole
 “Very few people in prison have voices that go beyond the wall. It's my job to do the work for them because they have no one.”
 FreeMumia.com
 Author

Political Prisoners/POWs (Past & Present) Art, Writings, Statements, Interviews

Please check Back Next Month

Community Calls for Action

**PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO CORONAVIRUS SOME EVENTS ARE CANCELLED
 ...PLEASE CHECK SITE INFO**

Fundraiser to free political prisoner Sundiata Acoli, 83, from 47 years in prison

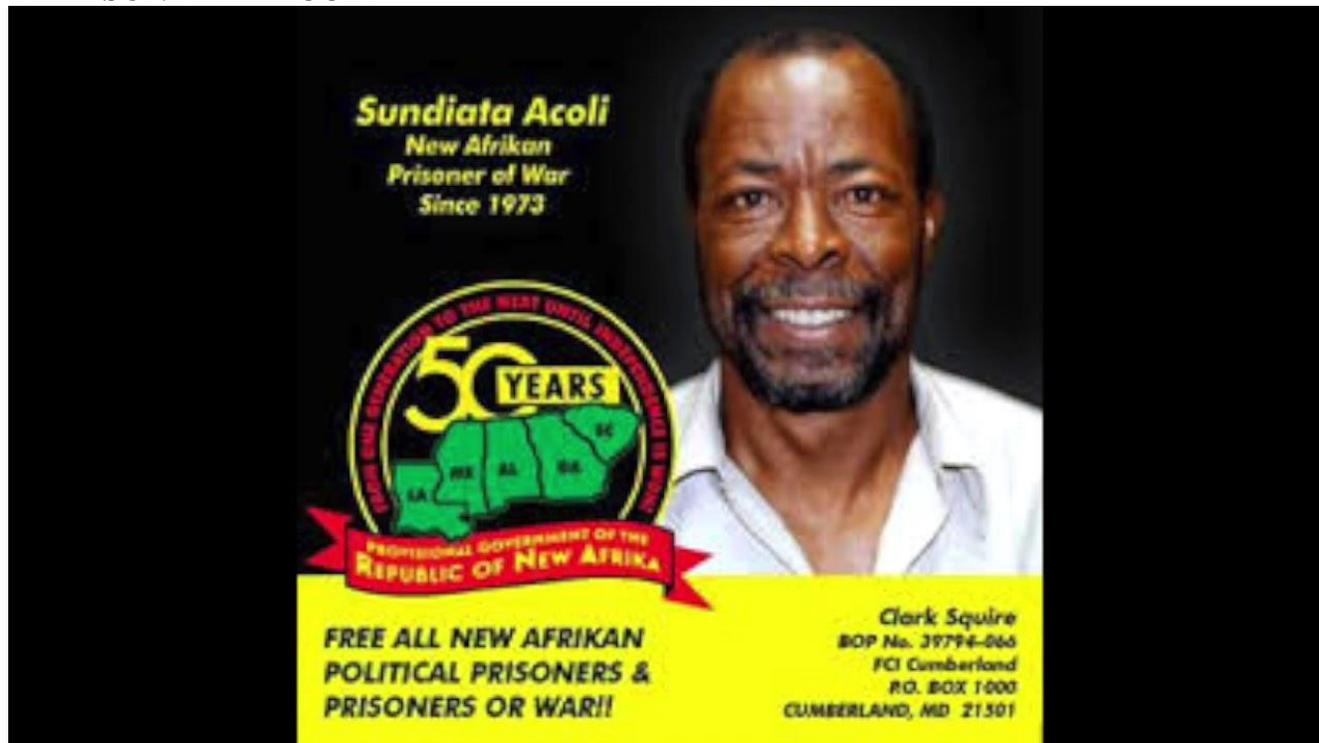
May 5, 2020 by Florence Morgan

“Dear Friends and Supporters of Sundiata Acoli:

The New Jersey Appellate Court denied Sundiata’s release on parole in a decision dated Dec. 27, 2019. He gets a mandatory appeal to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Sundiata’s attorney must get transcripts and will have other expenses, including printing, and of course his legal fees, as he prepares the next phase of this case. A minimum amount of \$20,000 is the fundraising goal. His attorney needs funds now. He has done a great job so far, on behalf of Sundiata, and no doubt will continue to do so.

FREE SUNDIATA ACOLI



Please give generously to ensure that lack of funds does not contribute to any delay in pursuing freedom for Sundiata, who is 83 years old and has been in prison for 47 years.

Sundiata deeply appreciates the support, and commitment to getting him released. Much thanks in advance, on his behalf. How we can help FREE SUNDIATA ACOLI:

Make checks or money orders payable to Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign (or SAFC). Mail them to: Florence Morgan, 147-25 Northern Blvd. #5Q, Flushing, New York 11354.

Or, if paying via Pay Pal, use this email: SAFC766@gmail.com. And use this link to pay using the “pay with debit or credit card” option: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=DVMHWEW8D7SWW&source=url.

Be safe, healthy, and be encouraged. Attorney Florence Morgan can be reached at

flomorgan@nyc.rr.com. Editor’s note: In addition to your monetary donation, send our brother some love and light: Sundiata Acoli (Squire), 39794-066, FCI Cumberland. P.O. Box 1000, Cumberland MD 21501.” See <https://sfbayview.com/2020/05/fundraiser-to-free-political-prisoner-sundiata-acoli-83-from-47-years-in-prison/>

The ABCF Warchest Needs Your Support!

“You can easily donate online at www.paypal.me/abcfwarchest The ABCF Warchest program distributes \$40 in funds every month to 17 long-time political prisoners and has been doing so since 1994. All of the political prisoners who receive assistance from the fund have been receiving insufficient, little or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest is replenished from proceeds of the annual "Running Down the Walls" 5K runs held every autumn. With the COVID-19 pandemic upon us, the certainty of having 5 or more runs all across the country in September is uncertain and our ability to distribute funds are somewhat hampered. We are asking for donations to beef up the ABCF Warchest capacity. Currently, there are 17 political prisoners who receive monthly assistance plus released political prisoners who have received one-time checks to help them prepare for

release. Current recipients of Warchest assistance are:

Sundiata Acoli, Joseph Bowen, Ruchell Magee, Oso Blanco, Hanif Bey, Malik Smith, Alvaro Hernandez, Jaan Laaman, Jalil Muntaqim, Veronza Bowers, Eric King, Mutulu Shakur, Abdul Aziz, Ed Poindexter, Chip Fitzgerald, Kamau Sadiki and Ronald Reed.

In the last two years, the following released political prisoners have received

donations to their release funds: Delbert Africa, Chuck Africa, Janine and Janet Africa, Eddie Africa Connor Stevens, Little Feather, Nina Droz Franco

You can easily donate online at www.paypal.me/abcfwarchest You can also make a check or postal money order out to Tim Fasnacht and send to Tim Fasnacht, PO Box 8682, Lancaster, PA 17604. Please put "Warchest" in the memo line. Any questions can be directed to la@abcf.net or La ABCF."

Thank you for your solidarity."

Certain Days - Freedom for Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War Calendar <http://www.certaindays.org>

From the U.S. to Palestine, take action to #FreeThemAll!

"Here in the U.S., the coronavirus pandemic is exposing the cruelty of investing in war, mass incarceration, and Israeli apartheid instead of healthcare and community needs. Behind bars, coronavirus is spreading at lightning speed. In prisons, jails, and migrant detention centers, incarcerated people are facing medical neglect, unsanitary conditions, overcrowding, and systemic abuse—exponentially multiplying the threat to their lives. On Rikers Island, NYC's main jail complex, the infection rate is seven times higher than the rate for NYC, which is already the worst impacted city in the U.S. The trend continues in Chicago's Cook County jail, which is the single largest source of coronavirus infections in the entire country. Prisoners' lives and dignity are in danger. That's why today, on Palestinian Prisoners Day, supporters of freedom, justice, and equality are demanding to FREE THEM ALL—from the U.S. to Palestine. Tell Congress: #FreeThemAll." Sign here <https://secure.everyaction.com/Eg0GGDUCUkab9hLG6gCIVg2>

Join #HALTsolitary statewide actions tomorrow, Wed., May 6, at 10 am. RSVP for Socially Distant In Person and Car Action: <http://bit.ly/HALTsolitaryMay6> or Register for Zoom to Join Virtually: <https://bit.ly/ZoomMay6>

"Join RAPP and Parole Preparation Project's two-day vigil and graveside sit at Fishkill Correctional Facility this Thursday and Friday, May 7th and 8th to honor the lives of people who have been lost to COVID-19 and otherwise and continue to call on Governor Cuomo to release people to prevent more deaths. Join a car procession Thurs., May 7 at 2 pm outside Fishkill (meeting at 271 Matteawan Rd., Beacon); Sign up for a two-hour graveside shift on Thurs, May 7 and Fri., May 8; and/or Register for the online live stream of the press conference on Thurs., May 7 at 3 pm.

Have your organization or group sign on to this joint letter urging the NY Legislature to immediately resume session remotely and pass a full slate of progressive bills to both respond to the current crisis and address longstanding structural, economic, and racial inequities that have been made plain, and been exacerbated, by the virus."

Please support these recently released Political Prisoners!

Delbert Africa <https://www.gofundme.com/f/free-delbert-orr-africa>

Nina Droz Franco <https://www.gofundme.com/f/nina-quiere-retomar-su-vida>

Eddie Africa <https://fundrazr.com/eddie-africa>

Connor Stevens <https://fundrazr.com/d1PY2c>

Janet and Janine Africa <https://fundrazr.com/janet-janine>

Debbie and Mike Africa <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-debbie-amp-mike-rebuild>

COME IN YOUR CARS TO STOP DEATH BEHIND BARS!! TUES. 4/21- AT NOON, LINCOLN PARK ALBANY (rain or shine)-COME IN YOUR CARS TO STOP DEATH BEHIND BARS!! AT NOON, LINCOLN PARK ALBANY (rain or shine)

COVID + PRISON = DEATH!

#CUOMOLETTHEMGO!

Please join an Albany safe gathering car caravan to demand release of at-risk people in prison! Gather in cars in Lincoln Park (directions below), caravan to the Governor's Mansion, join a statewide zoom rally and press conference coordinated with other rallies around the state, caravan around the Capitol – all while staying safe in your car!” See <https://www.facebook.com/events/533939120881564/>

National Solidarity Events to Amplify Prisoners Human Rights AUGUST 21 - SEPTEMBER 9th

“To all in solidarity with the Prisoners Human Rights Movement:

We are reaching out to those that have been amplifying our voices in these state, federal, or immigration jails and prisons, and to allies that uplifted the national prison strike demands in 2018. We call on you again to organize the communities from August 21st - September 9th, 2020, by hosting actions, events, and demonstrations that call for prisoner human rights and the end to prison slavery. We must remind the people and legal powers in this nation that prisoners' human rights are a priority. If we aren't moving forward, we're moving backward. For those of us in chains, backward is not an option. We have nothing to lose but our chains.

Some people claim that prisoners' human rights have advanced since the last national prison strike in 2018. We strongly disagree. But due to prisoners organizing inside and allies organizing beyond the walls, solidarity with our movement has increased. The only reason we hear conversations referencing prison reforms in every political campaign today is because of the work of prison organizers and our allies! But as organizers in prisons, we understand this is not enough. Just as quickly as we've gained ground, others are already funding projects and talking points to set back those advances. Our only way to hold our ground while moving forward is to remind people where we are and where we are headed. On August 21 - September 9, we call on everyone in solidarity with us to organize an action, a panel discussion, a rally, an art event, a film screening, or another kind of demonstration to promote prisoners' human rights. Whatever is within your ability, we ask that you shake the nation out of any fog they may be in about prisoners' human rights and the criminal legal system (legalized enslavement).” During these solidarity events, we request that organizers amplify immediate issues prisoners in your state face, the demands from the National Prison Strike of 2018, and uplift Jailhouse Lawyers Speak new International Law Project. We've started the International Law Project to engage the international community with a formal complaint about human rights abuses in U.S. prisons. This project will seek prisoners' testimonials from across the country to establish a case against the United States Prison Industrial Slave Complex on international human rights grounds.

Presently working on this legally is the National Lawyers Guild's Prisoners Rights Committee, and another attorney, Anne Labarbera. Members of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), Fight Toxic Prisons (FTP), and I am We Prisoners Advocacy Network/Millions For Prisoners are also working to support these efforts. The National Lawyers Guild Prisoners' Rights Committee (Jenipher R. Jones, Esq. and Audrey Bomse) will be taking the lead on this project.

The National Prison Strike Demands of 2018 have not changed. As reflected publicly by the recent deaths of Mississippi prisoners, the crisis in this nation's prisons persist. Mississippi prisons are on national display at the moment of this writing, and we know shortly afterward there will be another Parchman in another state with the same issues. The U.S. has demonstrated a reckless disregard for human lives in cages. The prison strike demands were drafted as a path to alleviate the dehumanizing

process and conditions people are subjected to while going through this nation's judicial system. Following up on these demands communicates to the world that prisoners are heard and that prisoners' human rights are a priority. In the spirit of Attica, will you be in the fight to dismantle the prison industrial slave complex by pushing agendas that will shut down jails and prisons like Rikers Island or Attica? Read the Attica Rebellion demands and read the National Prison Strike 2018 demands. Ask yourself what can you do to see the 2018 National Prison Strike demands through. **SHARE THIS RELEASE FAR AND WIDE WITH ALL YOUR CONTACTS! We rage with George Jackson's "Blood in my eyes" and move in the spirit of the Attica Rebellion!** August 21st - September 9th, 2020 AGITATE, EDUCATE, ORGANIZE Dare to struggle, Dare to win! We are--"Jailhouse Lawyers Speak" NLG EMAIL CONTACT FOR LAWYERS AND LAW STUDENTS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL LAW PROJECT: micjlsnlg@gmail.com PRISON STRIKE DEMANDS: <https://jailhouselawyerspeak.wordpress.com/2020/02/11/prisoners-national-demands-for-human-rights/> “

Commutation Campaign to Gov Cuomo for Jalil Muntaqim

We are requesting that freedom loving people around the world to join in this initiative. Call, tweet, email and write NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office and appeal to him to grant Jalil's Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served. We also request that this initiative be widely posted on social media platforms, encouraging freedom loving people around the world to join in this initiative. Since this will be ongoing, we propose that people tweet and/or email Governor Cuomo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and call and write the Governor every Tuesday and Thursday. Communications to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office must refer to Jalil as:

ANTHONY JALIL BOTTOM, 77A4283,

Sullivan Correctional Facility, , P.O. Box 116, , Fallsburg, New York 12733-0115.

Write the Governor: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, Executive Chamber, State Capital Building, Albany, New York 12224

Call the Governor: 1-518-474-8390, Tweet the Governor: @NYGovCuomo

Email the Governor: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>



Jalil also requests that the following article be included in his campaign: “I-Team: Gov. Cuomo's Program for More Clemency Applications Appears to Stall, As Prisoners Wait and Hope for a

Second Chance by Melissa Russo and Hilary Weissman

Published Nov 1, 2019 at 10:50 PM | Updated at 8:51 AM EST on Nov 3, 2019

Hundreds of lawyers volunteered to help convicts serving long sentences apply for clemency after Gov. Cuomo put out the call in 2017, but now those lawyers say the New York governor has failed to act on any of their cases. There have been 107 applications for clemency filed through a partnership, of which Cuomo has acted on none. NBC New York's Melissa Russo reports. (Published Friday, Nov 1, 2019)

WHAT TO KNOW

1. Gov. Cuomo's program to help more prisoners apply for clemency in NY appears to be stalled, leaving prisoners waiting for a second chance
2. In 2017, Cuomo asked lawyers to volunteer to identify prisoners worthy of mercy, and assist them in making their best case
3. More than two hundred lawyers stepped up, but after two years and 107 clemency applications filed, Cuomo hasn't taken action on any of them. Governor Andrew Cuomo's program to help more prisoners apply for clemency in New York State appears to be stalled and the Governor's office is declining to explain why. See <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Gov-Cuomo-Program-for-More-Clemency-Applications-Appears-to-Stall-Prisoners-Wait-for-Second-Chance-564261291.html?amp=y>

For more information concerning Jalil's case, check his website: www.freejalil.com and

<https://thejerichomovement.com/>

TAKE ACTION ON APRIL 21: COVID + Prisons = Death: #CuomoLetThemGo

“As of today, 190 incarcerated people in New York State prisons have tested positive for COVID and five have died from the virus. The virus is spreading like wildfire and we suspect the state's numbers are far lower than what's actually happening. Despite this, Gov. Cuomo is as stubborn as ever in his refusal to grant clemency to incarcerated elders and others who are vulnerable to the virus. To continue our call for wide-ranging #ClemencyNow, we will be hold a statewide day of action on Tuesday, April 21 at 1pm. There are two ways you can join us: First, by car outside of Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Westchester County, Governor Cuomo's Mansion in Albany, or Otisville Correctional Facility in the Hudson Valley. Please only join us this way if you feel comfortable and healthy enough to do so and if you have access to safe transportation. You can also join us via Zoom”. Please register here https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IgNpTaIeRHciUYGoC8smIg

A name, a face, and a story is associated with every human life at risk inside Wisconsin's Prisons.

Covid Compassion Campaign Launches-Sent to Governor Tony Evers April 22nd, 2020

“Join FFUP for our second biweekly online Covid Compassion Campaign press conference THIS UPCOMING TUESDAY - May 5, 2020 at 1:00pm CDT and featuring updates from prisoners sentenced under the old law who are long overdue for release. While complete details on our CCC are available on our website, www.prisonforum.org, each press conference is designed to give journalists and researchers the opportunity to hear directly from incarcerated people, their family members, and other supporters about the current conditions inside Wisconsin's prisons.” See

<http://www.prisonforum.org/2020/04/covid-compassion-campaign-launches.html>

Writing to Ramsey Orta will also help protect him!! So here is his address!

“It also helps prisoners if they receive mail. This shows the inmate's tormenters that people on the outside are watching and can help stay their hand.

Here is Ramsey Orta's address. Please also send him a card or letter to:

Ramsey Orta, DIN:16A4200, Mid-State Correctional Facility

P.O. Box 2500, Marcy, New York 13403

I understand that nothing can go on the outside of the envelope except:
 Your return address, Ramsey's address, A stamp.
 It must have your full return address or it may not be delivered.
 I hope you will take the time to do this.
 Thanks, Marilyn”

May 6 #HALTsolitary In Person, Car, & Virtual Actions

“Hi all, Hope everyone is doing ok. Please join and recruit others to join a socially-distant in-person action, car action, and virtual rally on May 6 at 10 am to demand passage of the #HALTsolitary Confinement Act.”

Solitary Is Torture

**Join us Wed., May 6, 10 am for a
 Socially Distant Action, Car Action,
 & Virtual Rally to #HALTsolitary**

Register for Zoom to Join Virtually:

<https://bit.ly/ZoomMay6>

RSVP for in Person / Car Action:

<http://bit.ly/HALTsolitaryMay6>

Featuring people who have survived solitary, loved ones
 of people in solitary, legislative allies, and others.
 Car Actions Outside Senate Majority Leader's Yonkers
 Office, Assembly Speaker Heastie's Bronx Office,
 Governor Cuomo's Albany Mansion, Binghamton
 Buffalo, Ithaca, Long Island, Rochester



“Please register for the in-person action and/or the virtual rally here:

RSVP for Socially Distant In Person and Car Action: <http://bit.ly/HALTsolitaryMay6>

Register for Zoom to Join Virtually: <https://bit.ly/ZoomMay6>

People are suffering and dying in solitary confinement, which is exacerbated by and exacerbating the spread of COVID-19 in prisons and jails. The legislature continues to have the votes to pass HALT and

must reconvene remotely immediately and pass HALT now! (along with Elder Parole, Fair and Timely Parole, and other urgent priorities). On May 6, we currently have actions for HALT planned in Albany, Binghamton, the Bronx, Buffalo, Long Island, Rochester, and Yonkers, and will connect virtually with all the actions and other people across the state. We are looking for people who can be physically present in one of the locations, either outside in a socially distant way or in a car, as well as those who can join remotely.”

**New Trial For Imam Jamil Al-Amin FKA H. Rap Brown-Sign the Petition-May 2nd 2020
“Kairi Al-Amin started this petition to Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard and 4 others**

“As Always, We begin with the greeting of peace, As-Salaamu Alaikum,

As you may know, my father, Imam Jamil Al-Amin, formerly H. Rap Brown civil rights leader and humanitarian, was convicted of a murder he did not commit in 2002.

Upon that conviction, we essentially abandoned him. No tangible noise was ever made and as such, my father's conviction and subsequent exile, a vendetta realized, has gone unchecked. The cruel and unusual punishment, the confession of another man, the medical neglect in hopes that he dies, the gag order, the federal holding of a state prisoner away from his attorney's and family, we've done nothing about anything and because of our lack of action, much like the man himself, the truth about this case and his legacy have been erased from public view.

If we don't commit to action, the same action he dedicated himself to for the entirety of his life, the same action many of you are benefiting from while he sits suffering silently, then we have turned our backs on our Imam...your brother and should be ashamed.

We have been fighting this fight in the courts for 20 years and because the outward appearance is that "his people don't even care about him," we haven't gotten anything more than "yes he deserves a new trial but no you can't have one" and again that's on us because, what have we done about it?

Alhamdulillah though, we've been afforded yet another opportunity and this time, we aren't even asking you to decide his guilt or innocence though it should be obvious, we are only asking that you help him get the opportunity to prove his innocence to you and salvage his name. A fair trial, where the man who confessed to this crime actually testifies, where constitutional rights are respected and where the state prosecutors misconduct is not overlooked and subsequently rewarded with a federal judgeship. No, we want a fair trial...that's all.

That being said, if you can get behind the idea of Imam Jamil or anyone for that matter finally receiving a fair opportunity to prove their innocence, then please, sign and share our petition.

We must let District Attorney Paul Howard and The Fulton County Conviction Integrity Unit know that we are paying attention and we demand fairness and justice at the very least.

Meet me on the front line,

Sincerely,

Kairi Al-Amin

Attorney & Son of Imam Jamil Al-Amin FKA H. Rap Brown”

Sign Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/fulton-county-district-attorney-paul-howard-new-trial-for-imam-jamil-al-amin-fka-h-rap-brown>

Starvation at Bedford Hills

“Phone and Email Zaps: Conditions at Albion, Bedford Hills, and Taconic Correctional Facilities”

See <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ULZsxBskr1LZLaOclqz53-7QLuzyhBy9dFjeaXoUUGw/edit>

**Week of Palestinian Struggle - 15-22 May | Palestinian Youth and Student Statement
Call to Action! Week of Palestinian Struggle, 15-22 May 2020**



“The call for the week of action is below - but at our website, we have a list of themes for actions, scheduled events, ideas for what you can do, and a form for you to submit your endorsement. Check those out at these links:

Days of Action: See the Schedule of Events <https://samidoun.net/2020/05/call-to-action-week-of-palestinian-struggle-15-22-may-2020/#days>

Action Ideas: What You Can Do <https://samidoun.net/2020/05/call-to-action-week-of-palestinian-struggle-15-22-may-2020/#action>

Endorse or Submit Your Activity <https://samidoun.net/2020/05/call-to-action-week-of-palestinian-struggle-15-22-may-2020/#endorse>

On 15-22 May 2020 Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network urges all organizations, activists and movements to join us in a collective Week of Palestinian Struggle. On these days, we remember the Nakba, the theft of Palestinian land and the dispossession of the Palestinian people. At the same time, we celebrate, affirm and pledge to continue over 72 years of Palestinian resistance for liberation and return. For decades, the Palestinian people’s movement has commemorated 15 May and the week that follows as a week of solidarity, resistance and struggle, affirming a revolution that will continue until victory. This week marks the Palestinian, Arab and international struggle for justice and liberation, a struggle that has continued for 72 years and continues every day. As the Nakba continues, the resistance continues! Join us in a week of virtual and in-person actions to stand with the Palestinian people through 72 years of struggle confronting Zionism, imperialism and reaction and for the liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea!” See <https://samidoun.net/2020/05/call-to-action-week-of-palestinian-struggle-15-22-may-2020/>

ZOOM Rally for Clemency on Tuesday, May 12 ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REV. KEVIN VANHOOK:

“COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black and brown communities, including New Yorkers behind bars. We cannot allow the combined harms of mass incarceration and health disparities to devastate our communities. At 10:00am on Tuesday, May 12, Rev. Kevin VanHook, our Minister of Justice, Advocacy, and Change, will visit Edgecombe Correctional Facility to join a small coalition of local community organizers and formerly incarcerated New Yorkers to demand that our elected officials grant sweeping clemency in the name of racial justice, public health and human dignity as COVID-19 continues to ravage our state and put people in prison at extreme risk. Over the past several weeks, this coalition has successfully advocated for the release of over seven-hundred New Yorkers behind bars, but there is still much work to do. We do not ask that anyone joins us there physically; however, there is an opportunity to take place in this direct action via ZOOM. Please visit the link below to RSVP to join us digitally as we advocate for justice in our local community.’

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IcIprPWtSaGpnsYOt4K7UA

CALL TO ACTION: Protect Palestinian-American researcher Ubai Aboudi from Israeli military detention

“Ubai Aboudi is a Palestinian-American civilian, father, researcher, educator, director of the Bisan Center for Research and Development who was abducted by Israeli military without charges on November 13, 2019. Ubai was also working to support Scientists for Palestine in organizing the Third International Meeting on Science in Palestine, which took place on January 10-12, 2020, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ubai was prevented from attending and presenting his own research due to his Israeli military detention.” See <https://samidoun.net/2020/05/call-to-action-week-of-palestinian-struggle-15-22-may-2020/>

Stop The Santa Rita Money Grab

“On Tuesday **May 12**, Alameda County will be considering an allocation of \$106 million dollars in staffing for Santa Rita Jail, the 5th largest jail in the entire United States. Santa Rita has a terrible record of prisoner abuse and a high death rate inside its walls and is the subject of numerous lawsuits against the county for prisoner mistreatment. The jail holds a large number of pre-trial inmates who have not been convicted of any crime. In response to these lawsuits, the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, which operates the jail, has proposed a huge budgetary increase of \$106 million dollars, primarily for hundreds of new sheriff's deputies to staff the jail. The 3-year proposal siphons off county resources exactly when COVID-19 has placed enormous pressures on the County budget and Alameda residents are in desperate need of help with record unemployment and food and housing insecurity. It also flies in the face of a 46% decrease in the number of inmates in Santa Rita since 2010 (staffing has only declined by 4% over the same period), a sheriff's budget so commonly regarded as bloated that the State of California intends to audit it, and large numbers of vacant and on leave positions currently in the existing sheriff's department budget. This is the wrong direction. Baking in this massive expansion in jail capacity is unwarranted, diverts resources from other needed services, and ties up funds in incarceration exactly when public health calls for inmate releases. Please take a minute before the item is heard at 1:30pm on Tuesday 5/12 to speak up. All comments submitted through this action will be part of the public record. If you would like to deliver your comments in person during the meeting, you can join the video conference at <https://zoom.us/j/98271491041> “ See <https://oaklandprivacy.org/> take Action <https://takeaction.salsalabs.org/no-santa-rita-money-grab/index.html>

#FreeThemAll National Day of Action on Thursday, May 14

“This Thursday, May 14, DWN and communities across the country are joining in a national day of action to call on our elected officials to demand ICE release all people from immigration detention now. Your governor, mayor, members of Congress, city council members and more need to hear from you. With your influence, they can be moved to call for people to be released from detention and pressure ICE to act. We need the people who represent us to stand up for the health and freedom of people in immigration detention and demand to #FreeThemAll now.

Prepare to Take Action on May 14:

Review May 14th Day of Action “live” toolkit for resources and updates on call to actions in your region by DWN members

Sign-Up your Organization or as an Individual to Take Action Here

Sample email to customize specific to your elected official calling on them to demand your ICE Field Office Director to release people from detention

Sample letter to attach to your email for your elected official to send to your ICE Field Office Director
Find your ICE Field Office Director

Please sign-up here by Wednesday, May 13, at noon EST if you plan to take action on Thursday. We are tracking these efforts and want to alert the media on the coordinated actions people are taking across the country.” Register <https://form.jotform.com/201297154472152>

Community News, Articles and Updates

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO CORONAVIRUS SOME EVENTS ARE CANCELLED

...PLEASE CHECK SITE INFO

*****IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS*****

Taking care of yourself and your team during COVID-19

“It has been said enough times: we are in unprecedented times. During this period of uncertainty and anxiety, it is especially important that we as individuals take care of ourselves, and that we recognize the needs of our families, colleagues, friends, and other community members to do the same for themselves. At the US Human Rights Network Coordinating Center, we are doing our best to acknowledge and honor how each other are feeling. Here are some of our own recommendations for how to take care of yourself and your team during this time:

Remind yourself and your colleagues that no one knows the exact “right” thing to do or how to be right now, and that is okay.

Check in with folks on an emotional level without trying to “solve” or “fix” their feelings. Simply hear them and express gratitude to them for sharing. Allow space for people to process, reflect, and grieve in their own way.

Try to find a few minutes each day to check in with your body and mind in the present moment. Take a step back and notice how you are feeling and ask yourself if there is anything you need in this moment. If you are feeling overwhelmed, try to bring your attention to the sensations you’re experiencing -- gently and attentively notice what you see, hear, smell, taste, and feel.

If it feels okay to do so, share what you need with your colleagues. Maybe you need patience, or to slow down, or maybe you need more tasks to keep you occupied, or more regular check-ins with your team. Let folks know and ask to hear what they need from you in return.

Ask each of your team and your community members what they are doing to take care of themselves during this time and ask yourself the same question.

If you are able to carve out 15 minutes in your day, do so and spend it doing something that brings you pleasure and solace -- call a friend, take a nap, draw or paint, read a book, sing, dance, or listen to music, etc.. Encourage each of your team members to find their own 15-minute activity to practice daily.” See <https://ushrnetwork.org/news/195/100/Taking-care-of-yourself-and-your-team-during-COVID-19>

On Palestinian Prisoners’ Day, Civil Society Calls for Urgent Release of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Israeli Prisons Date: 17 April 2020

As we mark Palestinian Prisoners’ Day this year, Palestinian prisoners and detainees face the additional threat of a coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Israeli prisons and detention centers. While governments around the world are being called on to release prisoners and those detained in violation of international law, the Israeli occupying authorities have taken no steps to release Palestinian prisoners and detainees or to adequately mitigate and prevent a COVID-19 outbreak in prisons. Instead, mass arbitrary detentions and arrests, a staple of Israel’s prolonged military occupation and widespread and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people, have continued during the pandemic.” See <http://www.addameer.org/news/palestinian-prisoners%E2%80%99-day-civil-society-calls-urgent-release-palestinian-prisoners-and>

Ramadan Love Behind Walls 2020-From Sharmin Sadequee: Greetings of Peace.

“Are you ready to join in this blessed season and bring joy to our brothers and sisters this Ramadan? Prisoners of many faiths including Muslims have been targeted in the US and imprisoned today because of their beliefs and associations. Write a short note or send a post card to tell someone you care, to tell them that they matter, and that they are not forgotten. Let them know they will always be part of our Community and that they are in our prayers. It’s an easy process that takes only a few minutes but would mean so much to our brothers and sisters in prisons and their loved ones. Sometimes it’s just a letter from the community that can make a lot of difference inside the four walls of Prison cells. The letter from someone who cares can be a charity or Sadaqa for our Muslim prisoners, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, requiring only a few minutes. Even just one message and du’aa (prayers) can make all the difference for a brother or a sister isolated from his or her beloved family and community. The month of Ramadan is the month of gaining blessings. The smart trader is the one who makes the most of special occasions to increase his or her rewards. So make the most of this month by writing a simple caring letter or sending a post card to a Muslim brother or sister in Prison. Contact us to receive addresses of prisoners and instruction to send letters to prisoners: justiceforshifa@gmail.com” See <https://www.facebook.com/artsistance/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/784222695400638/> ArT Resistance: Artworks of Imprisoned Muslims

TEACH-IN 4/24/2020 6-9pm

“In celebration of Mumia’s 66th birthday on April 24, please participate in these exciting virtual events from April 23-26. To sign up please use the links below:

To view the April 23 press conference register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/at-66-mumia-fights-legal-political-urgent-covid-19-battle-tickets-102743526654?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

TEACH IN

US Empire v. Political Prisoners
4/24/20, 6-9pm EST

REGISTER @
[eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
 Search for US Empire v.
 Political Prisoners

**RISE
 UP &
 RESIST**

**Celebrate
 Mumia Abu Jamal's
 66th Birthday**

#FREEMUMIA
 #FREEPOLITICALPRISONERS
 #FREEEMALL
 #66SITESOFRESISTANCE
mobilization4mumia.com/actions
bringmumiahome.com
freemumia.com
commonnotions.org
 email: bringmumiahome@gmail.com

Angela Davis
 Alice Walker
 Vijay Prashad
 Keith Cook
 Pam Africa
 Marc Lamont Hill
 Oscar Lopez Rivera
 Chris Smalls,
 Fired Amazon Worker
 Estela Vasquez, Local 1199
 Kairi Al-Amin
 Mutulu Shakur
 Leonard Peltier
 Elizabeth Mcalister
 Laura Whitehorn
 Susan Rosenberg
 Kathy Boudin
 Jose A. Saldana, RAPP
 Donna Robinson, RAPP
 Megan Malachi,
 Real Justice, Philly
 Jalil Muntaqim
 Janet Africa
 Jihad Abdulmumit
 Russel Maroon Shoatz
 Sekou Odinga
 Susie Abulhawa
 Kyle "Tag" Fraser, IWOC
 Marshal Eddie Conway
 Teresa Gutierrez
 Bob Boyle
 Carolina Saldaña
 Ralph Poynter
 Ben Ramos Rosado
 Ann Lamb
 Rasheed Johnson
 Fred Hampton, Jr
 Nancy Mansour
 Gloria Rubac
 MYia X



RISE UP & RESIST

**Celebrate
Mumia Abu Jamal's
66th Birthday**

4/23
Press Conference
(speakers tbd)

4/24
Teach In: US Empire v.
Political Prisoners

4/25
Mumia Libre: An Instagram
Live Dance Party

4/26
Poetry In Motion:
A 24 hr Reading of the
Work of Mumia Abu Jamal

#FREEMUMIA
#FREEPOLITICALPRISONERS
#FREEMALL
#66SITESOFRESISTANCE

mobilization4mumia.com/actions
bringmumiahome.com
freemumia.com
commonnotions.org

To register to view the teach-in:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teach-in-us-empire-v-political-prisoners-tickets-102522325034>

Registration information for events on April 25 and 26 to follow”

Spy Plane Resumes Flights Over Baltimore Amid COVID-19

“The expensive aerial surveillance program won’t help heavily disinvested Baltimore, say Ceasefire co-founder Erricka Bridgeford and author Brandon Soderberg.” See <https://therealnews.com/stories/spy-plane-aerial-surveillance-baltimore-appeal-aclu>

“RAPP Campaign: ICYMI: A Week of Action Demanding #CuomoLetThemGo (Follow up)

“Check out and share our new website: cuomoletthemgo.com This is a way for people to connect to the movement and get involved in our #ClemencyNow efforts in the wake of COVID-19.

We update the website daily with news, events, actions, the number of COVID cases in NYS prisons, and sadly, the number, names, and information of the incarcerated people we have lost to the virus. If your friends, colleagues, family, and networks are asking for ways to be involved in our work in this moment, this website is a great resource to get them plugged in. A big thank you to our partners at the Center for Justice at Columbia for collaborating with us on this and making it happen.”

Mustafa Kocak in Turkey- torture after torture- innocent imprisoned and fighting with death fast

“Dear friends, human rights defenders! we can't stop to write these alarming information to you. Every day news of injustice are coming and we dont want to watch the family of Mustafa Kocak while facing this pain. Mustafa is in a terrible situation due to the arbitrariness and tyranny of the Turkish state. He is in Kiriklar prison. Above you will have shortly explained the whole case. We want to share with you the video of his sister, in front of prison for weeks with the family Kocak, waiting that he might leave and survive.. He will die and European Human rights organisations yet didn't respond to our calls, a few deputies sent a letter or made a press statements. We need to push the Justice Ministry, also for musician of Grup Yorum brahim Gökcek, who could also die very soon. His friend, singer of the band Grup Yorum died on 288th day of hungerstrike, on 3rd April. Thanks for taking time. Please react with all possible means. Solidarity! All other infos and news on: Free Grup Yorum Twitter and Facebook!” See <https://www.facebook.com/359325444942815/videos/153370839425775/>

With some prisoners released, Atlanta activists protest to ‘Free Them All!’

“Georgia activist groups Women on the Rise and Southerners on New Ground (SONG) hosted a car caravan protest outside the Fulton County Jail on April 7, calling on District Attorney Paul Howard to release all incarcerated people in the jail because of the risk posed by COVID-19. An April 7 . . .” See <https://www.workers.org/2020/04/47760/>

Activists support Portland prison rebellion

“Honking horns, waving fists and flashing protest signs, activists drove to Portland’s Columbia River Correctional Institute to support prisoners who are frustrated, scared and concerned for their lives. Just a day before, prisoners at this minimum-security facility staged a mass protest after a guard who was positive for COVID-19 was sent home. This prisoner protest was so forceful, guards locked themselves in their offices for several hours.” See <https://www.workers.org/2020/04/47748/>

News from Prison Covid-19 Information Project-APRIL 18, 2020 - VIRUS NEWS FOR

PRISONER FAMILIES “Lompoc inmate dies after testing positive for COVID-19” He was among 80 inmates and 30 staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 at the prison, where an outbreak has been declared. <https://www.ksby.com/news/coronavirus/lompoc-prison-inmate-dies-after-testing-positive-for-covid-19> 110 COVID-19 cases at Lompoc prison Nineteen more confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported Friday in Santa Barbara County. There are now 373 total cases, officials say. Of those, 80 are said to be inmates at the Lompoc prison and 30 are staff members at the federal facility. <https://www.ksby.com/news/coronavirus/santa-barbara-co-reports-19-new-covid-19-cases>. 'Silent carriers:' Of 259 inmate COVID-19 cases, 98% in NC prison showing no symptoms A COVID-19 outbreak at a North Carolina state prison has spread to 259 inmates, prison officials said Friday. But an even more alarming statistic came to light: Of the 259 infected, a full 98% showed no symptoms, according to State prisons Commissioner Todd Ishee. <https://www.wral.com/covid-19-outbreak-at-north-carolina-prison-grows-to-150/19060704/> 227 inmates, staff at Michigan prison have COVID-19 One out of every ten inmates at Parnall Correctional Facility in Jackson have tested positive for COVID-19. The soaring infection rate has left 163 inmates and 64 prison staff members stricken with the virus. Four inmates at the prison have died. <https://www.wxyz.com/news/local-news/investigations/227-inmates-staff-at-michigan-prison-have-covid-19>

Prison Operator Releases Details Of COVID-19 Outbreak-A private prison company that operates a Northwest Florida facility where four inmates have died of COVID-19 unexpectedly released detailed information Thursday night about the medical attention prisoners have received amid the pandemic. <https://www.wlrn.org/post/prison-operator-releases-details-covid-19-outbreak#stream/0>

The One Crucial Step Gov. Cuomo Hasn't Taken That Could Save Thousands Of Lives

“The growing pandemic in our prisons is a matter of life-and-death urgency. I know the urgency, having spent 24 years incarcerated before I was released last year.” Sean Kyler, Guest Writer, Huffington Post, 4/17/2020 “With New York at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s daily press briefings have become essential viewing in many households across the U.S. as the death toll ticks up. Over 23,000 lives have already been lost to COVID-19 — 10,000 in New York state alone. When recently asked by a reporter if he was becoming numb to the numbers, the Democratic governor said, “Although you cannot save everyone, the question is are you saving everyone you can save? And there, the answer is yes. And I take some solace in that.” Yet there is one group whom Cuomo has not yet saved through his efforts to stem the pandemic — the 43,000 people in New York state prisons.” See https://www.huffpost.com/entry/governor-cuomo-coronavirus-new-york-prisons_n_5e987c9fc5b65eae70a0d5f4

"Freedom for All Palestinian Prisoners" Webinar

Freedom for All Palestinian Prisoners-Learn about the case of Ubai Aboudi: Palestinian U.S citizen abducted by Israeli military Tomorrow, Sunday, April 19th
Online via Zoom 2:00 PM

“Join us for our interactive webinar about Palestinian Prisoners, focusing on the struggle of Palestinian U.S. citizen Ubai Aboudi, abducted in November of 2019 and kept in detention since, and Israel’s widespread detention of innocent Palestinian children.

Panelists include will include: Hind Shraydeh, Human Rights defender and wife of Ubai Aboudi
Dr. Haynes Miller, Professor of Mathematics at MIT, Hadeel Shatara: The Palestine Chapter of Samidoun, the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network For more info on Ubai, see AJ+ coverage: <https://www.facebook.com/407570359384477/posts/1675250542616446?vh=e&d=n&sfn=mo> RSVP here: bit.ly/ImprisonedPalestiniansWebinar Facebook event page: facebook.com/events/221342868944372/ IG / Twitter: @wolpalestine facebook.com/wolpalestine
www.wolpalestine.com

Interviewed in hiding, escaped NC inmate says he fled coronavirus ‘death sentence’

“A federal prisoner who says he escaped from FCI-Butner in North Carolina says he left because of his fear of contracting COVID-19. “I signed up for a jail sentence, not a death sentence,” he told reporters from an undisclosed location.” See <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article242056656.html>
Go to the link to watch the audio and video interviews! “An inmate who fled a federal prison camp in Butner and remains on the loose told The News & Observer on Thursday that he escaped because he feared death from coronavirus. “I take ownership of having to serve my time,” said Richard R. Cephas, 54, who had been at the Federal Correctional Complex serving time on a drug conviction. “I signed up for a jail sentence, not a death sentence.” Cephas contacted the N&O on Thursday morning, leading to interviews by phone and FaceTime. He didn’t reveal where he was — but he said he wants to turn himself in. He contacted the N&O, he said, to tell the public about the issues he saw at Butner and why he needed to flee” See <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article242056656.html>

Hegemonic Policing: The COVID-19 Law Enforcement Strategy

“The Police Accountability Report talks with two victims of mass incarceration and police brutality and reveals a distinct theory of how American policing has evolved to dangerous ends.” See <https://therealnews.com/stories/police-accountability-report-covid-19-hegemonic-policing>

Prisoner Clemency Request Press Conference

“On Tuesday, **April 21**, Forum for Understanding Prisons (FFUP) will hold an online press conference and mail more than a dozen emergency release requests on behalf of incarcerated people to Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers. The Governor's Pardon Advisory Board excludes everyone who is currently incarcerated or doing community supervision from consideration, but it is possible to request a waiver of Governor Evers' stringent criteria. "The Governor's clemency criteria are inhumane in the face of covid-19" says Ben Turk, a member of FFUP. "We've sent more than a hundred of these waiver request forms to our friends inside. We get more back every day. We wanted to deliver this first batch to Governor Evers in person, but all the state offices are closed." To support the clemency requests, FFUP will be holding a 1PM online video press conference with family members. The event will be 90 minutes long, and FFUP will capture and distribute video from it. Anyone who would like to attend the conference, please contact insurgent.ben@gmail.com for login information.

Clemency Waiver Online Press Conference Tuesday April 21, 1 PM

Speakers: Jodi Nelson, whose 35 year old son, Ryan Lemke, is incarcerated at Jackson CI with an auto-immune disorder, Tamika Allen, whose 39 year old brother, Dewitt Faulkner is incarcerated at Columbia CI., Peg Swan, the founder of Forum for Understanding Prisons.

Moderator: Ben Turk Agenda: 1-1:15- introductions, 1:15-1:25- Jodi Nelson, 1:25-1:35- Tamika Allen, 1:35-1:45- Peg Swan 1:45-2:15- Questions from reporters, 2:15-2:30- Questions from anyone (time permitting)”

Protester Locks Down Demanding Freedom for Incarcerated People during COVID19

“At 5am EST on April 17th 2020, a person locked themselves to two concrete barrels in front of the mansion of Florida Governor Ron Desantis. The demands are the same as they have been for the past month- All incarcerated people must be immediately released during the covid19 pandemic, and in the mean time they must be given protective and sanitation supplies, and free and full access to communication. In the past weeks, community members warned the governor of the public health disaster that would take place inside and outside of so-called correctional facilities if nothing is done to prevent the spread of covid19. There have been several call-in campaigns, as well as a car demonstration last week urging the same demands.” See <https://fight-toxic-prisons.org/2020/04/17/protester-locks-down-in-front-of-florida-governors-mansion-demanding-the-release-of-incarcerated-people/>

As Virus Spreads in Federal Prisons, People Inside Describe Chaos, While Families Are Left in the Dark Liliana Segura, April 15 2020, 12:10 p.m.

“Richard Carrillo walked out of the Federal Correctional Institution at Otisville feeling nervous. It was March 24 and he was getting ready to board a shuttle bus in Middletown, New York, to make the 70-mile trip to Port Authority in Manhattan — the first leg of a long journey home. “I didn’t think it was safe at all, to be honest with you,” he said. Carrillo had been following the news. He knew that New York City had become the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic. “I mean, I’m just getting out of BOP and you’re gonna send me to Manhattan to wait at the bus terminal for one, two, three, five hours?” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/04/15/federal-prisons-coronavirus/>

Free phone calls for people in federal prison!

“Thousands of Color Of Change members joined us in pushing to make all communication free of charge for incarcerated people and their families during this crisis, and forever. As of last week, people incarcerated at federal prisons have finally been granted free phone calls during the pandemic, up to 500 minutes a month.” See Color of Change

Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 - Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET

“ The EMBARGO ON CUBA IS AN EMBARGO ON US ! “

1. COVID-19 & cUba---Special guest:- REV. GAIL WALKER-
2. Christian Duran- Stu.Org.-Seton Hall Gr.
3. Mark Torres- People Pueblo Party
4. LOUISIANA UNITED INTERNATIONAL- Sister Belinda Parker Brown
5. Special update on WBAI –CERENE ROBERTS

1. NEWS ANALYSIS---- An anatomy of oppression requires an anatomy of colonialism/imperialism i.e. An anatomy of the American Capitalist System: Ralph Poynter, Tom Siracuse, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Paul Gilman,
2. Updates from the Political Prisoner Death Camps- Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho), Gil Obler (Free Mumia Coalition-NYC
3. Prof. Louie -Liberation Poetry- In remembrance of Sister Lynne”

Tuesday, April 21st – Letter Writing for Bomani Shakur

“WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinner WHEN: 7pm sharp, Tuesday, April 21st, 2020

WHERE: YOUR HOME COST: Free

We are deep enough into this pandemic to see how power is exploiting both it, and the folks considered disposable—essential workers (delivery drivers, grocery workers, et al) and prisoners. Prisoners are being infected and dying at a rate far higher than those on the outside. At the federal level, the bureau responsible for their well-being (yes, we understand it's an oxymoron), keeps blaming underlying health conditions instead of taking responsibility and freeing those with high risk factors for infection. To keep the focus on prisoners, NYC ABC continues our support via every-other-week political prisoner letter-writing events. Due to where we are in history, and the importance of keeping everyone safe, those events will be organized here, but you will have to take on the work of writing letters from home. Please post a photo of your addressed envelope on social media and tag us (with your return address blurred out) and we will share it, building digital community while our analog community stays indoors and washes its hands. This week, we respond to the call for a month of action in support of Bomani Shakur.” See <https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2020/04/18/bomani2020>

Activist Rosa Clemente Talks Covid-19 and the Prison Industrial Complex

“On the latest episode, activist extraordinaire, Rosa Clemente joins Renegade Culture to talk about how the prison industrial complex allows COVID-19 to spread to Black and Brown bodies in prisons, jails, policing under COVID; worker abuse and the upcoming call for a general worker strike on May 1st.

Follow us on Soundcloud, Apple and social media. Hosted by Kalonji Changa and Kamau Franklin Produced by Naka "The Ear Dr" Recorded at Playback Studios in the Historic West End of Atlanta, Ga” See <https://player.fm/series/renegade-culture-2284453/rosa-clemente-talks-covid-19-and-the-prison-industrial-complex-and-the-call-for-a-worker-strike>

BOP COVID-19 Report April 19-2020

COVID-19 Cases

“The BOP has 143,707 federal inmates in BOP-managed institutions and 10,226 in community-based facilities. The BOP staff complement is approximately 36,000. As of 04/19/2020, there are 495 federal inmates and 309 BOP staff who have confirmed positive test results for COVID-19 nationwide.

Currently, 155 inmates and 29 staff have recovered. There have been 22 federal inmate deaths and 0 BOP staff member deaths attributed to COVID-19 disease.

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of this public health crisis, the BOP will update the open COVID-19 confirmed positive test numbers and the number of COVID-19 related deaths daily at 3:00 p.m. The positive test numbers are based on the most recently available confirmed lab results involving open cases from across the agency as reported by the BOP's Office of Occupational Health and Safety. BOP field sites may report additional updates throughout the day. Data is subject to change based on additional reporting” See <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp>

WFBR Little Africa Show April 23 2020

“Peace, join me this Thursday 1-2pmEST for the Pan-African show 'Little Africa' as we dialogue across the Diaspora about institutional and organizational response.. WFBR 1590 AM

<https://tunein.com/radio/WFBR-1590AM-Baltimore-s29972/>

Call in no. 410-761-1592 get tuned in...Raise Your Vibration..”

WFBR APPHRC Little Africa Show April 16 2020

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/b5ec3801db40d59dcc80e8b115e124d020200416191120/207984>

Anatomy of a deadly prison outbreak-Something Is Going to Explode’: When Coronavirus Strikes a Prison: An oral history of the first fatal outbreak in the federal prison system, in Oakdale, La.

“The Federal Correctional Complex in Oakdale, La., is the site of the first fatal coronavirus outbreak in the federal prison system. F.C.C. Oakdale — which houses some 2,000 inmates and employs close to 500 staff members in two low-security prisons (Federal Correctional Institution Oakdale I and F.C.I. Oakdale II) as well as a minimum-security camp — provides the economic lifeblood for a town of fewer than 8,000 people and the surrounding parish. Many of F.C.C. Oakdale’s inmates are serving sentences for nonviolent offenses, like drug sales and financial fraud.” See

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/18/magazine/oakdale-federal-prison-coronavirus.html>



Political Prisoner Joyce Powell Survives COVID-19!

“NYC Jericho just received a phone call from Political Prisoner Joyce Powell, currently at Bedford Hills. We have been worried about Joyce, since we had not heard from her for three weeks, and she usually calls at least once a week. Joyce says she was in the infirmary for more than a week, feeling sicker and sicker every day. When it was obvious she needed a ventilator, she was finally taken to an outside hospital, where she spent more than a week. Thankfully, Joyce received excellent care in the outside hospital, and she has recovered from COVID-19. Needless to say, we were ecstatic to receive this good news!”

Mumia Abu-Jamal supporters respond quickly to prison hoax By Betsey Piette April 20, 2020

“When a Pennsylvania Department of Corrections spokesperson callously claimed that Mumia Abu-Jamal was being hospitalized with COVID-19 at 5 p.m. on April 15, the news was shared worldwide in

minutes. Supporters, who have been misled by DOC statements in the past, immediately flooded the institution with calls demanding confirmation from . ." See <https://www.workers.org/2020/04/47861/>

COVID-19: The Symptom of the Capitalist Disease

"In the latest issue of Black Agenda Report, BAP National Organizer Ajamu Baraka argues that the capitalist state and its ruling oligarchy care very little about the human rights of the people, especially African/Black people who are supposed to be the "essential" workers today. What we are facing today in the U.S. is a human rights crisis that in another country would warrant so-called "humanitarian intervention." See <https://blackallianceforpeace.com/>

FBI Opened Terrorism Investigations Into Nonviolent Palestinian Solidarity Group, Documents Reveal

"This article exposes the FBI's multi This article exposes the FBI's multiple terrorism investigations into a nonviolent Palestinian solidarity organization, predicated on First Amendment activity, such as anti-capitalist philosophy. In 2006, St. Louis-based activist and academic Mark Chmiel received a message on his answering machine from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI wanted to talk to Chmiel about trip three years ago that he and other St. Louis activists took with the International Solidarity Movement to the West Bank, in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories. When Chmiel's attorney reached out to the FBI, they did not respond." See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

High Court Declines Case of Imam Jamil Al-Amin

"The Supreme Court is declining to take the case of Imam Jamil Al-Amin, fka H. Rap Brown, as is usual, the justices didn't comment Monday in turning away Brown's case. Brown had argued his constitutional rights were violated at trial. Brown converted to Islam and now goes by the name Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin. He gained prominence more than 50 years ago as a Black Panthers leader and was at one point the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee." See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

New Recording Benefiting ABCF Warchest

"The subgenre of music is called cybergrind, the artist is officegrinder, and all proceeds from the 19 track, COVID-19 inspired EP benefit the ABCF warchest program. BUY IT NOW!!!
MORE: officegrinder.bandcamp.com/album/covid-19-ep
All proceeds from this EP will go to benefit political prisoners. Recorded entirely on the artist's phone during social distancing." See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

A Prisoner's Experience Behind Bars During COVID-19

"We are delivering as much pandemic information as seems relevant, while trying to maintain some sense of brevity. Below is the latest from Jeremy Hammond, locked up in transfer in a county jail in Oklahoma. MORE: Federal prisoners transferring through the Oklahoma City "con air" route usually spend a short time at the Oklahoma City Federal Transit Center, but because it is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, everybody coming in on the planes is being leased out to the local Grady County jail. Because the federal Bureau of Prisons instituted a nationwide lockdown, they are now telling us no planes are going out, leaving several hundred of us stranded at this raggedy jail where conditions are abysmal and woefully inadequate to deal with the coronavirus pandemic" See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

From Solitary Confinement to Coronavirus Quarantine

“Keith Lamar, aka Bomani Shakur, has spent 27 years in solitary confinement. Here are some tips on making the best use of time alone. MORE: by Keith Lamar (Abolition Media Worldwide) In solitary, I’m already quarantined somewhat. The only way we would get sick is if a CO [correctional officer] or somebody brings it in. It’s probably inevitable because the guards, even if they don’t have a temperature, can still be carrying the virus. And they are the ones who pass out mail, who give us food. I’m doing what I can in terms of washing my hands frequently, but there’s only so much you can do. You just sitting here waiting to catch it. I had a strict rule with my family that if anyone is sick please don’t come visit, because once you get the flu [here] it’s just torture. They don’t give you any medications, beyond ibuprofen, so you pretty much have to suffer through. If you catch something as severe as coronavirus, I don’t know how they intend to deal with that..” See

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

April 8th Ramsey Orta Update and Call For Support-The state is doing everything it can to kill Ramsey Orta.

“As Ramsey Orta, (who filmed the 2014, NYPD chokehold murder of Eric Garner) sits in solitary confinement in New York State prison, the virus is spreading rapidly across the prison systems. Time is running out. My name is Jacob Crawford. I am the founder of WeCopwatch which is a national Copwatch group dedicated to educating the public about their rights when stopped by law enforcement and how to safely and effectively document the police when they stop members of our community. Today I am speaking on behalf of one of our members, Ramsey Orta who is currently in Midstate Correctional Facility sitting in solitary confinement being deprived of his basic sanitation needs. For those who don’t know, Ramsey filmed the 2014 NYPD choke death of Eric Garner. He was subsequently set up on a gun charge and a few months later indicted and various petty drug charges. In 2016, Ramsey pled out to a non-violent felony D gun charge, and a simple drug charge and has since been incarcerated in New York State prison. Ramsey has since been systematically abused and tortured by guards and has been moved to 10 different facilities and placed in solitary confinement 7 times adding up to well over a year in isolation.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

April 19th - Ramsey Orta Has Fallen Sick After Officers Threaten To Give Him COVID-19 What happens next?

“As you know, we have been raising the alarms on the escalated abuse Ramsey Orta has been facing throughout his incarceration in the New York State Prison System. 10 different facilities, 7 times in the hole, and over a year in solitary confinement shows that these have not been isolated incidents but rather a systematic pattern that transcends a particular facility or group of correctional officers. While we have come to expect, anticipate, and prepare for this type of coordinated abuse, the recent incidents have accelerated and intensified with each passing day. Two weeks ago I (Jacob Crawford of WeCopwatch) stated that I believed officers at Midstate Correctional Facility were trying to kill Ramsey Orta before his release date in July. With the deprivation of adequate food, soap, showers, transitioning to actual death threats, Midstate is making a very compelling case that my assumptions were true. Ramsey fell ill a few days ago and he was transferred to the infirmary. We do not know whether he is sick, if correctional officers have made good on their threats to give him COVID-19, or if they are messing with his food. All we know is that he had a really high temperature, and that he was transferred to medical. Since the first report of a prison employee having COVID-19 at Midstate, there have been three more cases reported. We know at this point that there are many more. We are distraught and we don’t know what to do. As we wait for any information about or from Ramsey, we have to

prepare for two different scenarios and neither are good.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

9 Apr - June 11th is making a mixtape!

“Hey all, if you were at the last ABC Conference a few years ago, you might remember the mixtape we made for that: a compilation of our prisoners' favorite songs and a "liner notes" zine where people talk about their choices. MORE: This year June 11th is doing something similar, but more expansive. And this time it will be public. We're always to find new ways to help people feel connected and to help us highlight, at least once a year, the long-term prisoners. We hope this project will allow us to get to know these prisoners better and keep a little bit of them with us throughout the year. ----- June 11th is making a mixtape!” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-21-apr-2020.pdf>

Prisons Attempt to Track Coronavirus-Related Keywords in Inmate Phone Calls April 21 2020

“Prison officials in at least three states are using software to scan inmate calls for mentions of the coronavirus, a move advocacy groups believe paves the way for abuse while raising stark questions about carceral health care. The monitoring software was created by LEO Technologies, a Los Angeles company backed primarily by scandal-plagued Republican fundraiser Elliott Broidy. Known as Verus, it was first deployed several years ago to forestall suicide attempts, mine calls for investigative tips, and for a range of other purposes. In recent weeks, it has been marketed as a system “that can mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic across our nation’s jail and prison facilities” by alerting prison authorities to sickness-related conversations between inmates and the outside world. See <https://theintercept.com/2020/04/21/prisons-inmates-coronavirus-monitoring-surveillance-verus/>

35th Anniversary of MOVE Bombing Streaming Now on FB live

<https://www.facebook.com/tez.thewriter/videos/840597689760144/>

Stop Blaming Black People for Dying of the Coronavirus. New data from 29 states confirm the extent of the racial disparities. Ibram X. Kendi April 14, 2020 Director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University

“I grew up in the Christian Church, the second son of two ministers. I'm not one for making biblical references about my life, but I can't say the same about my father. Two weeks ago, Dad likened me to John the Baptist, a voice crying out in the wilderness for racial data on the pandemic.

But we were indeed in the wilderness. On April 1, hardly any states, counties, hospitals, or private labs had released the racial demographics of the people who had been tested for, infected with, hospitalized with, or killed by COVID-19. Five days later, citing racial disparities in infection or death rates from five states or counties and the racial demographics of the worst coronavirus hot spots, I speculated that America was facing a racial pandemic within the viral pandemic. But we needed more racial data to know for sure.” See

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/race-and-blame/609946/>

He was one of New York's most famous prisoners. Now he's one of its oldest—and most vulnerable. Samantha Michaels - May 13, 2020

“San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin was at home cooking on Saturday afternoon when his dad, David Gilbert, called from a prison in upstate New York. Boudin was glad to hear his father’s voice. But he was worried about his old man: Someone in the cell next to him had tested positive for the coronavirus.

At 75, Gilbert is one of the oldest prisoners in the state. Even calling his son is risky for him now,

since hundreds of guys at Shawangunk Correctional Facility share the same phones to call home. Before dialing his son, Gilbert wrapped the receiver with an undershirt to avoid touching it to his face. He would hand-wash the shirt after returning to his cell. As the coronavirus sweeps through the country's prisons and jails, Gilbert is one of the tens of thousands of elderly inmates at high risk for complications. In New York, about 2,600 prisoners were at least 60 years old in 2018. A greater number have other serious underlying conditions. Now Gilbert is part of a group of vulnerable inmates petitioning a court to protect them from the deadly virus by releasing them early." See <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/05/he-was-one-of-new-yorks-most-famous-prisoners-now-hes-one-of-its-oldest-and-most-vulnerable/>

Post-Conviction Clinic: Clemency + Pardons

Joniesha James
The National Council

Jhody Polk.
LEAH

Gladys
Weatherspoon,
Judicial nominee

Qiana Johnson
Life After Release

Tomiko Shine,
APPHRC

2020 Virtual Post-Conviction Clinic

Clemency + Compassionate Release

Saturday, April 25th @ 11am

[bit.ly/dearceratemd](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-conviction-clinic-clemency-pardons-tickets-102832649222)

Life After Release

JL + JAILHOUSE LAWYERS

National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-conviction-clinic-clemency-pardons-tickets-102832649222>

Pro-gun activists using Facebook groups to push anti-quarantine protests April 19, 2020

“A trio of far-right, pro-gun provocateurs is behind some of the largest Facebook groups calling for anti-quarantine protests around the country, offering the latest illustration that some seemingly organic demonstrations are being engineered by a network of conservative activists.

The Facebook groups target Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, and they appear to be the

work of Ben Dorr, the political director of a group called “Minnesota Gun Rights,” and his siblings, Christopher and Aaron. By Sunday, the groups had roughly 200,000 members combined, and they continued to expand quickly, days after President Trump [endorsed such protests](#) by suggesting citizens should “liberate” See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/04/19/pro-gun-activists-using-facebook-groups-push-anti-quarantine-protests/>

Prison is no Place for a Pandemic- Thursday April 23rd at 6pmCST/7pmEST

“Good Evening Comrades, One thing we’ve known long before the COVID crisis, is that prison is no place for a pandemic. During COVID-19, prisons, jails, and detention centers have turned into outbreak zones for incarcerated people, and Black people represent 33% of the sentenced prison population. In New York’s Riker’s Island prison complex, 287 incarcerated people and 406 staffers have tested positive for COVID-19, exposing the entire community to the deadly virus for which there is no known vaccine. Although the federal government is considering releasing

FREE THEM ALL!
Prison is no Place for a Pandemic

THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES THURSDAY APRIL 23, 2020 // 7:00 PM ET

<https://bit.ly/FREETHEMALLBELOVEDCOMMUNITY>

Richie Reseda | Abolitionist-Feminist Organizer, Music and Film Producer, Founder of Question Culture
Patrisse Cullors | Artist, Activist, Founder and Chair of Reform LA Jails, Co-founder of BLM Global Network
Rich Wallace | Founder, Equity and Transformation Chicago
Moderated by Mary Hooks | Co-Director, Southerners on New Ground

Featuring the voices and stories of comrades inside

people from prison, only a small percentage of Black incarcerated people would be deemed “low-risk” enough to get out using the federal prison system’s risk assessment tool. This Thursday, April 23rd we are gathering together to hear from our formerly incarcerated and prison abolitionist comrades about the impact of COVID-19 on our currently incarcerated family and the realities of the virus living within already inhumane prisons, jails, and detention centers.”

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jj0psWoaRhCkFwBHz-2nRg

[Register Here](#)

“During this panel, we’ll hear about the unique life and death challenges people in prisons, jails, and detention centers face during this unprecedented pandemic, and how the virus will impact Black incarcerated people now and after we flatten the curve. In addition to learning about the current conditions,

we will also be discussing radical and transformational solutions that center accountability for Black folks. We'd love to share this political moment with you, join us this week and please share this invitation with a friend. See you this Thursday! Fresco with M4BL”

A State-by-State Look at Coronavirus in Prisons

“By April 29, at least 14,513 people in prison had tested positive for the illness, a more than 50 percent increase from the week before. Much of the remarkable recent growth in coronavirus cases has been due to a small handful of states—Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas, Michigan, North Carolina among them—that began aggressively testing nearly everyone at prisons where people had become sick. This spate of testing would suggest that coronavirus had been circulating in prisons in much greater numbers than known, and that in the many states where tests have not been prevalent, far more people may have been carrying it than were initially reported.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/01/a-state-by-state-look-at-coronavirus-in-prisons>

What Women Dying In Prison From COVID-19 Tell Us About Female Incarceration May 14, 2020 - By Cary Aspinwall, Keri Blakinger and Joseph Neff

“Melissa Ann Horn’s name appeared over and over in court records and jail blotters in the rural Virginia county where she was born, and where she was arrested for crimes related to her struggles with meth and money. When she died April 14 of coronavirus she contracted in a state prison for women, Virginia officials wouldn’t even say her name. Women are the less visible victims of COVID-19 behind bars—as they are so often overlooked in a criminal justice system that was not designed for them. Though only a small number have died—at least 13 reported as of Wednesday—their stories illuminate the unique problems women face in prison. They also reflect the all-too-common ways they get there in the first place: drug addiction and violence involving the men in their lives.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/14/what-women-dying-in-prison-from-covid-19-tell-us-about-female-incarceration>

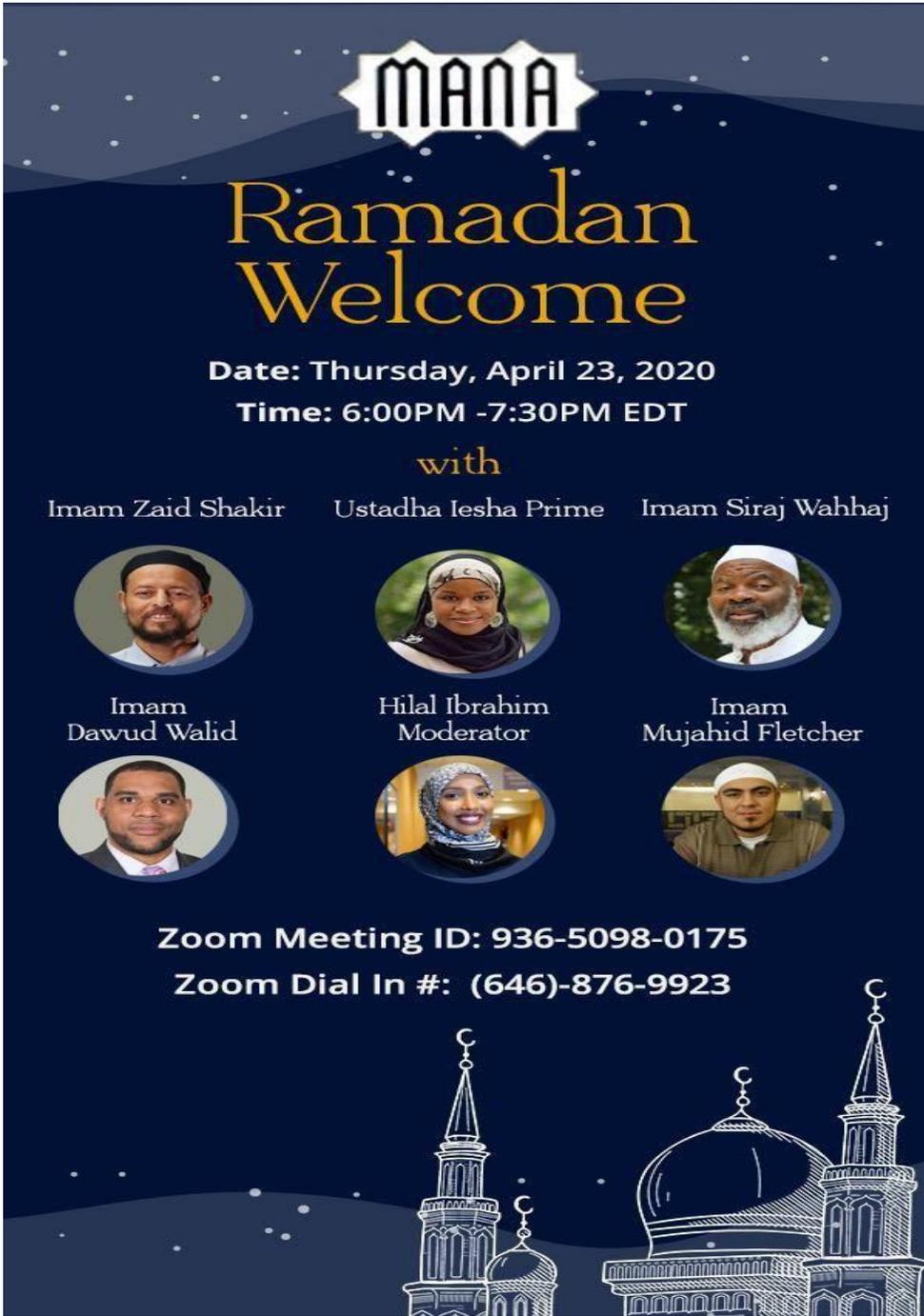
COVID-19, Decarceration and Electronic Monitoring May 13, 2020 - by James Kilgore

“Over the past several years, our #NoDigitalPrisons campaign has focused on opposing the adoption of what people call ankle bracelets but what we refer to as “ankle shackles.” We view them as harbingers of the expansion of e-carceration — the use of technology to deprive people of their liberty. Today, in a metaphor for the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of thousands of people remain locked in prisons and jails while the virus and carceral authorities play “Russian Roulette” with their lives. Guards and other prison staff face a similar, though slightly less, grim fate. As of May 7th, over 2,000 incarcerated people in Ohio prisons had tested positive while 40 people have died. COVID-19 has taken the lives of 42 people captive in Federal prisons with over 350 staff members testing positive. In Cook County Jail in Chicago, seven incarcerated folks have died along with two staff members. At Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women, 192 out of 195 people in the prison tested positive. This is an ongoing story that will continue to have fatal consequences.” See <https://medium.com/nodigitalprisons/covid-19-decarceration-and-electronic-monitoring-6f9b1e32bc40>

House pitches justice system changes in new COVID-19 relief bill May 12, 2020

“House Democrats proposed more than \$1 billion in additional spending to address the coronavirus outbreak in the nation’s prisons in a new relief bill unveiled Tuesday, along with provisions for sweeping changes to how the justice system handles prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic.” See <https://www.rollcall.com/2020/05/12/house-pitches-justice-system-changes-in-new-covid-19-relief-bill/>

MANA Welcome Ramadan Zoom Webinar – April 23rd 2020 Thurs. 6:00-7:30 PM EST



The poster features a dark blue background with a night sky and white stars. At the top center is the MANA logo in a white, stylized font. Below it, the title "Ramadan Welcome" is written in a large, elegant, golden-yellow script. The date and time are listed in white text: "Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020" and "Time: 6:00PM -7:30PM EDT". The word "with" is written in a smaller, golden-yellow font. Below this, the names of the speakers are listed in white: "Imam Zaid Shakir", "Ustadha Iesha Prime", and "Imam Siraj Wahhaj". Each name is accompanied by a circular portrait of the individual. Below the portraits, the names of the speakers are listed again in white: "Imam Dawud Walid", "Hilal Ibrahim Moderator", and "Imam Mujahid Fletcher". At the bottom of the poster, the Zoom Meeting ID and Dial In number are provided in white: "Zoom Meeting ID: 936-5098-0175" and "Zoom Dial In #: (646)-876-9923". The bottom of the poster features a white line-art illustration of a mosque with a large dome and minarets.

MANA

Ramadan Welcome

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020
Time: 6:00PM -7:30PM EDT

with

Imam Zaid Shakir Ustadha Iesha Prime Imam Siraj Wahhaj

Imam Dawud Walid Hilal Ibrahim Moderator Imam Mujahid Fletcher

Zoom Meeting ID: 936-5098-0175
Zoom Dial In #: (646)-876-9923

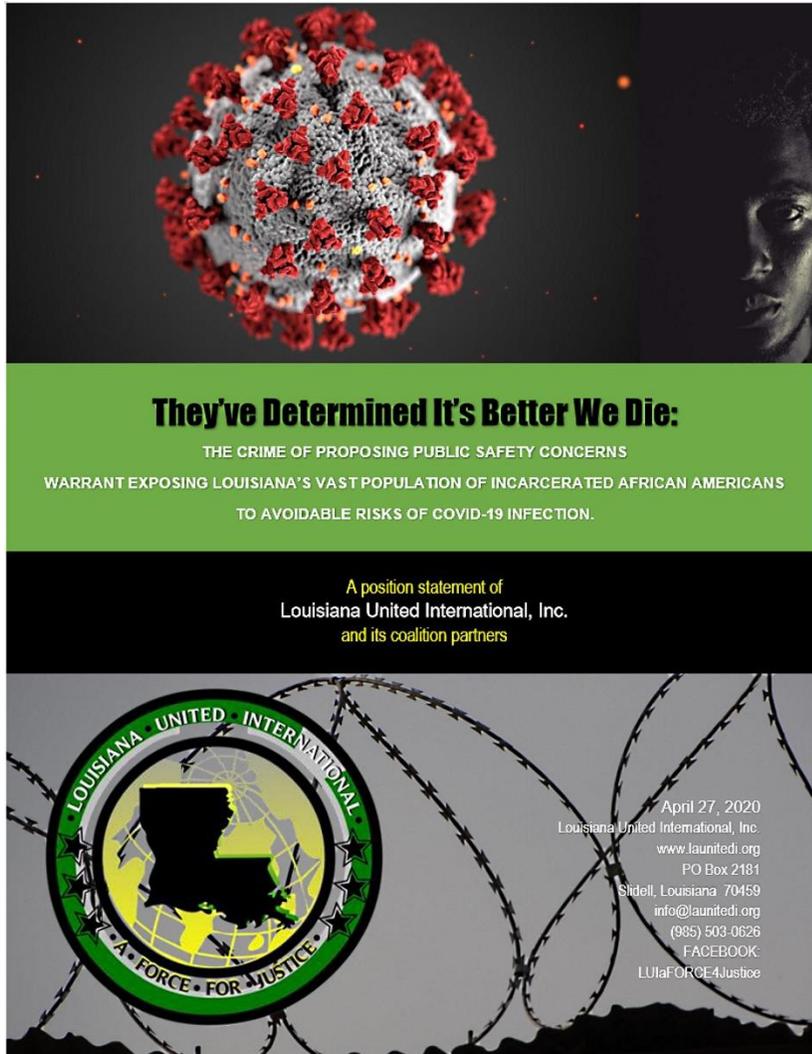
“May Allah's Mercy and Protection be upon our Muslim ummah and upon all of humanity at this difficult time.”

Prisons Attempt to Track Coronavirus-Related Keywords in Inmate Phone Calls

“Prison officials in at least three states are using software to scan inmate calls for mentions of the coronavirus, a move advocacy groups believe paves the way for abuse while raising stark questions about

carceral health care. The monitoring software was created by LEO Technologies, a Los Angeles company backed primarily by scandal-plagued Republican fundraiser Elliott Broidy. Known as Verus, it was first deployed several years ago to forestall suicide attempts, mine calls for investigative tips, and for a range of other purposes. In recent weeks, it has been marketed as a system “that can mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic across our nation’s jail and prison facilities” by alerting prison authorities to sickness-related conversations between inmates and the outside world.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/04/21/prisons-inmates-coronavirus-monitoring-surveillance-verus/>

Virtual Press Conference



They've Determined It's Better We Die:

THE CRIME OF PROPOSING PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS
WARRANT EXPOSING LOUISIANA'S VAST POPULATION OF INCARCERATED AFRICAN AMERICANS
TO AVOIDABLE RISKS OF COVID-19 INFECTION.

A position statement of
Louisiana United International, Inc.
and its coalition partners

April 27, 2020
Louisiana United International, Inc.
www.launitedi.org
PO Box 2181
Slidell, Louisiana 70459
info@launitedi.org
(985) 503-0626
FACEBOOK:
LUlaFORCE4Justice

WHAT: There will be a virtual press conference hosted by National Judicial Conduct and Disability Law Project, Inc. (NJCDLP) for its coalition partner, Louisiana United International, Inc. (LUI).

WHEN: Tuesday - Apr 28, 2020 @ 10:00 AM Central Time.

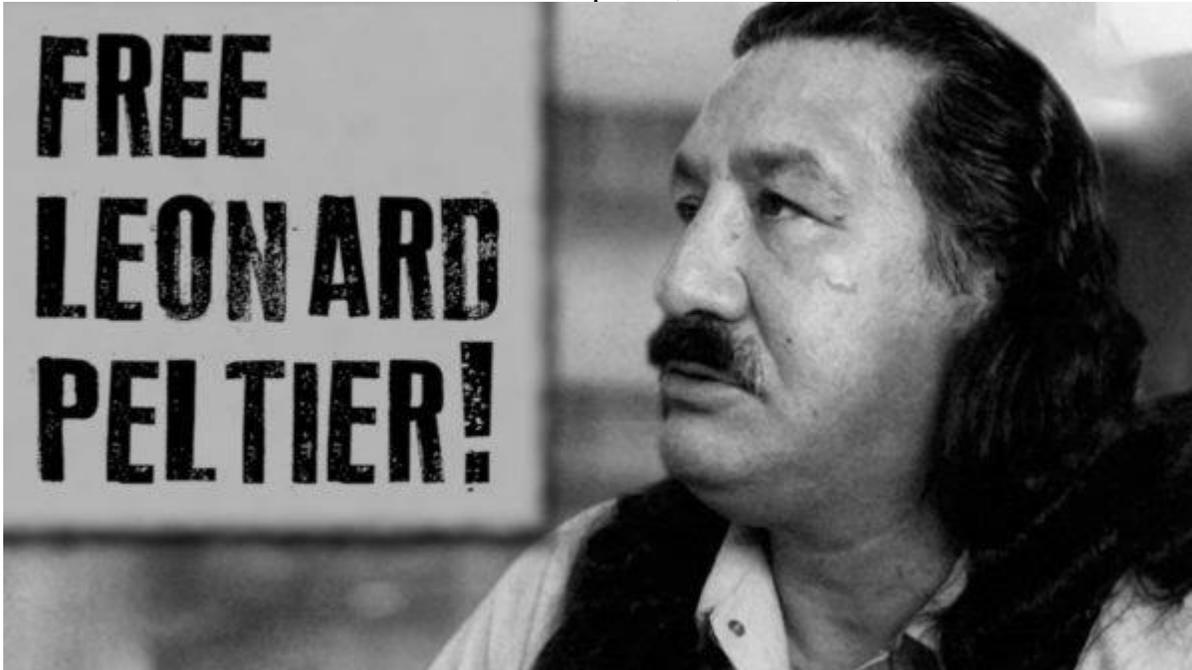
TOPIC: LUI's Position Statement on COVID-19 & African Americans Incarcerated in Louisiana

HOW: You must Register in advance for this webinar: (see below).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YQVLiPYCS_m516XAF2v1mg

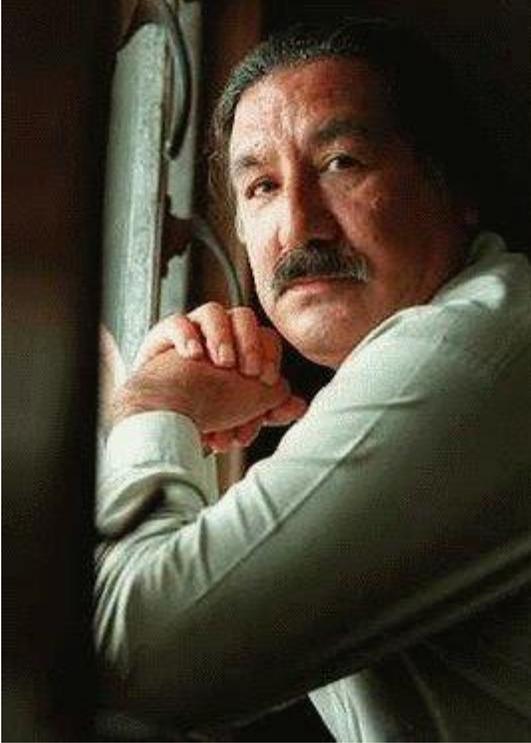
Set Leonard Peltier Free Now Published April 27, 2020



“Often during powwows and other Indigenous gatherings, it is common to hear elders pray for those who are incarcerated. Elders seem to have a higher level of wisdom that makes us think about people who we may not normally think about—or even pray for—on a regular basis. During these difficult days of the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic, last week I began to think about Leonard Peltier being in isolation at the U.S. Penitentiary in Coleman, Florida. He is there for his 1977 conviction in connection with a shootout with U.S. government forces, where two FBI agents and one young American Indian lost their lives on June 25, 1975 at a private residence at Oglala on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Peltier, a tribal citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, has been behind bars over 44 years. Now 75-years-old, he is said to be wearing a mask during the pandemic. He is in the vulnerable age group and in poor health. He has chronic heart problems and diabetes. To many American Indians, Peltier is a symbol of an oppressive federal system that confines Native people to a dismal place in American society. He is a political prisoner that we may only think about if we happen to see a bumper sticker on the back of a vehicle that simply reads “FREE Leonard Peltier.” The pandemic made me think about Peltier this past week, but my favoring his release did not begin with the COVID-19 crisis.” See https://nativenewsonline.net/opinion/set-leonard-peltier-free-now/?fbclid=IwAR0-HsFsFbdbAVio2cubtrsKgUQl-TIfY_2vH0yLLpeh4EUE44aPE6Cxczsk

Citing COVID-19, Representatives Deb Haaland & Raúl Grijalva Ask Trump to Release Leonard Peltier Immediately by Levi Rickert - May 12, 2020

“Citing COVID-19, Representatives Deb Haaland & Raúl Grijalva Ask Trump to Release Leonard Peltier Immediately. WASHINGTON — In a letter released Monday, U.S. Representatives Deb Haaland (D- NM, 1st District) and Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ (3rd District) asked for the release of American indigenous rights activist Leonard Peltier from federal prison. The letter, dated April 24, also asks for a grant of clemency for Peltier, a 75-year old tribal citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.



The letter was addressed to President Donald Trump, U.S. Attorney General William Barr, Director of Federal Bureau of Prisons Michael Carvajal, and Southeast Regional Federal Bureau of Prisons Director J.A. Keller. “As part of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Justice (DOJ) recently authorized the Federal Bureau of Prisons to release elderly inmates and those with underlying health conditions from federal prisons. Due to the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our country and Mr. Peltier’s underlying health conditions and age, we request immediate action to be taken to release him from federal custody,” the two members of Congress wrote. Peltier suffers from heart problems and diabetes. He is incarcerated at the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Florida for a conviction related to the death of two Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents killed in July 1975. Supporters believe that Peltier, an Indigenous activist, was wrongfully convicted in 1977 for a crime he did not commit. Imprisoned for over 45 years, Peltier has the support of Amnesty International, and other human rights organizations. Over the years, some 50 members of Congress and

others—including Judge Gerald Heaney (8th Circuit Court of Appeals) who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier’s appeals—have all called for his immediate release. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Peltier applied for a compassionate release and we denied on May 1, 2020 with the only explanation given “not at this time. In releasing this letter, Rep. Haaland and Grijalva responded to the support for Peltier from constituents in their districts, and throughout New Mexico. Rep Grijalva was among several members of Congress who were supportive of Peltier’s 2016 clemency petition to President Obama. Over 12,000 signatures supporting clemency for Peltier have been gathered from New Mexicans, hundreds have gathered for annual events in support of Peltier here. Worldwide, nearly a half million combined petition signatures, postcards were submitted to the Obama White House, and an unknown number of phone calls to the White House comment line were placed.

Over the course of the last 16 months, Peter Clark, the former director at International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, who resides in Albuquerque, N.M., which is part of Haaland’s congressional district met with the congresswoman and her staff, and provided information to the New Mexico congressional delegation regarding the various avenues of relief for Peltier. Some of Peltier’s supporters include: Petuuche Gilbert, president of Indigenous World Association; Norman Patrick Brown, who was among one of the young persons who survived the June 26, 1975 shootout; human rights advocate, Eda Gordon; and Lenny Foster, Peltier’s Spiritual Advisor of over 30 years who is Board member of the International Indian Treaty Council and American Indian Movement. Leonard Peltier’s eldest son Chauncey Peltier is a co-founder of the Indigenous Rights Center located in Albuquerque. Leonard’s daughter, Kathy Peltier, is an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation, and had recently written to Rep Haaland seeking support for her dad. To learn more about the Peltier’s case, go to Leonard’s Defense Committee’s website www.whoisleonardpeltier.info transcripts and other archival material.”

The School to Prison Pipeline in Pandemic Hyper-drive: Resisting the Push towards Alienated Education and Lethal Incarceration

“Featuring in order of appearance: Dave Lippman (song), Matt Meyer & Wende Marshall (co-hosts), Daniel Reyes (Philadelphia Working Educator's WE Caucus), Tonya Bahwill (grassroots Philly organizer), Dave Lippman (song), Sekou Odinga Black Panther former political prisoner, Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition), Jihad Abdulmumit (Panther/BLA former political prisoner, National Jericho Movement), and Kenyatta Thompson (Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice).” Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypLtGZfIGQY>

ProLibertad: Ana Belen Montes Social Media Support Campaign



**ANA BELEN
MONTES IS
OURS!
¡ANA BELEN
ES
NUESTRA!**



”In order to re-popularize Puerto Rican Prisoner of Conscience Ana Belen Montes' case and image, ProLibertad is going to start a Social Media Photo Essay campaign. This is a simple campaign where people will be asked to take a selfie holding a poster with the phrase, "Ana Belen Montes es Nuestra/Ana Belen Montes is ours!" This phrase is being used by Ana Belen's support campaign and family in Puerto Rico. It's our hope that by re-popularizing her case, we will be able to set the groundwork for the fundraising campaign we are launching in the Fall. It's our goal to raise \$1000, between September and December, for her transition to civilian life. We're trying to get 25-50 people to send us their photo so I can post it on ProLibertad's social media platforms, our website, and campaign emails.

I hope to receive all your photos by Friday, May 22nd, 2020. I've attached a poster you can print out (black and white or in color doesn't matter) for you to use! Please email me at Uriyoan@hotmail.com with your selfies! I would post this with your name and organizational affiliation”

Tues. May 19: Webinar Honoring Malcolm X & Elombe Brath and Black Solidarity with Palestine May 14, 2020 TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 AT 11 AM – 2 PM Pacific Coast Time 2PM - 5PM East Coast Time

“Join us on Malcolm X's birthday for an AMED Open Classroom co-organized with the National Black Education Agenda. The May 19th Webinar will focus on oral histories of the statement by Black leaders in support of Palestinian freedom and justice in/for Palestine, preserved and available to us from Black4Palestine. May 19th is not only the birthday of Malcolm X. It is also the date on which the great organizer and community leader and intellectual, Elombe Brath, passed away in 2014. The statement was published almost 50 years ago on November 1, 1970, in the New York Times, the statement by the Committee of Black Americans for Truth about the Middle-East, C.O.B.A.T.A.M.E. It is appropriate and fitting that we hold this webinar on the birthday of Haj Malik Al-Shabbaz. Malcolm X who was a strong anti-Zionist and a committed advocate for justice in/for Palestine. Malcolm X's late sister, Ella Collins, was one of the Black leaders who signed the statement (<http://www.blackforpalestine.com/1970-black-nyt-statement.html?fbclid=IwAR3qQQfTCI5Ifqi5cQsDDsy7p7nxJi8sg8l0S9w9MIYcaKYa7-4A9V5-CCc>).

We are indeed honored that Black leaders who made this Black support for Palestine a concrete reality will be sharing their wisdom and oral history experience. Confirmed participants include:

- * Professor Sam Anderson, National Black Education Agenda, who co-edited the statement and was one of the earlier unsung heroes who was penalized by losing his job at Sarah Lawrence College as a result (insert McGill Women and war stories video)
 - * Frances M. Beal, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Third World Women's Alliance
 - * Phil Hutchings, Chairman of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) when SNCC adopted its statement on Palestine and lost a lot of its funding.
 - * Professor Bill Strickland (emeritus) Afro American Studies, U-Mass, Amherst. Professor Strickland initiated and drafted the statement.
 - * Ambassador Robert F. Van Lierop, Esq, Secretary Treasurer of C.O.B.A.T.A.M.E
 - * Askia Mohammad Toure, Black Arts Movement, editorial Board member, Black America
- Future AMED Open classroom will be similarly co-sponsored and co-organized with community groups, including those in the academy and will address relevant issues. This is the third AMED Studies Open Classroom on Black-Palestinian solidarities. Please see the concept below that we shared to announce the open classrooms on February 15th-

<https://www.facebook.com/events/518-valencia-st-san-francisco-ca-94110-1115-united-states/black-palestinian-solidarities-pedagogical-implications/579390656125532/>

and February 26th <https://www.facebook.com/events/518-valencia-st-san-francisco-ca-94110-1115-united-states/black-palestinian-solidarities-pedagogical-implications/579390656125532/>

Concept of Black-Palestinian Solidarities-Inspired by the Spirit of '68 and the long history of anti-racist, anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggles, these AMED open classrooms/roundtable discussions will launch the next phase of Teaching Palestine: Pedagogical Praxis and the Indivisibility of Justice. Teaching Palestine: Pedagogical Praxis and the Indivisibility of Justice- <https://www.facebook.com/events/2348610735213905/>

(a) reflects our commitment to justice-centered knowledge production by digging deeper into the past, asking questions that might not seem intuitive or comfortable, and bringing histories of seemingly disparate struggles into the same historical imaginary;

(b) preserves narratives at the risk of deliberate erasure by maintaining our praxis of compiling oral histories and archival records of comparative histories;

(c) carves out spaces for intergenerational conversations that pass on elders' legacies of the past to the leaders of today; and

(d) models best practices in university-community partnerships in SFBA, the US, Palestine and elsewhere that are transparent, accountable and respectfully reciprocal (irrespective of coercion, intimidation or bullying.

Accordingly, these two Teaching Palestine roundtables will feature Black leaders who have been part of significant historical moments in Black Palestinian solidarities:

1. The 1970 New York Times Statement expressing solidarity with Palestine and a clear anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist perspective that parted ways with Black support for Zionism and Israel. (see attached below.)

2. The 60th anniversary of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was falsely accused of anti-Semitism following its statement on Palestine.

3. The 1968-69 SFSU Student Strike, led by the Black Student Union (BSU) and the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) with insistence on the demand for relevant, public and accountable education, including a school for Third world studies, and exhibited staunch opposition to imperialism and Zionism

4. The 2016 US Prisoner Solidarity, Academic and Labor Delegation to Palestine during which former US prisoners and members of the Black Panthers Party met with Palestinian freed prisoners and leaders of the Afro-Palestinian community in the old city of Jerusalem.

5. The Defense of California Ethnic Studies Curriculum and AMED Studies against Zionist and right wing attacks.”

Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET

“After Covid19, Worldwide Food Insecurity will follow! Who will suffer?”

blog radio show__2020_04_22_.mp3 This upcoming program will focus on the forecasts and concerns re famines that will be following this pandemic. Millions of African people will die. The poor and impoverished all over the world are at risk. But to paraphrase, Jeremy Bentham, for every problem, there is a solution. Our program does not support weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth or wringing of hands. We are about arming our communities with educational strategies for overcoming oppression
Special Guest: Margot McMillen, Terra Bella Farm

Also: Mark Torres, People Pueblo Party & Christian Duran, Student Organizer, Seton Hall Graduate

1. NEWS ANALYSIS - An anatomy of oppression requires an anatomy of colonialism/imperialism i.e. An anatomy of the American Capitalist System:

Ralph Poynter, Tom Siracuse, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin & Paul Gilman

2. COVID 19 UPDATES from the Pol. Pris. Death Camps - Ann Lamb(NYC Jericho), Gil Obler (Free Mumia Coalition-NYC)

3. Prof. Louie Liberation Poetry- In remembrance of Sister Lynne”

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/humanrightsdemand/2020/04/29/ralph-poynter-whats-happening>

As Coronavirus Spreads Through Prisons, States Are Failing Incarcerated People April 18, 2020

“As the numbers of confirmed coronavirus cases climb inside the nation’s jails and prisons, incarcerated people and their family members fear for their lives” See <https://portside.org/2020-04-27/coronavirus-spreads-through-prisons-states-are-failing-incarcerated-people>

Black Agenda Report: Group Demands Louisiana Prisons Be Evacuated

“The coronavirus is a death sentence on Black people,” who make up two-thirds of Louisiana’s prisoners, said Belinda Parker Brown, head of Louisiana United International. In a Black Is Back

Coalition zoom conference, Attorney Zena Crenshaw-Logal called for the “evacuation” of prisons in the state, which holds the distinction of incarcerating more of its citizens than any place else in the world. The first Louisiana inmate to die from Covid-19 “was a young man who was only in jail for a parole violation,” said Crenshaw-Logal.” See <https://www.blackagendareport.com/group-demands-louisiana-prisons-be-evacuated>

The Marshall Project: More testing, deaths, inside federal prisons

“28 federal prisoners dead of COVID-19. The Bureau of Prisons ramps up testing, nearly 1,400 federal prisoners and guards have tested positive. BUREAU OF PRISONS Desperation grows inside juvenile detention centers, where at least 150 teenagers have tested positive for COVID-19. USA TODAY A federal judge in Chicago Monday ordered additional “social distancing” measures at the Cook County jail. CHICAGO TRIBUNE Over 200 prisoners and employees at the jail in Riverside County, California, have contracted the coronavirus. Two deputies and a prisoner have died. The sheriff faces increasing criticism for his refusal to release vulnerable prisoners before the outbreak occurred.” See <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-04-27/riverside-county-jails-coronavirus-outbreak>

Statement in Support of Pennsylvania Political Prisoners: Building Upon the Legacies of Political Prisoners to Bring Them Home Abolitionist Law Center April 30, 2020 by Abolitionist Law Center and Amistad Law Project

“As poor communities and communities of color continue to wade through a gauntlet of crises, it is encouraging to see movements and organizations building and seeking solidarity to wage a concerted rescue. It is for this reason that we must now, at this moment in our people’s historical arch of resistance and struggle, extend a last ditch lifeline to our movement’s political prisoners who are on their last legs and in many cases literally their last breath; and who as seniors constitute the most vulnerable among us. Our movement’s political prisoners, who, despite surviving countless hostile encounters with the state’s security forces, are on the verge of succumbing to old age and infirmities behind the walls and gun towers of the empire’s Prison Industrial Complex.” See <https://medium.com/@abolitionistlawcenter/statement-in-support-of-pennsylvania-political-prisoners-building-upon-the-legacies-of-political-2da9185d9825>

ProLibertad Statement on Filiberto Ojeda Rios's Birthday

<https://youtu.be/b0Wa4QFO6pI>

“Click the link above to hear ProLibertad’s Statement for the Call to Action Celebration Of Filiberto

Ojeda Rios Life and Legacy!
 #filibertovivelaluchasigue
 #PRCALL2ACTION
 #Anabelenesnuestra We honor the life, legacy, and love of an amazing Puerto Rican revolutionary: Filiberto Ojeda Rios. Socialist, independentista. Internationalist. Former Political Prisoner. Underground Patriot. He was assassinated by the U. S. Government on El Grito de Lares in 2005. We will never forget him!”



As COVID-19 Spreads Through Prisons, Officials Use Solitary Confinement to Suppress and Silence Protests May 5, 2020

“In early April, as reports of deaths from COVID-19 began to emerge from U.S. prisons and jails, Aaron Campell posted a desperate 20-minute Facebook Live video shot using a contraband cell phone. The video showed sick people gasping and coughing on his unit in the low-security federal FCI Elkton in Ohio, and one of the small bottles of soap that was supposed to last each person two weeks.” See <https://solitarywatch.org/2020/05/05/as-covid-19-spreads-through-prisons-officials-use-solitary-confinement-to-suppress-and-silence-protests/>

Fifty years ago, Black Panther David Rice arrested in Omaha for going to church by

richardsonreports May 3, 2020

“Fifty years ago, May 3, 1970, David Rice, who later became Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, attended the Sunday service at the Zion Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Rice, raised as a Catholic, was not in seek of salvation but was at Zion instead to awaken the congregation of Reverend Rudolph McNair. McNair had been a subject of attention from Rice in the newsletter he edited for the National Committee to Combat Fascism, Freedom By Any Means Necessary, for hypocrisy in McNair's personal life. Rice later talked about his public battle with McNair. “I was working on our newsletter when I got a call from this dude who said a particular preacher had beat his wife in the Safeway parking lot. I got the lowdown. Now here was somebody church people had been trying to get rid of for years. I did know he had been active in the so-called civil rights movement, very active, and then he had gone quiet. Later on I found out that he turned to the mayor about his church receiving funds to operate certain programs. So for a time his quietness had been purchased.” See <https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/author/richardsonreports/>

Five Years After Freddie Gray's Death: The Resistance Makes Change, The Government Doesn't

A REAL NEWS NETWORK DOCUMENTARY
FREDDIE GRAY
 FIVE YEARS LATER
 01 MAY LIVE
 MODERATED BY MARC STEINER
 the REAL news network
 STREAMING ON :
 YOUTUBE.COM/THEREALNEWS
 CHAT WITH GUESTS 7:00PM EASTERN
 FUNDED IN PART BY OSI-BALTIMORE

“The people at the core of the resistance after Freddie Gray’s death are changing lives and building community five years later, while the government has done little to address poverty and isolation in the poorest Black communities of Baltimore.”

See

<https://therealnews.com/stories/five-years-after-freddie-grays-death-the-resistance-makes-change-the-government-doesnt>

Call for Art and Article Submissions: A Generation of Support Through the Bars – the 20th edition of the Certain Days calendar

“The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar collective will be releasing our 20th calendar this coming autumn. The 2021 theme is “A Generation of Support Through the Bars,” reflecting on the roles of political prisoners in social justice movements, historically, currently, and as we look to the future. We are looking for 12 pieces of art and 12 short essays to feature in the calendar,

which hangs in more than 6,000 homes, workplaces, prison cells, and community spaces around the world. We encourage contributors to submit both new and existing work. We especially seek submissions from people in prison, so please forward to any prison-based artists and writers. Deadline: Sunday, May 17, 2020” For more Info See <https://www.certaindays.org/contact/callout/>

US inmate with coronavirus dies weeks after giving birth on a ventilator



“Here at the Lakota People's Law Project, we've seen a lot and worked hard to address a variety of important issues over the past 15 years — among them criminal justice reform for American Indians. Now, in the coronavirus era, this problem has raised its ugly head again:

a 30 year-old woman from my tribal nation, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, died in federal custody in a Texas prison on Tuesday, Apr, 21, just three weeks after giving birth. The cause of her death? COVID-19.” See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/29/coronavirus-andrea-circle-bear-federal-prison-death>

Tuesday, May 4th – Letter Writing Dinner for Sundiata Acoli & Dr. Mutulu Shakur

“WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinner WHEN: 7pm sharp, Tuesday, May 4th, 2020
WHERE: YOUR HOME COST: Free

Normally around this time of year, NYC ABC would be printing May Day cards for our every-other-week political prisoner letter-writing dinners. Clearly, times have changed. We are now collaboratively organizing letter-writing nights with Page One Collective. And while the events will be collaboratively organized, instead of coming together at The Base in Brooklyn, we are asking folks to keep letter writing on your minds and keep prisoners from being more alienated than they already are by writing from home. Please post a photo of your addressed envelope on social media and tag us (with your return address blurred out) and we will share it, building digital community while our analog community stays indoors and washes its hands. This week we turn our focus to Sundiata Acoli and Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Black Panther Party members serving time for charges connected to Assata Shakur and/or her successful 1979 prison break and escape.” See https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2020/05/01/sundiata_mutulu_2020/

21 Apr - Bureau of Prisons Reverses Coronavirus Home Confinement Policy

“On April 20th, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) abruptly changed its policy for which prisoners are eligible for early release into home confinement because of the threat of COVID-19, advocates and

family members of inmates say, crushing the hopes of some prisoners who had already been moved into pre-release quarantine. According to multiple accounts from family members and the criminal justice advocacy group FAMM, the BOP informed inmates on Monday that it would not be waiving a requirement that inmates serve 50 percent of their sentence before they can become eligible for home confinement, despite earlier indications that it would.” See

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/updates-5-may-2020.pdf>

Despite COVID-19 Risks, Justice Department Opposes Compassionate Release For Reality Winner

“The Justice Department opposes the release of NSA whistleblower Reality Winner from Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas. She requested compassionate release from prison on April 10.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/updates-5-may-2020.pdf>

23 Apr - Ramsey Orta transferred to prison infirmary due to sickness

“He’s scheduled to be released this summer, but Ramsey Orta’s condition behind bars could put that in Jeopardy by Stephon Johnson (Amsterdam News) The advocate group WeCopwatch got word from Orta’s partner that he’s being denied cleaning supplies and was not allowed to wear a mask or towel over his face during an in-person hearing. The group believes that officers are purposely targeting Ramsey even though all prisoners are suffering during the COVID-19 crisis” See

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/updates-5-may-2020.pdf>

Headlines by Marius Mason

“We’re really excited to share new poetry by Marius Mason, via Fire Ant—a collaboration between anarchist prisoners and free roaming anarchists.

Hey ho, the world’s on fire!

And it’s still run by thieves and liars

Who build cities out of funeral pyres Hey ho, the world’s on fire!

Hey ho, the Amazon

The trees who feed us oxygen

Are up in smoke and gone, gone, gone Hey ho, the world’s on fire!

Hey ho, koala bears

Are burnt to cinders, running scared

And Exxon lawyers never cared Hey ho, the world’s on fire!

Hey ho, as Cali burns

We share the shame, but no one learns

That this is how the whole world turns Hey ho, the world’s on fire!” See

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/updates-5-may-2020.pdf>

Building Upon the Legacies of Political Prisoners to Bring Them Home

“As poor communities and communities of color continue to wade through a gauntlet of crises, it is encouraging to see movements and organizations building and seeking solidarity to wage a concerted rescue. It is for this reason that we must now, at this moment in our people’s historical arch of resistance and struggle, extend a last ditch lifeline to our movement’s political prisoners who are on their last legs and in many cases literally their last breath; and who as seniors constitute the most vulnerable among us. Our movement’s political prisoners, who, despite surviving countless hostile encounters with the state’s security forces, are on the verge of succumbing to old age and infirmities

behind the walls and gun towers of the empire's Prison Industrial Complex.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/updates-5-may-2020.pdf>

Texas “control unit” prison: New writings and update from Xinachtli

“We have an update on and two new writings by to share! “I will not equivocate — I will not excuse — I will not retreat a single inch — AND I WILL BE HEARD.

The apathy of the people is enough to make every statue leap from its pedestal, and to hasten the resurrection of the dead.”

Fraternal, revolutionary greetings, in the true spirit of internationalism and solidarity against all forces of evil, destruction and self-destruction, hoping this one finds you, family and friends in the very best, as it leaves me, during these trying times of not only the deadly Coronavirus COVID-19, but of the same deadly white supremacist pig-germ that now occupies the White House, that is as deadly as COVID-19 for our impoverished communities, and for the imprisoned, and poor immigrants seeking a better way of life, all pushed back by this sheer imperialist arrogance and elitism of the billionaire, money-laundering pig club that has taken over the halls of political power in the U.S. of A., a clear and present danger to all of humanity and planet Earth. Let future generations disown us and label us as spineless cowards, if we do not act to stop this insanity and madness!” See

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/updates-5-may-2020.pdf>

1 May - Stick-up on Rikers Island David Campbell brings us inside the horror of Rikers Island, and thus other prisons and jails, amidst the pestilence.

“It started with the phones. A few minutes before 9:30 on Saturday morning, mid-conversation with wives, children, friends, and lawyers, the lines all went dead. This was March 22nd. Visits had been suspended a week prior, so the phones had become our only real link to the outside world. Of course, the underlying frustration had been building for weeks, ever since the pandemic had hit NYC. The news from outside was eerie; it seemed like everyone was panicking, like the world was shutting down. We knew that once 17 of 24 Coronavirus got into Rikers things would get ugly, fast. Our fears were confirmed when people in our building began to get sick and the Department of Correction (DOC) staff showed themselves to be largely indifferent. The three guys in our dorm who worked at West Facility, the island’s medical center, started bringing us disturbing updates every evening, including the actual, unreported number of inmates in quarantine, which was growing faster than the medical staff could keep up with. When we heard the news that Ohio and L.A. – and even places with more despotic systems than our own, like Iran – were releasing prisoners, we knew our situation was serious, but also that we had a real shot at getting out. More than that, it actually made sense for a lot of us to get out – but would the people who made those decisions see it that way?” See

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/updates-5-may-2020.pdf>

SUN 3 PM EDT - Kent State Massacre: 50th anniv. commemoration

“Monday, May 4, marks the 50th anniversary of the Kent State shootings. Allison Krause, Jeff Miller, Sandy Scheuer and Bill Schroeder had the rest of their lives taken away from them by the Ohio National Guard during a student protest of the invasion of Cambodia on May 4th 1970. 9 other students were wounded, including my friends Alan Canfora and Tom Grace.

I want to let you know about three events that will take place SUNDAY AND MONDAY as part of the virtual Kent State 50th anniversary commemoration. I helped organize the "Kent State Student Activism" panel and the intergenerational conversation with Bernardine Dohrn. I hope you can tune in.” See “Kent State Student Activism: Past and Present — May 3rd at 3 PM EST

Live on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KentStateSDS/>

Live on Youtube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UC5Igj16C8W2EdowRyLwTLGQ/>

This panel will feature Candy Knox and Colin Neiburger-former Kent sds; current Kent State student activists Patrick Ferguson (Black United Students), Colt Hutchinson (Kent State SDS)

50th Virtual Commemoration — May 4 at 12 pm EST <https://www.kent.edu/may4kentstate50/50th-virtual-commemoration> This activity will replace the previously scheduled "in person" 50th

commemoration. The commemorations always remember the murder of two Black youth during a protest at Jackson State University Bernardine Dohrn: Looking Back, Leaning Forward — May 4 at 2 pm EST Live on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KentStateSDS/>

Live on Youtube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UC5Igj16C8W2EdowRyLwTLGQ/>

This will be a conversation between Bernardine Dohrn, leader of national Students for a Democratic Society and the Weather Underground in the 1960's and 70's and current Kent State student activists”

When Your Freedom Depends On an App

“On the day Layla got out of prison and back to her home in Georgia, she was told she would need to purchase a smartphone—not an insignificant task for someone who’d just completed a sentence, but Layla was lucky to have a friend who could buy one for her. She says she was at home in bed a few days later when the app she had been mandated to install under the terms of her release went off unexpectedly, the high-pitched warning alarm blaring as it sent a notification to her parole officers telling him that she was not, in fact, at home.

Panicked, Layla took a picture of herself and sent him her location, trying to correct the app’s mistake. The process would repeat relentlessly, she says, waking her up every half hour during the night. “I’d wake up crying,” she says. Sometimes, when she tried to authenticate her location or check in the app would tell her it didn’t recognize her voice. “I’d feel so tired, and I thought if I didn’t answer, I was going to go back to prison.” Soon, she says, she was “begging my parole officer to put an ankle monitor on me.”

The app Layla was forced to download upon her release, Guardian, is part of the latest wave of surveillance technologies utilized by enforcement agencies to monitor the recently incarcerated or those awaiting trial” See

<https://gizmodo.com/when-your-freedom-depends-on-an-app-1843109198>

Medical Expert: Federal Jail Intentionally Destroying Medical Records and Hiding Extent of Coronavirus Behind Bars Nick Pinto - May 1, 2020

“A federal jail in Brooklyn, New York, that houses roughly 1,700 people is destroying medical records as part of a deliberate effort to obscure the number of incarcerated people infected with the coronavirus and to avoid providing them adequate care, alleges the report of a medical expert who toured the facility April 23 as part of a court-ordered inspection.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/05/01/mdc-brooklyn-jail-coronavirus-medical-records/>

Chaos and Fear in Latin America’s Prisons as COVID-19 Spreads April 28, 2020

“As the coronavirus pandemic is starting to spread across Latin America’s massively overcrowded prisons, putting the lives of tens of thousands at risk, riots have been reported in almost all the region’s countries as inmates say their fundamental rights to safety and protection are being violated.

A riot was reported Monday in the Castro Castro prison in Peru’s capital, Lima, resulting in a fire and the death of three people inside the prison.

The number of people incarcerated in Peru is close to 91,000, according to figures last updated two years ago. Of the country’s 68 severely overcrowded prisons, 23 hold more than 1,200 people, although only eight have such a capacity.” See <https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Terror-in-Latin-Americas-Prisons-as-COVID-19-Spreads--20200428-0020.html>

At Ohio prison called nation's worst COVID hotspot by NY Times, prisoners punished who report truth publicly April 28, 2020

Members of the Ohio National Guard have been dispatched to Marion Correctional Institution, but prisoners say it's too little too late. The New York Times calls the prison the largest source of virus infections in the country. – Photo: Fred Squillante, Columbus Dispatch by Khabeer J. Brown

April 27, 2020 – I am writing this letter to ask for your assistance. I am currently incarcerated at the Marion Correctional Institution located in Marion, Ohio. As you are well aware – we have one of the worst situations with COVID-19. [“The New York Times rated it as the largest source of virus infections in the country, while Johns Hopkins University ranked Marion County as second in the nation for infections per 100,000 people,” according to a story published today by The Marion Star. – ed.] The last time that I checked – I believe that we had over 2,000 inmates infected with the virus. [Official reports say 78 percent, or 1,950 of the prisoners are infected. – ed.] Many of the faculty and staff have also contracted the disease – well over 150 people.” See <https://sfbayview.com/2020/04/at-ohio-prison-called-nations-worst-covid-hotspot-by-ny-times-prisoners-punished-who-report-truth-publicly/>

Women in ICE Detention Face Reprisals for Speaking Up About Fears of Covid-19 Debbie Nathan - April 28, 2020

“As Covid-19 cases spread though Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers across the U.S., immigrants locked inside are frantic that they could get sick and die. They are using innovative methods to tell the public about their fears, even as some of their jailers try to silence them, including by locking them in segregation.

That is what happened on April 21 to five women at the Irwin County Detention Center in rural Georgia. Using a video-conferencing app available to detainees in many ICE facilities, they called one woman's boyfriend, who recorded them describing overcrowding, deficient sanitation, and other conditions at Irwin that made them feel terrified about contracting Covid-19. One woman began sobbing as she begged to be released. The resulting video ended up on Spanish-language television, social media, and YouTube.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/04/28/ice-detention-coronavirus-videos/>

The Marshall Project: Over 70 percent of tested inmates in the federal prison system have COVID-19

“The response from the federal Bureau of Prisons to the growing coronavirus crisis in prisons has raised alarm among advocates and lawmakers about whether the agency is doing enough to ensure the safety of the nearly 150,000 inmates serving time in federal facilities... And even though officials have stressed infection and death rates inside prisons are lower compared with outside, new figures provided by the Bureau of Prisons show that out of 2,700 tests systemwide, nearly 2,000 have come back positive, strongly suggesting there are far more COVID-19 cases left uncovered. At the same time, the Bureau of Prisons communication policies are leaving families in the dark about their loved ones' potentially life-threatening condition.” See <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/over-70-of-tested-inmates-in-federal-prisons-have-covid-19>

COVID-19: What Are Revolutionary-Minded Prisoners Saying?

“This virus has knocked amerikkka off its "high-horse"—for the lack of a better term—as it has exposed the underlying workings of this system—a system which operates through racism, oppression, and corruption. A particularly astonishing contradiction ... it likes to propagate is the belief that it is the greatest country in the world. While the U.S. has the largest economy in the world, why is there a major lack of resources—i.e. medical supplies and the whole health care infrastructure—to alleviate the

spread of COVID-19 throughout the world?" See <https://www.prlf.org/letters/2020/4/14/this-virus-has-knocked-amerikkka-off-its-high-horseas-it-has-exposed-the-underlying-workings-of-this-system>

RalphPoynter: BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, MAY 5, 2020 - Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET
STREAMING LIVE! RALPH POYNTER WHAT'S HAPPENING BlogTalkRadio

CLICK [HERE](#) for today's show:

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/humanrightsdemand/2020/05/06/ralph-poynter-whats-happening>

BOOKMARK [this LINK](#) for upcoming & previous shows!

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/humanrightsdemand>

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 - Call in [1 \(347\) 857-3293](#) @ 9-10pm ET

"When 'THEY' threaten us with Trump, if we refuse to accept Biden, then 'WE' will threaten them with Trump, if they don't support National Health Care?"

Special Update: CHARLES BARRON "The politician we need"

"How can we defeat capitalism, if we don't understand capitalism?"

1. NEWS ANALYSIS---- An anatomy of oppression requires an anatomy of colonialism/imperialism i.e. An anatomy of the American Capitalist System: Ralph Poynter, Tom Siracuse, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Paul Gilman
2. Updates from the Political Prisoner Death Camps- Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho), Gil Obler (Free Mumia Coalition-NYC)
3. Prof. Louie Liberation Poetry- In remembrance of Sister Lynne

Thousands in parole or probation limbo

"They were told they can leave. Yet they are still there. Take the bureaucracy and regressive policies that have animated probation and parole operations and, with a few notable exceptions, compound them now that COVID-19 is here. In Texas, for example, more than 15,000 incarcerated people have been granted parole but still can't go home because they haven't completed required programs. And those in jail for parole violations in Illinois, New York, Louisiana and elsewhere have been denied the opportunity to argue for their release (and their relative safety) because so many courts are closed." See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/06/a-dangerous-limbo-probation-and-parole-in-the-time-of-covid-19>

This Friday from 4 to 6 pm ET -- Past As Prologue: Storytelling about Resistance to the Brutality of Incarceration

"Please Join us on THIS Friday, May 8 from 4 to 6 pm for Past is Prologue: Storytelling about Resistance to the Brutality of Incarceration. For centuries incarcerated people and others have painted a grim and gruesome picture of conditions inside prisons and jails. There have been countless reports, testimonies, exposes, essays addressing the brutality and violence that incarcerated people are subjected to daily. Often these terrible conditions have led to uprisings and rebellions by prisoners, Attica is among the most well-known of these. However it is far from the only example, the reality is that incarcerated people have and continue to resist daily and everywhere." See <http://bcw.barnard.edu/event/past-as-prologue-storytelling-about-resistance-to-the-brutality-of-incarceration/>

Mass Incarceration Poses a Uniquely American Risk in the Coronavirus Pandemic Alice Speri - May 6, 2020

“There is a fundamental flaw in the models that Trump administration officials have used to project the curve of the coronavirus outbreak as it rips across the United States. Those models were based on other countries’ experiences with the virus — from China to Italy — and do not account for a uniquely American risk factor: mass incarceration.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/05/06/coronavirus-prison-jail-mass-incarceration/>

RAPP: HONOR THOSE WE'VE LOST: Join us for a two-day vigil and graveside sit at Fishkill



Vigil and Graveside Sit at Fishkill Correctional Facility

Join the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign, the Parole Preparation Project, and Beacon Prison Action for a two-day vigil and graveside sit at Fishkill Correctional Facility and on the prison's burial grounds. For two days, we will gather to honor the lives of people we have lost, including those recently lost to COVID-19. We will also call on Governor Cuomo to release people to prevent more deaths.

Thursday May 7

2-3 pm: Gather in cars and on foot across from Fishkill
3 pm: Virtual Press Conference
3-6 pm: Vigil and Graveside Sit

Friday May 8

9 am-6 pm: Vigil and Graveside Sit

Join Us in Honoring Those We've Lost

Gather at Fishkill* on May 7 at 2pm or on Zoom for the press conference at 3 pm: bit.ly/FishkillVigil

Sign up for a two-hour graveside shift on Friday: bit.ly/GravesideShift

Post on social media: Use hashtags #FreeOurElders, #ClemencyIsCompassion, #CuomoLetThemGo, and #ClemencyNow

**If possible, remain in your car for press conference & put signs out your windows, candles out your moonroof, & wave banners*

“As COVID-19 continues to cause devastation and death in New York prisons, elected officials have done nothing to protect the health and safety of incarcerated people or grant mass clemencies to bring our loved ones home. Beginning tomorrow, we'll join the Parole Preparation Project, and Beacon Prison Action for a two-day vigil and graveside sit at Fishkill Correctional Facility. Please join us this Thursday and Friday, May 7th and 8th as we mourn those we've lost and demand Gov. Cuomo take live and death action.

Adjacent to Fishkill are burial grounds for people who have died while incarcerated in New York State, including people who have recently died of COVID-19 in prisons across the state. For two days, formerly incarcerated people and the families and communities of currently incarcerated people will hold a vigil to honor the lives of people we have lost.

We will also continue to call on Governor Cuomo to release people to prevent more deaths.
Schedule: Thursday, May 7th 2pm: Gather in cars and on foot across from Fishkill Correctional Facility at 271 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY. 2:15-2:45pm: Car procession 2:45pm: Drive to Fishkill Cemetery 3pm: Press Conference outside Fishkill Cemetery 3-6pm: Vigil and Graveside Sit
Friday, April 8 9am-6pm: Vigil and Graveside Sit Here are ways you can join us:
1. Come for our inaugural car procession on Thursday, May 7 at 2pm outside Fishkill Correctional Facility. We'll meet at 271 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY. The press conference will be on Zoom at 3

pm. Register here for Zoom meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GhNByru_RO6CPNOi3HISYg

RAPP and Parole Prep will reimburse all travel expenses to and from Fishkill (including rental cars), for directly impacted people and anyone who needs financial assistance.”

2. Sign up for a two-hour graveside shift on Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8.

Sign up for as many shifts as you’d like. We’ll have food, blankets and folding chairs at the site. Please reach out to Michelle (mlewin@paroleprepny.org) if you have any accessibility needs or requests.

3. Post on social media on May 7th and 8th: Use hashtags #FreeOurElders, #ClemencyIsCompassion, #CuomoLetThemGo and #ClemencyNow! in your posts.

After we live stream the press conference, we’ll share videos throughout the day of our vigil and graveside sit on social media.

Because of COVID-19, we’ll take extra precautions to protect each other, including by asking as many people as possible to come by car and remain in their cars for the procession. But please, put signs out your windows, hold candles out your moonroof, and wave banners! Please also bring your own protective gear (masks and gloves) and abide by social distancing standards throughout the whole gathering. Only join us if you are able and doing so won’t put you and others at risk.”

Send a Message to Palestinian Prisoners | Join us for May 16 Webinar on Palestinian Liberation

“These messages will be broadcast on Asra Voice Radio (Voice of the Prisoners Radio) on Thursday, 7 May, so the prisoners may hear them. For those prisoners celebrating Ramadan, these messages will provide additional support during this time and express the solidarity of Palestinians, Arabs and internationals of conscience with Palestinians struggling for freedom inside Israeli jails.

To participate in the campaign:

Send an audio message on WhatsApp for the prisoners expressing your support and solidarity.

These messages will be broadcast on 7 May by Asra Voice Radio in Palestine, where the prisoners themselves, their families and loved ones may hear your voice of solidarity directly.

How to participate: Send an audio message as soon as possible over WhatsApp to the following numbers: +96171469152 +96170970454 Please include your name and your country in the beginning of the audio message. Messages should not exceed one minute in length. You may send your messages in Arabic, English or another language.”

Join the Samidoun Webinar for the Week of Palestinian Struggle on May 16: with Khaled Barakat!

Saturday, 16 May 10 am Pacific/1 pm Eastern/7 pm central Europe/8 pm Palestine

Register online: <https://bit.ly/liberatepalestine> Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/252840772507550/>

Join Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network for the Week of Palestinian Struggle, 15-22 May 2020! On Saturday, 16 May, join us for a webinar with Palestinian writer Khaled Barakat on the illegitimacy of Israel and the defense of Palestine, Liberate Palestine: From the River to the Sea.

Register online to join us on ZOOM: <https://bit.ly/liberatepalestine> Event will also be livestreamed on the Samidoun facebook page at <https://facebook.com/SamidounPrisonerSolidarity>”

“Organizing and Rebuilding African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism, a Collection of Essays by Abdul Jabbar Caliph Edited by Sister Tomiko Shine

“At one time during the height of the Black Power movement,” writes Tomiko Shine, “it was common to find activists young and old able to articulate and analyze social issues in broad strokes of narration in regard to people of African descent. Voices such as Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, Safiya Bukhari,

Frantz Fanon, George Jackson, Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, Kwame Nkrumah, and many others. Thus, we place this work along the theoretical lineage to continue the shaping of a Pan Africanist governance as a way out and into the return of their place on the global stage.”

What is the work Sister Tomiko is talking about? A book titled: “**Organizing and Rebuilding African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism.**” It is a collection of essays **Abdul Jabbar Caliph** wrote. Tomiko did the precious job of collecting those essays, 63 in all. She organized them, into a book she has published (RAP Goals Publishers, Baltimore, 2019). The book has six sections. The sections’ title informs about the density of their teachings: Cointelpro; Jericho Political Prisoner Campaign; Muslim Prisoners; Political Prisoner Strategies; Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Baltimore City; and Pan-Africanism and Socialism. Not only is she the book’s editor, but she also wrote the preface, from which the excerpt above quoted.

Any conscious African or Global African should order and read that book. It is an enriching work from all perspective: history of Black struggle; philosophy; politics, of course; social analysis of domination; liberation strategies; African civilization; Black people’s contribution in building and enriching the United States of America, almost from scratch to the historical world power it became; incarceration as a weapon in the aggressors’ hands; a bogus justice system dressed in a fairness attire; etc. Most importantly, that book is useful for one skill present generations have lost and that the dominant education system does everything to wipe out: free citizens’ capacity to analyze the system as a whole, to identify those who are pulling the strings. This identification is critical for at least three reasons: one, it helps to clearly see the oppressor, understand his actions, and possibly read his intentions.

The second reason derives from the first: once you understand someone’s action and anticipate his intentions, you are in a better position to fight back. No matter the power of a human being or a group of human beings, as far as they lack supernatural strengths, it is always possible to find their weakness and strike at that angle of their fragility.

The third reason is more important than the former two ones: the system analysis Tomiko’s book teaches will be useful to the reader in all the other domains of life: job place; school system; economic system; international relations system; immigration systems in the Americas, Europe, and how these are used to keep certain groups as perpetual minorities; and even the natural physical system we live in, that a few equations govern. If system analysis becomes our habit, a part of our culture, the aggressor will find it difficult if not impossible to divert our attention away from the liberation goal that must be our unique goal, at this stage of Black people’s struggle worldwide today, in the present moment in the 21st century. Because most of us lack the culture of system analysis, they are reactors instead of actors. Every day in our community, we see the dreadful consequences deriving from not being trained in system analysis. They react to the aggressor’s multiple temptations that pop up here and there, according to his devilish plan.

The economy of our fight demands that we spend our limited resources wisely. Some temptations are just an artificial excitement in which we will uselessly consume our energy. Usually, the objects of those temptations are matters of small if not negligible importance. Show business, sports, celebrities, TV or Internet entertainment, provide those useless excitements on huge continuous flows.

They would never help you to grow your knowledge on the issues that matter in society, let alone a capitalist system, in which most Black people in the world live. Those real things include: monetary policy, central banking, constitution law, police responsibilities; military affairs, sciences policy; scientific education; logic and critical thinking; reparations and the reasons to claim them; Black people’s unity; the exceptionality of the African soil as literally the creator of mankind; the exceptionality of African civilization where prisons never existed, until white man’s aggression came and disrupted it. It is impossible in a magazine to present exhaustively the 63 essays of “Organizing and Rebuilding the African Working Social Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism.” We will not even attempt to comment all of them or even some of them. It is better that those who are conscious

and interested acquire the book, discover the essays and read them. For that, email abduljabbaessays@gmail.com to give a flavor of that wonderful book, we provide the full text of the 51st essay titled "Pan-African Culture." Please, read, cogitate, and share. "We cannot rest, we have work to do, take this book and let it be one of your guideposts in helping do the work of us," writes Tomiko to conclude her preface. Femmes d'Afrique Magazine agrees with our sister." From: www.femmesdafrique.net April 2020 Edition

Don't forget about Political Prisoners during COVID-19 Pandemic

There is a lot of news to read and much of it focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic. We just want to remind everyone not to forget about political prisoners during this time. Some of them are at prisons that have active COVID-19 deaths but all are dealing with lockdowns, loss of visits and restricted access to commissary. Add to that, a whole lot of stress and uncertainty and you can see the need for us to reach out and check in with them. We recommend checking out our Political Prisoner list or for a graphical display, check out the NYC ABC Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners which is updated monthly. Please do not forget about political prisoners during the pandemic or ever!" See <http://www.abcf.net/blog/dont-forget-about-political-prisoners-during-covid-19-pandemic>

The Little Africa Program on WFBR-1590 AM in Glen Burnie, Maryland

"Hosted by Mama Tomiko and Baba Ty, discusses issues of importance to the Afrikan-American and Truth-and-Justice community every Thursday at 1:00 PM (Eastern Time in the US). The April 23 show discussed sustainable Black Farming in the face of Food Insecurity. Guests included Sis. Atiya Wells, founder of Backyard Basecamp and BLISS Meadows Farm (<https://www.backyardbasecamp.org/bliss-meadows>); and Bro. Francois Ndengue, economist and director of Femmes d'Afrique and Hommes d'Afrique Magazines (<http://hommesdafrique.com>)." See <https://kuumbareport.com/2020/04/24/little-africa-and-app-hrc-on-black-food-instability/>

Webinar about the Bureau of Prisons and COVID tomorrow-Daniel McGowan

"Bureau of Prisons response to COVID 2:30pm EST on Friday May 8th. At this time, check out the Coalition for Civil Freedoms' facebook page as it will be broadcast there (using Facebook LIVE). Just click on the Live button on the page." <https://www.facebook.com/civilfreedoms/>

Black is Back Coalition to Host Webinar on Black Prisoners and COVID-19

"The Black Is Back Coalition invites all concerned with the #genocide of black prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic to a Zoom webinar. "Death Sentence! The State of Louisiana: Black Prisoners and COVID-19" Date: Apr 25, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)." See <http://blackisbackcoalition.org/event/death-sentence-the-state-of-louisiana-black-prisoners-and-covid-19/>

New Single "Imagination" by DJ Free Leonard from the EP "MOM"

"New Single "Imagination" by DJ Free Leonard from the EP "MOM" coming out on Wednesday 3/25/20!" <https://soundcloud.com/djfreeleonard/imagination-by-dj-free-leonard-mom-ep>

BANDCAMP SALE

"TODAY BANDCAMP IS WAIVING THERE REVENUE SHARE IM HAVING A MAJOR SALE ON MY WHOLE CATALOG 40% OFF CODE WORD SABBABH OR 10% OFF INDIVIDUAL PURCHASES TODAY ONLY... 28 DAYS LATER MY NEWEST RELEASE RECORDED ON THE 28TH DAY OF QUARANTINE NOW AVAILABLE LOTS OF NEW MUSIC COMING SOON WE WILL BE SENDING OUT A NEW NEWSLETTER SOON PEACE YALL OPIUM."



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De-Carcerating History with Mama Tomiko and Baba Ty on WFBR-AM 1590 (Glen Burnie, Maryland) by kuumba@verizon.net

“Mama Tomiko and Baba Ty discuss De-Carcerating History: Healing Across the Diaspora. Attorney, hip-hop artist and writer Bro. Kairi Al-Amin, son of Imam Jamil Al-Amin (formerly known as SNCC Black Power activist H. Rap Brown) speaks about his father's case and his effort to secure a new trial. For more information on the case of Imam Jamil Al-Amin, visit:

<https://thejerichomovement.com/home> <https://www.whathappened2rap.com>

<https://www.change.org/p/fulton-county-district-attorney-paul-howard-new-trial-for-imam-jamil-al-amin-fka-h-rap-brown>

Also, the following music video, which was shared during the show, uses an artistic vehicle to educate viewers and listeners about the case of Imam Jamil Al-Amin: <https://youtu.be/ArZ-HZCJYgg>
Bro. John Manurekiza, a Burundian-American agriculturalist living in the Washington, DC area, discusses community development in the DC area and in his home country of Burundi as well as the recent attack and murder of Ahmaud Arbery. A companion commentary by Charles M. Blow, The Killing of Ahmaud Arbery, can be read at

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2020/05/06/opinion/ahmaud-arbery-killing.amp.html>.

The WFBR show from Thursday, May 7 can be listened to on our Media Page or by clicking below: [Little-Afrika-WFBR1590am-Mama-Tomiko-Baba-Ty-on-Decarcerating-History-May-7-2020.mp3](#)”

In case you missed yesterday's show on De-carcerating History:

http://kuumbareport.com/2020/05/08/de-carcerating-history-with-mama-tomiko-and-baba-ty-on-wfbr-am-1590-glen-burnie-maryland/?fbclid=IwAR3QcUpDMooBqW4HIRJvK9H8igqf_AW7d8oqmu5Xsf-_jOhe8e3GgDuVqq0

**Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party Revolutionary Film Series-May 10th
12:30-2pm PST**



COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE FOR THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

REVOLUTIONARY FILM SERIES

(ON ZOOM) MEETING ID: 323-408-8056
PASSWORD: CCBPP

MAY 10TH 12:30PM - 2:00PM

FILM: MANUFACTURING GUILT
"MANUFACTURING GUILT" IS THE SINGLE BEST FILM EXPLAINING THE POLICE FRAMEUP OF MUMIA.

CCBPP WILL BE HOSTING THIS EVENT:

WE ARE DOING THIS TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH MUMIA AND TO HELP ORGANIZE TO GET HIM FREE.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT

WE HAVE A SERVE THE PEOPLE PROGRAM WHERE
WE FEED THE HOMELESS ONCE A MONTH ON THE LAST SUNDAY
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DONATION AND HELP US SERVE THE PEOPLE SEND TO:
[HTTP://WWW.CASHAPP.COM/\\$RAPPANTHER](http://www.cashapp.com/$rappanther)

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE !!!

“Join us on Zoom. Meeting id: 323-408-8056 password: ccbpp May 10th 12:30pm - 2:00pm film: Manufacturing Guilt. “Manufacturing Guilt” is the single best film explaining the police frameup of Mumia. CCBPP will be hosting this event.” We are doing this to show solidarity with Mumia and to help organize to get him free. This is a free event. We have a “Serve the People Program” where we feed the homeless once a month in Oakland (CA) on the last Sunday. If you want to donate and help us serve the people, please send donations to. [http://www.cashapp.com/\\$rappanther](http://www.cashapp.com/$rappanther)
All Power to the People !!!”

The Little Africa Program on WFBR-1590 AM in Glen Burnie, Maryland

WFBR 1590 AM Baltimore

Little Africa with Mama Tomiko and Baba Tyronne

Tune in to WFBR 1590 AM radio for a conversation on
COVID-19: Communal Preparation & Preservation

Thursdays, 1-2pm

<https://tunein.com/radio/WFBR-1590AM-Baltimore-s29972/>

The Little Africa Program features hosts Mama Tomiko and Baba Ty as they share important information and analysis to the Pan-Afrikan and Truth-And-Justice Community.

Call in # 410-761-1592

Women In Prison Need More Than Cuomo's Order To Help Against COVID-19

“Incarcerated women still face inadequate testing and an inability to self-isolate, and few will be helped by Cuomo’s announcement releasing pregnant and elderly women. Eddie Conway: Welcome to this episode of Rattling The Bars for The Real News, I’m Eddie Conway, your host. We have been doing a lot of reporting on the COVID-19 impact on prisons across the country. The one thing that seems absent from most of the media outlets is what’s the situation with women in prison? Women with their babies in prison, women in minimum security, women in vulnerable positions. So, joining me today is two people that have been working with prisoners, women and men. And so, Tia Hamilton, which is the founder of a magazine, The State Versus Us, and joining me also is Serena Liguori. Can both of you all give me like an overview and an update on what’s happening with women in prison? Serena, you start, and Tia, you follow up.” See <https://therealnews.com/stories/women-prison-cuomo-release-covid-19>

Isolated detention in a time of coronavirus

“To listen to my governor, Andrew Cuomo, hold his daily press conferences about COVID-19, I must sit on a cold, round metal stool inside a windowless 8-by-12-foot cell with a metal shower and toilet and an adjoining “rec pen” that feels like a caged, concrete patio. My room is designed so that I never get to leave it. I’m inside Upstate Correctional Facility, a supermax in New York state with a lot of solitary confinement cells.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/07/the-cruel-irony-of-social-distancing-when-you-re-stuck-in-solitary>

Stop Solitary Confinement: Oral Arguments in Ashker v. Governor

“Join the Center for Constitutional Rights on Tuesday, May 12 as arguments are heard in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal on whether the state of California violated the settlement in our case, [Ashker v. Governor](#), a federal class-action lawsuit on behalf of prisoners held in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at California’s Pelican Bay State Prison who have spent a decade or more in solitary confinement. Tune in at 9:00 AMPST on May 12 to watch the arguments first hand and join our tweetstorm, as we reject #solitarybyanothername. You can find the link to the livestream on the court’s website. Arguments will likely start between 9:00 and 9:30, depending on the length and order of arguments. To take part in the conversation, take a look at our social media toolkit, and feel free to use visuals and sample messaging. Following the argument at 11:30 AM PST, join us for a community-centered online briefing with attorneys Jules Lobel and Samuel Miller following the case argument for Ashker V. Governor of California. The legal team will share their thoughts about how the hearing went, you will get the opportunity to ask questions, and we will highlight action items to move forward.

Please RSVP to receive the zoom link and password. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ashker-v-governor-of-california-case-debriefing-w-attorneys-tickets-104673575482>

For questions, contact Dolores Canales, CFASC: (714) 290-9077, dolcanales@gmail.com

Hosted by California Families Against Solitary Confinement (CFASC) and Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR).”

Women In Prisons Say They’re Being Punished For Speaking Out About COVID-19 Risks

“Women say they’re being punished for contacting people outside about their living conditions. Activists are planning an action May 23 at Jessup Correctional Facility in response.

Eddie Conway :Welcome to this episode of Rattling the Bars. I’m Eddie Conway coming to you from Baltimore for The Real News Network. We have been looking at the COVID–19 impact on prisoners around the country. We want to focus for a minute on what’s happening here in Maryland. There’s been reports that... the last official report we got was that there was 50 some cases in the men’s prison and over 30 some cases in the women’s prison. So to kind of help us get an understanding of what’s happening in this state, we are joined by Monica Cooper and Nicole Hanson, and they both lead organizations as part of a larger coalition that’s addressing the issue of COVID-19 in the prison system. Thanks for joining me, Monica and Nicole.

Nicole Hanson:Thanks for having me.

Monica Cooper:Thanks for having me.

Eddie Conway :Give me an overview of what’s happening in the prison systems now. This is like in May. So what’s the latest in terms of the numbers and in terms of status? Nicole, can you kind of bring us up to date with that?” See <https://therealnews.com/stories/women-in-prisons-say-theyre-being-punished-for-speaking-out-about-covid-19-risks>

The BOP, private prisons and COVID-19- UPDATED 4:00 P.M. 05.08.2020

“The Marshall Project is collecting data on COVID-19 infections in state and federal prisons. See how the virus has affected correctional facilities where you live. Since March, The Marshall Project has been tracking how many people are being sickened and killed by COVID-19 in prisons and how widely it has spread across the country and within each state. Here, we will regularly update these figures counting the number of people infected and killed nationwide and in each prison system until the crisis abates. By May 6, at least 20,119 people in prison had tested positive for the illness, a 39 percent increase from the week before. Much of the remarkable recent growth in coronavirus cases has been due to a small handful of states—Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas, Michigan, North Carolina among them—that began aggressively testing nearly everyone at prisons where people had become sick. This spate of testing would suggest that coronavirus had been circulating in prisons in much greater numbers than

known, and that in the many states where tests have not been prevalent, far more people may have been carrying it than were initially reported.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/01/a-state-by-state-look-at-coronavirus-in-prisons>

Black feminism, mentorship, activism. Meet Assata’s Daughters

“When young Black people in Chicago are witness to oppression and violence, how can they organize to create change? Assata’s Daughters is a Black women-led organization formed by Black feminists and organizers in the south side of Chicago as a reaction to the violence in their neighborhoods. Through training and then participating in coalition-based campaigns, Assata’s Daughters provides mentorship for Black youth to learn to address the many social issues that impact their world. Watch our latest #YouthInAction film and find out how Assata’s Daughters fight for change and overcome many obstacles, including the recent fire in their Chicago headquarters.” See <https://www.assatasdaughters.org/>

Leonard Peltier

“Dear Family, Friends & Supporters, We have received many inquiries about Leonard’s health and conditions during the Virus lockdown. I asked Leonard if I could share his e-mail to board members about his conditions and he said Yes. I have put them as I have received them from the first Virus lock down to the 4th of May. And Leonard said to thank those who have written him and the BOP during this pandemic. While he has not been able to attend a Sweat Lodge, he has been able to pray with his Pipe and sends his prayers to all of you and his Native family on Pine Ridge.”

“4/20/20 7:05 pm

Hello Everyone,

As I said I only received 3 hrs. a week out of my cell Mon. Wed. and Fri. to shower, read ems and one 10minute call. and I can still receive mail. o.k. Board Was ABLE TO GIVE ME A UPDATE AND IT Looks LIKE EVERYTHING IS MOVING FORWARD VERY GOOD. It’s hard when you cannot get the news out there. And if everything goes as we plan it will be an awesome campaign. THUS FAR ITS ALREADY GETTING TO SOUND Awesome. just make it work is all I can advise.

As of last week, I haven’t heard anything yet, of course it’s still early and might hear something on Wed. nothing has changed in here for us so nothing to report. except just to send my love and appreciations to everyone who is working their butts off to get me home. doksha L.P.

5/1/20 2:22p.m.

Hello Everyone,

ON Thursday, I received a denial for compassionate release form the warden. All it said was "At this time" and no other reasons. Yes it was a disappointment but not a surprise.

5/4/20 8:34 p.m.

O.K. we are out supposedly out for two hrs,?? but still only three times a week, Mondays Tuesdays and Friday 's. My area of the cell block did not get out until 7:30 P.M. yes the Compassionate Release denial was a disappointment but it was a long shot but that there are other options for release under the CARES Act so supporters should continue to let BOP know that they are still advocating 4 me. SO, I WAS WASN'T SURPRISED AS SO MANY OF US ELDER IN HERE ARE UP AGAINST IT. Otherwise I’m still alive. We do need more letters to the BOP.*”

“As you can see Leonard is still positive and virus free. Sadly due to the virus the Oglala Commemoration Committee has made the decision to cancel the commemoration this year They advised, " _In discussions with the tribe. We decided it best to cancel the commemoration this year. Due to (Pine Ridge) rez border lock down etc, and lack of funds due to everything being cancelled." _

The board and I want to thank you for your letters and support for Leonard legal team and your merchandise orders that help keep the office open. www.whoisleonardpeltier.info Miigwech! Paulette and National ILPDC Board.” See <https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/>

Live Podcast Sunday May 10th -Free Imam Jamil Al-Amin



The School to Prison Pipeline in Pandemic Hyper-drive

The School to Prison Pipeline in Pandemic Hyper-drive: Resisting the Push towards Alienated Education and Lethal Incarceration, featuring in order of appearance: Dave Lippman (song), Matt Meyer & Wende Marshall (co-hosts), Daniel Reyes (Philadelphia Working Educator's WE Caucus), Tonya Bahwill (grassroots Philly organizer), Dave Lippman (song), Sekou Odinga Black Panther former political prisoner, Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition), Jihad Abdulmumit (Panther/BLA former political prisoner, National Jericho Movement), and Kenyatta Thompson (Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice). Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypLtGZflGQY>

Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio-Tuesday, May12, 2020 - Call in 1 (347)857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET

“Stop blaming the VICTIMS for the Covid19- “Colonial Virus ! “

"...New data from 29 states confirm the extent of the racial disparities... And Americans are blaming black people. To explain the disparities in the mortality rate, too many politicians and commentators are noting that black people have more underlying medical conditions but, crucially, they are not explaining why. Or they blame the choices made by black people, or poverty, or obesity—but not racism..... <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/race-and-blame/609946/>

Assemblyman Charles Barron is an American activist and politician who currently represents the 60th District of the New York Assembly. Formerly, he represented Brooklyn's 42nd District on the New York City Council from 2001 to 2013. A self-described "elected activist", Barron ran for Mayor of New York City in 2005. Dr. Aisha Fields was appointed as head of AAPDEP in 2007. Since then, she has been responsible for coordinating renewable energy, water purification, farming, healthcare and ecological sanitation projects in West and Southern Africa.

1. NEWS ANALYSIS---- An anatomy of oppression requires an anatomy of colonialism/imperialism i.e. An anatomy of the American Capitalist System: Ralph Poynter, Tom Siracuse, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Paul Gilman, Henry Hagins
2. Updates from the Political Prisoner Death Camps- Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho), Gil Obler (Free Mumia Coalition-NYC)
3. Prof. Louie Liberation Poetry- In remembrance of Sister Lynne”

Register for tomorrow's update on our "Fight COVID-19 Death Chambers" campaign

“Greetings Comrades, Louisiana United Inc. is fighting a successful campaign against modern day slavery in the Death Camps of the Angola Prison Industry. Prisoners are working, as we speak, to increase the wealth of over 25 corporations with contracts at this Death Camp. This organization deserves our support and input. We need to get the word out and make sure that the recent Supreme Court decision outlawing 10/2 juries in this state is upheld.

Kindly check out the website and make donations. Kindly forward their link with their petitions on your listserv. They have had a victory against modern day slavery. Let's help them augment it and stop the Black covid19 Holocaust in the state Louisiana.

Ralph Poynter, Lynne Stewart Org., New Abolitionist Move., NYC Jericho, Political Prisoner Wrkg. Grp-B.I.B.C” “LUI members and supporters are encouraged to register for an update from our CEO. Please do not miss this important online event!

When: Tuesday - May 12, 2020 10:00 AM Central Time

Topic: An update on the "Fight COVID-19 Death Chambers" campaign for LUI members and supporters ATTN: You must register in advance for this webinar. Please do that now by clicking this registration link . . . https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xZiD7MlK2abPvdAn2VYcA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.”

COVID-19 Cases at One Texas Immigration Detention Center Soared in a Matter of Days. Now, Town Leaders Want Answers. MAY 11, 2020

“Coronavirus infections continue to rise at migrant detention facilities in towns with limited resources. Some local governments want details on what’s being done to safeguard the public” See

<https://www.propublica.org/article/covid-19-cases-at-one-texas-immigration-detention-center-soared-in-a-matter-of-days-now-town-leaders-want-answers>

COVID-19 Took Black Lives First. It Didn't Have To. May 9, 2020

“In Chicago, 70 of the city’s 100 first recorded victims of COVID-19 were black. Their lives were rich, and their deaths cannot be dismissed as inevitable. Immediate factors could — and should — have been addressed” See <https://features.propublica.org/chicago-first-deaths/covid-coronavirus-took-black-lives-first/>

Prison Radio: Look Inside: And you will find the seeds of resistance

“On January 11th, 2011 Calvin Duncan was freed from Angola State Penitentiary after 28 years, time he spent fighting to free himself and others trapped inside. Calvin was a jailhouse lawyer who only has a 10th grade education but has taught himself law. He litigated and he won. And when he got out, he persisted. Calvin challenged the Louisiana long held practice of convictions based on non-unanimous jury verdicts - where men are doing a life without parole sentence with a 10-2 or 11-1 verdict. Anywhere else those numbers would trigger a mistrial. Imagine, doing life without parole when folks on your jury voted to acquit. Calvin kept fighting, confronting the courts and believing that these men, these lifers, should not be sentenced to a virtual death by incarceration. When he got out, he was determined to reach back in and bring them home. And he did.” See <https://www.risingfoundations.org/incarceration-in-louisiana>

A Woman Died of Covid-19 in a New Jersey Prison After Begging to Be Let Out of a Locked Shower Alice Speri - May 11, 2020

“A 43-year-old woman died of coronavirus complications in a New Jersey prison after officials moved her from an area of the prison where she was quarantined for Covid-19 symptoms into solitary confinement even though her symptoms persisted. Tiffany Mofield died on April 29 at the troubled Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women after begging to be let out of a locked shower, saying “she could not breathe,” a fellow incarcerated woman who witnessed her death told The Intercept. Mofield had spent about two weeks quarantined in an infirmary after becoming ill with symptoms consistent with Covid-19, but she was moved out even though “she was clearly not better, as she was visibly short of breath and extremely lethargic,” said Michelle Angelina, who is housed in the same administrative segregation unit where Mofield died. “She died right in front of my neighbor’s door and just diagonally from my door, about five feet away,” said Angelina, who declined The Intercept’s offer for anonymity to protect her from retaliation. “Many inmates are frightened for our lives and safety as a result of us witnessing Ms. Mofield die.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/05/11/new-jersey-prisons-coronavirus-death/>

Paying Humanity’s Debt: Cuba, Africa, and the Caribbean

“A US-CUBA NORMALIZATION TEACH IN WEBINAR TUESDAY, MAY 19

Webinar: Tuesday, May 19, 8:00 PM (Eastern), 5:00 PM (Pacific)

In Solidarity, Organizing Committee, International Conference for the Normalization of US-Cuba Relations, us-cubanormalization.org, Saving Lives Campaign US-CANADA-CUBA Cooperation savinglives.us-cubanormalization.org, New York-New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition, cubasinynjcoalition.org Register here”: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I8-I3XaYRfmzIK_8EvUxJQ

Bolivia: Inmates Riot Due to COVID Outbreak in Prison May 12, 2020

“Bolivian police forces repressed on May 11 an inmate riot in Palmasola prison, in Santa Cruz city. Convicts protested due to a Covid-19 outbreak among the prison population. The authorities at the Palmasola penitentiary said two inmates died last week after presenting respiratory distress. Local news

media reported the first deceased's autopsy revealed he was COVID positive and was buried according to health protocols. According to prison officials, about 19 inmates cohabited with one of them, all now isolated. Rodolfo Montero, National Police commander, stated the second possible Covid-19 positive case kept contact with over 200 convicts. "It doesn't warrant further concern," Montero affirmed to local news media." See <https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/bolivia-inmates-riot-due-to-covid-prison-outbreak-20200512-0002.html>

Release Palestinian Child Prisoners, UN Officials Tell Israel

“SPECIAL REPORT: Release Palestinian Child Prisoners, UN Officials Tell Israel May 11, 2020

UN officials call on Israel to release Palestinian child prisoners due to the coronavirus pandemic.

(Infographic: The Palestine Chronicle) By Palestine Chronicle Staff

Several United Nations officials called on Israel Monday to release Palestinian child prisoners currently held in Israeli prisons due to the coronavirus pandemic. The call was made by the coordinator of UN’s humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians on the ground, Jamie McGoldrick, the head of the UN Human Rights Office in the West Bank, James Heenan, and UNICEF special representative, Genevieve Boutin.” See <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/special-report-release-palestinian-child-prisoners-un-officials-tell-israel/>

Join us for a conversation on COVID-19 and race

“Across the country, the racial disparities in COVID-19 deaths have been stark. In Chicago, the disparity is staggering: 70 of the first 100 recorded victims of the virus in the city were African American. In “COVID-19 Took Black Lives First. It Didn’t Have To,” ProPublica Illinois examines this tragedy, interviewing victims’ loved ones, as well as medical experts and historians, to better understand the reasons behind their deaths. The report also explains why their deaths cannot be dismissed as inevitable. On Thursday, May 14, at 2 pm CST, join ProPublica Illinois Editor-in-Chief Louise Kiernan, reporters Duaa Eldeib and Akilah Johnson, and Dr. David Ansell, senior vice president for community health equity at Rush University Medical Center, for a live digital event on this issue. In a Zoom conversation, they will help bring clarity to a problem that is often oversimplified, highlighting factors that Chicago could have addressed to reduce the devastation — and that should be addressed in other communities facing similar racial disparities across the country. They’ll also answer your questions. This virtual event is free, but we expect to be at full capacity, so please RSVP here”:

https://propublica.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Eqkto4ILTT-iZDR3YOWiiA

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Campaign

Jericho is spearheading the “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela” IT (International Tribunal) 2021 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" is busy framing ideas about how to proceed with the charges for a tribunal and then bring that to main committee and start getting professionals involved nationally. The outreach committee

formed an academic team to help with curriculum to ramp up the program and provide primary materials.

“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!**

Get Ready for I.T. 2021!



I.T. 2021

(International Tribunal October 2021)

Dear Friend,

Please begin to prepare for the “International Tribunal” organized by the *In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Coalition*. At this early date we solicit your assistance in the brainstorming, planning, and donating. We value your input and what you do and have done for the movement and championing real issues impacting communities across America, prisons, and people of color. In

the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Initiative is the brainchild of Freedom Fighter and Political Prisoner Jalil Abdulmuntaqim (Anthony Bottom). Hopefully you will agree to assist, and if you do, please feel free to engage at your own level of comfort and capacity.

**Date: October 22 – October 26, 2021
Location: Medgar Evers College, New York**

Formally indicting the United States government and its States with historical, systematic and ongoing human rights violations against people of color, working class people, and the planet!

Outcomes

**Reparations Establishment of People’s Senate International Solidarity
Truth & Justice Commission to Free All Political Prisoners**

Contact your local Representative or:

Jihad Abdulmumit

Outreach Committee Representative

jihadabdulmumit@gmail.com

<https://spiritofmandela.org/>

804-304-8595

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

Jericho meets virtually to work on the campaign "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela/I.T. 2021". Due to Covid19, we are restructuring our meetings to online. For future meeting 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>

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

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

Political Prisoner/Prisoner of War, Jalil Muntaqim states in his blog “recently the Jericho Amnesty Movement embarked on a new national and international campaign to persuade the U.N. International Jurists to initiate a formal investigation on human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners. To further

demand the U.S. Corporate Government implement the U.N. Minimum Standards on the Treatment of Prisoners, and for the immediate release of our political prisoners. This especially calls for the release of those with COINTELPRO convictions who have languished in prison for 30 to 50 years. These political prisoners were contemporaries of Nelson Mandela; when he was fighting against Apartheid in South Afrika, they were fighting against Jim Crow segregation and second-class citizenship in the U.S. This Jericho campaign motto is “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela” and activists across the country are urged to join and support in whatever way they are able in political solidarity toward the building of the National Coalition for the Human Rights of Political Prisoners”.
(<http://www.freejalil.com/blog47.html>).

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

“Greetings of Peace!

“It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” —Nelson Mandela
The IN THE SPIRIT OF NELSON MANDELA COALITION invites you to join our campaign to develop an International Coalition to acknowledge, recognize and push for the release of US held Political Prisoners. The conditions under which US political prisoners are forced to live, and the length of their sentences violates international law and the UN Nelson Mandela Rules. In December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted its landmark resolution 70/175 entitled “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)” (<https://www.penalreform.org/priorities/prison-conditions/standard-minimum-rules/>). These Rules condemn the United States’ policies and practices of punitive solitary confinement, medical neglect and long-term solitary confinement. This particular international initiative stems from a call from Political Prisoner and co-founder of the National Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners, Jalil Abdul Muntaqim. Although efforts to present our issues in the international arena certainly aren’t new—Malcolm X urged such in the 1960s—this Initiative begins with a much-needed renewed energy, focus and commitment.

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

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

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

1. Agreeing to support by clearly identifying your organization and contact person;
2. Providing your accurate email and phone number (We will keep you informed of developments of this initiative); and

3. Partaking of the unique experience of collectively brain storming strategies to bring this struggle to the international arena and to the United Nations.

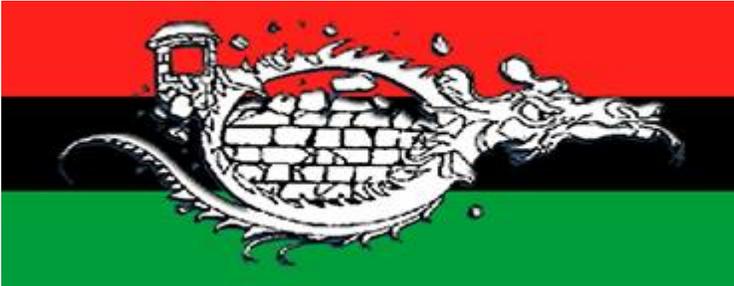
Your input is valued at any level.

In solidarity,

The National Jericho Movement

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Coalition”

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



Moving Forward

As we move towards accomplishing our goals, we seek to continue to form new alliances to help build a more unified front both nationally and internationally. We look forward to expanding our scope of services as well as increasing our dedicated members, especially reaching out to the youth to carry on the torch of justice for not only our beloved freedom fighters who are now elders **still** in these dungeons, but also for those Political Prisoners 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 prisoners 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 Prisoners/Prisoners 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/Prisoners 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/Prisoners of War, your support helps make this possible. We know it, and our Political Prisoner's/Prisoners of War know it as well. There is power in the people, and this is where 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 family's 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 superpower 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 Prisoners/Prisoners 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

**Please consider signing up to be a being a Monthly Sustainer!
Your Generous Contributions
Help Us Provide Real Support to our Political Prisoners!**

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

There are two ways to donate:

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

Please make the check out to:

Alliance for Global Justice/The National
Jericho Movement

Subject Line: Jericho

Mail to:

David Archuleta

Alliance for Global Justice

[225 E. 26th Street, Suite 1](#)

[Tucson, Arizona 85713](#)

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