

# The Dragons Fire

THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

in Fierce Determination Since 1996

April/May 2019, Vol.(15)

<http://www.thejerichomovement.com>

P.O. Box 2164 Chesterfield, Virginia 23832



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

Ho Chi Minh

## Revolutionary Greetings,

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

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

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

**“The trouble is that once you see it, you can't unsee it.**

**And once you've seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political  
an act as speaking out.**

**There's no innocence. Either way, you're accountable.”**

**Arundhati Roy**

## Jericho Movement's Current Work and Progress

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

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

### Chapter Reports

Chapter reports will resume next month we are sorry for the interruption.

### Jericho Highlights and Tributes

Our beloved sister/comrade **Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho)** who is a strong contributor for our monthly reports; known activist and long time fighter for the freedom of our Political Prisoner's, has had a sudden knee replacement due to a fall.

Last week Anne fell in NYC while going to a community meeting. We are happy to report she has had surgery and is recovering. She will be transferred to a rehab to begin therapy for her knee. We anticipate she will be there for about 4 weeks.

A funding platform is in the process of being set up however at this time the National Jericho Movement is asking it's generous supporters and readers to please offer a donation towards comrade Anne's medical expenses. Her medical copay is quickly adding up and she could use the assistance to avoid a massive medical debt. We thank you in advance for your kindness. Please send to Paypal: [nycjericho@gmail.com](mailto:nycjericho@gmail.com). Please add "donation for Anne's Medical"

### Chairman's Corner

#### RAMADAN AND EID GREETINGS FROM JERICHO 1998 until NOW 2019

As-salaamu 'alaykum!

Ramadan and Eid Greetings!

One significant marker for the passing of time and for the evolutionary and revolutionary ongoing growth and development of each and every one of us is the annual passing of the month of fasting and the celebrations that follow. That growth and development does not stop because of our captivity nor should it be impeded by distractions from our existence in minimum.

We live in a different social and political world today from that of the Civil Rights and National

Liberation struggles era. Some of the biggest differences are the complex diversity of thoughts amongst progressives, the erosion (not the elimination) of the ideal of independence, the objective of dethroning capitalism and establishing a system of government that truly represents poor and working class people (and thus everyone), lack of revolutionary movements or the mentioning of revolutionary anything, and the sophistication of the forces of repression. With the advent of Trump, it becomes clear that the menace of racism and oppression are vibrant and awesomely pervasive as ever. The more things have changed, the more they have remained the same.

As for Jericho, we vow to continue our efforts and struggle on behalf of all Political Prisoners, in particular those who have gone the length in struggling for justice, humanity, freedom, and independence. We are doing our best to monitor and tend to everyone's situation and well being.

This is done either directly or indirectly through various defense committees.

May this Ramadan find you with determination and resolve to remain the beautiful strong warrior you are. Regardless of your individual beliefs, we sincerely wish everyone the blessings of victory and success from Allah.

In solidarity,

**Jihad Abdulmumit, Chair, National Jericho Movement**

## **Political Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War**

**POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE MONTH**

**Please check Back Next Month!**

### **Medical Updates**

**Russell "Maroon" Shoatz:** 4 May - "Maroon is in the Hospital. Here is a recent health update: Russell "Maroon" Shoatz was seen today in the prison infirmary where he was lucid, able to speak, but complained of nausea, abdominal pain and was unable to keep any liquids or food down. He was seen by the doctor where the decision was made to send him to a hospital for diagnostic testing. The head nurse at SCI Dallas has been very cooperative and has kept the family informed regarding his condition. Maroon is unable to make calls, receive emails or have any visits. The family is also working with Maroon's legal counsel. The family is asking that you keep his spirits up once he returns to SCI Dallas by sending get well letters."

**Jalil Muntaqim:** Jalil's knee is getting worse. He will have an MRI soon to find out what's going on. Surgery is a high possibility. Please write to Jalil with encouragement and support or send a card.

**Maumin Khabir:** Maumin is out of the outside hospital and back in the prison hospital. Doing fair; but not well. His breathing capacity due to COPD is extremely limited, please write to him with support and encouragement.

**Abdul Aziz** continues to have serious health conditions, please send a card or letter of support and encouragement.

**Kojo Grailing Brown:** states that he still is not receiving the desired medical care that he needs. He has a chronic heart condition. Please send a card or letter of support.

## Legal Updates

### **Jamil Al-Amin in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals - May 3, 2019**

Imam Jamil had won a habeas that resulted in a hearing. The optimum desired result once the judges rule will be either a new trial or release!

"The oral arguments went well. I agree with the Judge who stated that our argument was "very well presented." Much appreciation as always to Attorney Allen Garrett and our entire Kilpatrick Townsend team/family. Once the transcript of the oral arguments are available, I will be doing a video breakdown of them from my perspective for you all Insha Allah (2). This isn't new. This is a vendetta realized and we must remember that. The support from around the country was beautiful and in some instances overwhelming in the best way. It's a blessing and Allah truly sends the help. I was feeling kind of alone because support wasn't present in places where I thought it'd be a given but masha Allah (3), Allah truly sends the help and we are thankful for you all. Now we will be waiting for the Court to make a decision. In the meantime, we must continue our efforts to spread the TRUTH. Also, Thank you to Doug Richards (11 Alive News) for his fair reporting thus far. My father called me during the debriefing yesterday and was able to speak to those present and his request was that you remember him in your Dua (4) and remember him to your friends, family and colleagues. Keeping him alive in the hearts and minds of the people is paramount to our success and so, that is exactly what we will do Insha Allah (2). Shukran (5) again for everything, this is just the beginning."

**Malik Smith and Abdul Aziz** of the Virgin Island 3 are awaiting transfer to Citrus County Detention Center in Florida.

### **Jalil Muntaqim**



### **Campaign for Commutation of Sentence for Jalil A. Muntaqim, Black Panther Party/ Black Liberation Army Political Prisoner**

"As many of you know, Jalil has been to the parole board ten times since 2002, when he first became 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. After the last parole hearing and denial, pursuant to NYS Constitutional Article IV, Section 4, Jalil 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 May Day 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 47+ 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 request that people do the following for Jalil throughout the month of May: (also see Call to Action section)**

On May 1, 2019, May Day, 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 May 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 throughout the month of May, 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](http://www.freejalil.com) and <https://thejerichomovement.com/>

**Parole letters:** Jalil will have a parole hearing in September 2019. To write a letter in your own words in support of parole for Jalil, address to: Senior Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator, Sullivan Correctional Facility, 325 Riverside Drive, Fallsburg, New York 12733

### **BUT SEND TO:**

Nora Carroll, The Parole Preparation Project, 168 Canal Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10013

The subject line should be "Anthony Bottom 77-A-4283"

We are making an effort to include letters of support for Jalil that are personalized and from people who are familiar with him and his work. If you want further instructions for how to write a strong, personalized letter of support, please email [carroll.nora@gmail.com](mailto:carroll.nora@gmail.com).

Also, please send a copy of your letter to Jalil for his files: Anthony Jalil Bottom #77A4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 116, Fallsburg, NY 12733-0116.

### **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

#### **Philly DA to drop challenge in Mumia Abu-Jamal case, clearing appeal to reach high court**

by Chris Palmer, Updated: April 17, 2019- 3:10 PM

"Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner said Wednesday that his office would drop its challenge of a judge's ruling in convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal's case, clearing the way for Abu-Jamal to again argue his appeal before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court." (See Article in Community News).

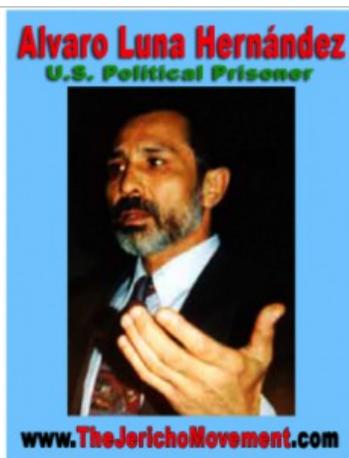
## **Birthdays**

**Please send a card!**

### **May**

**HERNANDEZ, ALVARO LUNA**-Birthday: May 12, 1952

Chicano Political Prisoner



Contact Information-Prison Address

#255735 James V Allred Unit, 2101 FM, 369 North Iowa, Park, TX 76367 United States

Affiliation: Chicano Political Prisoner Captured: July 18, 1996: 50 years sentence.

"Alvaro Luna Hernandez is a political prisoner of the State of Texas and the U.S. government. He is nearly 22 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."

**Kojo Grailing Brown:** Birthday: May 27<sup>th</sup>



**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

**JANINE PHILLIPS AFRICA-Birthday: April 25th, 1956**



Contact Information-Prison Address

#006309--451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238. United States

Captured: 1978.

On the MOVE! I'm Janine Africa, Minister of Education for the MOVE Organization. I've been in MOVE since 1973. I'm one of the MOVE Nine. We all were sentenced to 30-100 years for a crime we didn't commit. This system gave us these life sentences to try to stop MOVE. Since they didn't kill us when they attacked us August 8th, 1978, they figured they could stop MOVE by putting us in prison for the rest of our lives. But just like this system's guns, bombs, police, tear gas, deluge guns haven't stopped MOVE people from being committed to our belief, to JOHN AFRICA's Teaching, neither will this system's prisons. If I have to be in prison for the rest of my life, I will still stay committed to JOHN AFRICA's Teaching because of all JOHN

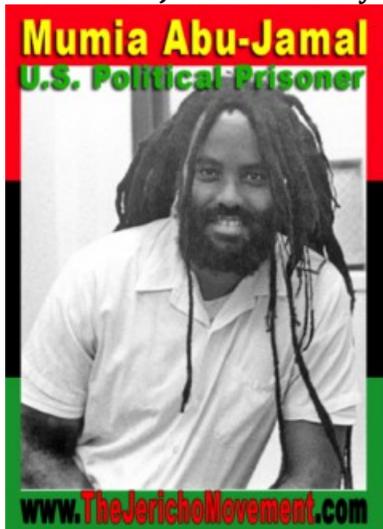
AFRICA is doing for me. I met MOVE people when I was 17 years old. They were having a demonstration and I just happened to be passing by. I stopped to see what was going on, I listened to them speak and what really caught my attention was the strength, confidence, and assertiveness of the MOVE women. They were everything I wasn't and all I could think about was that I wanted to be like them. After the demonstration, I approached some of the MOVE women and asked who they were. They told me they were the MOVE Organization and explained to me what the organization's belief is. They invited me to come to their weekly study sessions they held to teach people about JOHN AFRICA's Teaching. I started going to these study sessions regularly and listening to the information from MOVE's Guidelines and I could hear that what JOHN AFRICA teach is the truth, is right. JOHN AFRICA's Teaching is what I've been looking for because I was just like everybody else in the system, unhappy, riddled with problems, and desperately looking elsewhere for the solution to these problems. My search stopped with JOHN AFRICA.

I had a baby and got married when I was very young. I didn't know how to be a mother or a wife and trying to be both was driving me to a nervous breakdown. I developed a condition where my throat would close up on me and I couldn't eat. I went from doctor to doctor, hospital to hospital and none of them could do anything for me. I was at the end of my rope until I met MOVE. I joined MOVE and started living JOHN AFRICA's Teaching. JOHN AFRICA cured the condition with my throat and made me a good loving mother and wife, and made me a loyal sister to my MOVE family. JOHN AFRICA gave me strength, health, security and confidence that I've never had! LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA FOREVER!

I will never leave MOVE and give up all that JOHN AFRICA as given me, even if it means being in prison for 30-100 years! LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA'S REVOLUTION! On the MOVE! Janine Africa-----

Hear insightful audio essays by Janine Africa on Prison Radio

**MUMIA ABU-JAMAL-Birthday: April 24<sup>th</sup>**



Black Panther Party - Move

Contact Information-Prison Address

#AM 8335 SCI- Mahanoy, Frackville, PA 17932, United States

Affiliation: Black Panther Party, MOVE Captured: 1981-Life without parole

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

FreeMumia.com Author, U.S. Prisoner

**CHARLES SIMS AFRICA-Birthday: Birthday: April 7, 1956**



MOVE POLITICAL PRISONER

Contact Information-Prison Address

#AM4975--SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Road, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612-0286, United States

Affiliation: MOVE Captured 1978: sentenced to 30 to 100 years

I meet MOVE in 1973, and the things that I heard stayed with me for the rest of my life. My introduction to JOHN AFRICA'S GUIDELINES, opened my mind up to actually use it and question the nor, the constraints of every day life, the lies, the hidden truths in a world of constant dishonesty."

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

**JANET HOLLOWAY AFRICA-Birthday: April 13, 1951**



MOVE POLITICAL PRISONER

CONTACT INFO-Prison Address

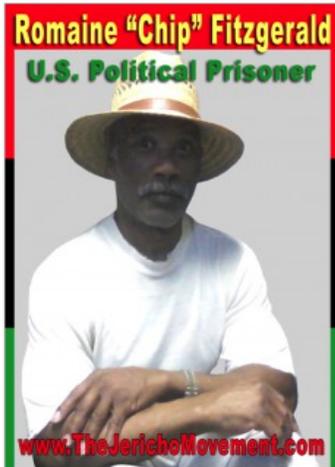
#006308--451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238

Affiliation: MOVE Captured: 1978.

" I would like to put one thing out there about the need for everybody to join this revolution. We always speak of JOHN AFRICA'S revolution, we speak of that only in terms of people knowing that this impetus for giving US the direction the drive to carry on this, but the main thing we always stress is THIS IS FOR EVERYBODY! ...So what we're doing is necessary for everybody to do on what ever level they can do it on!"

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

**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> U.S. Prisoner

**DELBERT ORR AFRICA-Birthday: April 7<sup>th</sup>**



**MOVE POLITICAL PRISONER**

Contact Information-Prison Address

#AM4985--SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Road, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612-0286, United States

Affiliation: MOVE Captured: 1978.

“ I would like to put one thing out there about the need for everybody to join this revolution. We always speak of JOHN AFRICA'S revolution, we speak of that only in terms of people knowing that this impetus for giving US the direction the drive to carry on this, but the main thing we always stress is THIS IS FOR EVERYBODY! ...So what we're doing is necessary for everybody to do on what ever level they can do it on!”  
For more information on the MOVE 9 see <http://onamove.com> and <http://move9parole.blogspot.com>

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

# Political Prisoners/POW's (Past & Present)

## Art, Writings, Statements, Interviews

Please Check Back Next Month

### Community Calls for Action

#### Recovery Help For Veronza Bowers

**We are passing on a letter from Veronza Bowers, #35316-136,** to the administrators of the Federal Medical Facility in Butner, North Carolina.

"Please take a few minutes to call the facility and ask that Veronza be allowed to stay in the hospital for another month to finish his recovery.

MORE: "Hi everyone. The following is the text of the request i submitted to The Health Systems Administrator, Dr. Hall and my Ortho Physical Therapy Team. Since i can't cut and paste , i am retying the entire text here. First of all, I want to thank each of you and all supporting staff for the very good treatment and care I've received while here. I came here to be treated for Lymphoma. While being treated, I contracted pneumonia. Thankfully, both deadly diseases were successfully treated. My most recent CAT Scan indicated that there are no traces of cancer anywhere in my body. Then I had a hip replacement surgery by Dr. Wheelless. Thanks to the therapy and advice from Commander Hall, my rehabilitation has been very good as well. Commander Hall asked me what my goals were upon completion of therapy. My goal was, and remains so, to be able to walk on my own two feet without the aid of a walker or a cane. At present, I still need the aid of my 4 wheel walker and cane. The reasons are because I still have a bit of pain and discomfiture in my trochanter which causes me to limp slightly so as not to aggravate the area of pain. I do understand, as Dr. Hall explained, that it might take up to a year or more to be completely rehabilitated. My point is I didn't submit to being operated on and to end up still limping. As you all know, I've been in continuous Custody by the BOP for 46 + years now. I don't have any problems being placed in any prison in the country, This week I was informed that I will be moved from here to the ONE ( a satellite FCI in this Complex). I have no problem with that either. My problem is this : Here, there are a number of men who assist me with some things I'm not able to do on my own yet, viz., my cell partner helps me daily with putting on my compression stockings and massages my feet at night to help relieve some of the symptoms of neuropathy, etc. I am requesting that I be allowed to remain here for at least one more month. By then, hopefully i won't need the aid of my walker and the cane. I am thanking you in advance for any consideration you give to this request."

Here are the e-mail, phone, and fax numbers to help Veronza's recovery:Email:BUH/Ex  
Retrieved from <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/updates-16-apr-2019.pdf>

#### FIGHT TOXIC PRISON CONVERGENCE

<https://www.gofundme.com/2019-campaign-to-fight-toxic-prison-convergence>

See you all there a great event and important to support our folks behind the walls

#### March for Justice to Free Mumia 11AM, Saturday, April 27, 2019 Philadelphia, PA

"March starts at Vernon Park, 5800 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA and concludes at 2 PM at the People's Sanctuary, 5507 Germantown Ave with a People's Forum to Free Mumia for more information: <http://mobilization4Mumia.com>"

ALL Out 4 Mumia April 27~Philly

11AM • Sat, April 27, 2019  
**MARCH for JUSTICE**  
Vernon Park, 5800 Germantown Ave  
concludes 2PM at  
The People's Sanctuary  
5507 Germantown Ave  
People's Forum to Free Mumia  
Mumia Book Release: Murder Inc, Vol 2  
Mobilization4Mumia.com / mobilization4mumia@gmail.com



**FREE  
MUMIA**

**Urgent Action Required to Stop the Takeover of the Venezuelan Embassy**

"You are likely aware of the attempted US-led coup in Venezuela that has failed. However, the US is ignoring that and turning over assets to the opposition. We, the Embassy Protection Collective (Colectivos Por La Paz), are staying in the Venezuelan embassy in Washington, DC to protect it from takeover by the opposition. We need your help.

The Venezuelan Embassy Protection Collective is approaching a crucial week. On or after April 25, we expect the illegitimate opposition to try take the embassy with the help of the Trump administration. We need a strong show of support to stop them.

As a step toward showing that support, we will be publishing the Declaration of the Embassy Protection Collective (Colectivos Por La Paz). We are seeking individuals and organizations to sign on to the Declaration. You or your organization can sign on here: <http://bit.ly/EPCDeclaration>."

For full details see:

[https://www.facebook.com/ColectivosporlaPaz/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/ColectivosporlaPaz/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**WE NEED YOU NOW for #HALTsolitary!**



**“WE NEED YOU NOW! Upcoming Actions to #HALTsolitary!**

**WE NEED YOU:** we are at critical moment to push #HALTsolitary! The Assembly passed HALT last year and there are now more than enough votes in the Senate to pass it (including 33 Senate cosponsors and others committed to vote). We can get the legislature to pass and the Governor to sign the HALT solitary bill, but we need a huge push right now to do everything we can to make that happen! Please join us at some or all of these upcoming actions and please spread the word!

**Largest #HALTsolitary Advocacy Day this Year: Tues., April 30:** Can you help us turn out people for our #HALTsolitary April 30 advocacy day in Albany? Please sign up here today and encourage others to do so.

**Key Preparation Sessions for #HALTsolitary:** For anyone from NYC planning to go to Albany for an advocacy day or who will otherwise be pushing for #HALTsolitary, it is imperative that you attend one of these training sessions. Whether you have been to Advocacy Day before or whether you have been doing this work for years or are just starting, we need you to attend a prep session so that we are all aligned in our messaging at this critical moment.”



Mon., 4/22, 6 p.m. at UJC, 40 Rector Street, 9th floor

Monday, 4/22 at 3:30 at Legal Aid Society, 199 Water Street – contact Kayla (KSimpson@legal-aid.org) to

RSVP Friday, 4/19 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at SRLP, 147 W 24th St, 5th Floor” For full list of Actions please see: <http://nycaic.org/>

## RAPP Advocacy Day May 14



*Join advocates across New York  
in Albany for an all-day*

# PAROLE JUSTICE ADVOCACY DAY

We'll march, rally,  
and meet with  
legislators in support  
of our parole justice  
demands.

Tuesday, May 14 |  
New York State Capitol

*Free transportation from  
NYC & other parts of NYS  
as needed*

RSVP here:  
[bit.ly/May14AdvocacyDay](http://bit.ly/May14AdvocacyDay)

Questions? Email [ddgeorge23@gmail.com](mailto:ddgeorge23@gmail.com)

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"Our next big advocacy day for parole justice will take place on May 14th in Albany. Can you join us? While our parole justice initiatives have gained ground this session, we need to keep the pressure on to ensure our demands are met this legislative session.

RSVP HERE TO JOIN US ON MAY 14TH. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdH8-6fp39stHHMTznfTKQn8BOPge4LpC\\_ILZduOnQ3a5SomA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdH8-6fp39stHHMTznfTKQn8BOPge4LpC_ILZduOnQ3a5SomA/viewform)

Join us, the Parole Preparation Project and others across the state on May 14th as we march, rally, and meet with lawmakers to demand an end to parole injustice and death by incarceration. Free buses will be provided from NYC and other parts of the state as needed. We'll also have plenty of food and advocacy materials. If you have any questions, please contact Dave George at [ddgeorge23@gmail.com](mailto:ddgeorge23@gmail.com)."

### **Meeting in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal held in Berkeley, CA Rally in Philadelphia on April 27**

"On April 17, Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner withdrew his appeal of Superior Court Judge Leon Tucker's decision to grant Mumia a new appeal hearing. This is a major victory for Mumia. The appeal is based on significant evidence of prejudice by the legal system that convicted him. This appeal can lead to a new trial that can result in Mumia's release.

Mumia is an internationally recognized political prisoner, author, activist and journalist. He was a political activist since high school and became a member of the Black Panther Party in Philadelphia. As a journalist, Mumia's reporting exposed corruption in the Philadelphia police department and its war against the MOVE organization. This made him a target of the Philadelphia police. At the end of 1981, the police accused him of a murder that he did not commit. In a trial full of irregularities and prejudice that saw "witnesses" who were pressured to testify against him, Mumia was convicted of murder and spent more

than 17 year on death row. Largely due to international protest, the court overturned Mumia's death sentence and on April 17, he was granted a new appeal.

Support for Mumia, many decades after his false conviction, has remained strong and on April 6th, over 400 people gathered in Berkeley, CA for a program called "Mumia Abu-Jamal, An Evening for Justice and Freedom." Speakers included, Angela Davis, Pam Africa, Alice Walker, Judith Ritter, lead attorney for Mumia and Jeff Mackler, Director of the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and member of the UNAC administrative committee. The program also heard Mumia speak via phone connection.

Now is the time to come out strongly for Mumia and push for a new trial that may finally lead to his release after decades in prison and on death row for a crime he did not commit. For more information on the case, please go to: <http://free-mumia.org>"

### **US Steps up Attacks on Venezuela and Cuba**

"The US has stepped up pressure on Cuba as a way of attacking both Cuba and Venezuela. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo announced that they will now allow lawsuits in US courts of "people and entities" involved with "expropriated US property." By expropriated property they mean property nationalized by Cuba after the 1959 revolution. After the revolution, as one company after another stopped producing goods and services, or worked to sabotage the economy to make the revolution fail, Cuba nationalized them to keep up production, for the people of Cuba, not for profit. [read more]

<http://nepajac.org/venreportUNAC.htm>

### **Urgent Action Required to Stop the Takeover of the Venezuelan Embassy**

You are likely aware of the attempted US-led coup in Venezuela that has failed. However, the US is ignoring that and turning over assets to the opposition. We, the Embassy Protection Collective (Colectivos Por La Paz), are staying in the Venezuelan embassy in Washington, DC to protect it from takeover by the opposition. We need your help [read more]" <http://nepajac.org/actionembassy.htm>

### **Free Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning**

"Julian Assange has been arrested and will be deported to the US to face criminal charges. Apparently, they want him for telling the truth about the war crimes the US committed in Iraq, which were revealed by Chelsea Manning. Part of what was revealed was the "Collateral Murder" video that was played at the first UNAC conference and introduced by Ethan McCord who was a soldier on the ground as the US military shot and killed Iraqi civilians from a helicopter and then killed the first responders as they came to help. As they were shooting, you can hear the US soldiers laughing as the people on the ground tried to scatter and many fell to their death. The video of Ethan McCord at the UNAC conference can be seen here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvROT1QG5JI&fbclid=IwAR0vu-9s-VHI9qbASvu7\\_FN3vRnCqibNQHECIY\\_RqeorzvX2GFkOZgO2PIg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvROT1QG5JI&fbclid=IwAR0vu-9s-VHI9qbASvu7_FN3vRnCqibNQHECIY_RqeorzvX2GFkOZgO2PIg)

This "Collateral Murder" video was released by Chelsea Manning to WikiLeaks. Today Manning sits in jail, unwilling to be questioned by a grand jury trying to get evidence to prosecute Julian Assange. Manning and Assange are heroes of the movement.

It was nice to see that Julian Assange would not willingly surrender to the UK police thugs and they required 7 thugs to carry him out.

What right does the US have to charge someone who is not a citizen of the US for revealing war crimes? Why is the media not standing behind him? This is an attack on the first amendment rights of all of us. The movement for peace and justice must come together and support Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning. UNAC statement from August, 2018 in support of Julian Assange.

UNAC urges all groups to organize actions in support of Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning. If you are holding an action in their support, please let us know by clicking here

<https://www.unacpeace.org/assange.html>."

**SF Rally: Free Assange & Manning! Join the ANSWER Coalition at this important action.**

**ANSWER COALITION-SAN FRANCISCO ACTION-Fri. May 3, 4pm**

UK Consulate, 1 Sansome St., San Francisco

March to Federal Building, 7th St. and Mission

World Press Freedom Day of Action for Journalists and Whistleblowers

Stand Up for Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning!

**California signatures needed to hold police accountable for in-custody deaths**

"We have a serious problem. Police disproportionately kill unarmed black and indigenous people.

Despite high profile cases of police violence that make the news, law enforcement officers often withhold or cover up information about their crimes against civilians. What little data is available on deaths that occur in custody is not even available to the public.

However, the Death in Custody Recording Act (DICRA) requires police to report on civilian deaths in custody, no matter the cause. Police departments routinely fail to comply with DICRA, and the DOJ refuses to hold them to the bare minimum standard of reporting.

The public deserves to know the truth about deaths that occur in custody. Sign the petition: The Justice Department must require police departments to accurately report civilian in-custody deaths and publicly share the data." Please sign here:

[https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-the-justice-department-must-publicly-hold-police-accountable-for-the-deaths-of-civilians-in-custody-2?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-the-justice-department-must-publicly-hold-police-accountable-for-the-deaths-of-civilians-in-custody-2?source=direct_link&)

**Jalil Muntaquim: We request that people do the following for Jalil throughout the month of May:**

On May 1, 2019, May Day, 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 May 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 throughout the month of May, 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](http://www.freejalil.com) and

<https://thejerichomovement.com/>

Click here to download a pamphlet to distribute to your family, friends, neighbors, faith group, etc."

**Parole letters:**

Jalil will have a parole hearing in September 2019. To write a letter in you own words in support of parole for Jalil, address to:

Senior Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator

Sullivan Correctional Facility

325 Riverside Drive

Fallsburg, New York 12733

**BUT SEND TO:**

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

We are making an effort to include letters of support for Jalil that are personalized and from people who are familiar with him and his work.

If you want further instructions for how to write a strong, personalized letter of support, please email [carroll.nora@gmail.com](mailto:carroll.nora@gmail.com).

Also, please send a copy of your letter to Jalil for his files: Anthony Jalil Bottom #77A4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 116, Fallsburg, NY 12733-0116."

### **Free Julian Assange: International Day of Action Thurs. May 2NYC**

"On May 2, Julian Assange is facing a preliminary hearing to be held in London on extradition proceedings where he is currently incarcerated at Belmarsh Prison, known as Britain's Guantanamo, and is threatened with extradition to the United States where he is facing prosecution for publishing documents that exposed US war crimes and corporate corruption.

It is important that those of us seeking to Free Julian Assange be highly visible in expressing our opposition to the political persecution of a publisher who has reported some of the most important stories of this century and has created a democratized media that empowers people and breaks the stranglehold of corporate domination of the media.

Please join with fellow New Yorkers as we participate in an International Day of Action to Free Assange.

Free Assange: International Day of Action NYC-Thursday, May 2, 2019 -British Consulate

885 Second Avenue-4:30 pm to 6:00 Chuck Zlatkin, Bernadette Evangelist, and Patricia Dahl

<https://www.facebook.com/events/353890631916913/> "

### **Nina Droz Franco requests our help-April 16**

"Some comrades recently received a letter from Nina stating that she is being prevented from receiving all of her mail, and the pieces she is receiving are incomplete or mutilated. MORE:

16 of 22 Letters are also being returned to sender as "damaged" and undeliverable. Judging from the content of her reply, we believe she hasn't received the letters sent to her from our recent letter writing party. Nina has initiated an investigation at FCI Tallahassee and she intends to see it through to the end. This is part of a pattern of targeted harassment that Nina has received since the beginning of her incarceration, including physical assaults by corrections officers. What she has asked us to do: She's aware that folks are posting images of their returned mail to social media. Find these posts and take screenshots, etc. Ask for these people's testimony or pictures of their returned mail and any attached Bureau of Prisons paperwork explaining the return. Email it to [abcfc@disroot.org](mailto:abcfc@disroot.org), after which we will take care of all printing and shipping. Alternatively, you can write her a letter and see if it bounces back. If it does, hit us up with a picture of the rejected envelope, paperwork, et cetera. She needs this documentation to go forward with the formal investigation process. Most likely this will be a drawn out fight. Please spread word of this effort to anyone who may have written to Nina recently."

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/updates-30-apr-2019.pdf>

### **Support Palestinian Hunger Strikers + Samidoun Under Attack: Paypal Complicity in Silencing Palestinian Prisoners-Take Action: Six Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike against administrative detention!**

"There are currently six Palestinian prisoners engaged in hunger strikes inside Israeli prison. They are striking against administrative detention, imprisonment without charge and without trial, indefinitely renewable for periods of up to six months at a time. These prisoners have been on hunger strike for weeks and are suffering from severe health consequences; their bodies and lives are on the line to demand their

freedom. **Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network urges all supporters of freedom and justice to take action and join the campaign** to support Hossam al-Ruzza and his fellow hunger strikers for justice and liberation." For full article, fliers, brochures see: <https://samidoun.net/2019/04/take-action-six-palestinian-prisoners-on-hunger-strike-against-administrative-detention/>

**CALL FOR ACTION: Message from the Venezuelan Embassy Protection Collective**

"We are still writing to you from the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, DC where we are here as the Embassy Protection Collective with the full permission of the Venezuelan government. We have the grave responsibility to hold this space from takeover by the opposition, which would happen with the assistance of US law enforcement, until the Venezuelan government can complete negotiations with the United States over the status of their respective embassies.

What hangs in the balance is the possibility of a peaceful and orderly resolution to the end of diplomatic relations, and perhaps an entry to further negotiations, or, an escalation of aggression between the United States and Venezuela that could spiral into greater global conflict. Every moment, we are doing what we can to maintain a strong physical presence at the embassy, create a positive image of our collective and counter opposition tactics.

**\*Support the Embassy Protection Collective by signing the Declaration**

<<https://popularresistance.us2.list-manage.com/track/clicku=33602bebbba8fb7dd6e71fb413&id=81502243ee&e=7f8afc5840>>,

**\*volunteering to participate**

<<https://popularresistance.us2.list-manage.com/track/clicku=33602bebbba8fb7dd6e71fb413&id=0b905255c5&e=7f8afc5840>>,

**\*and/or donating money**

<<https://popularresistance.us2.list-manage.com/track/clicku=33602bebbba8fb7dd6e71fb413&id=7f2dfc32fe&e=7f8afc5840>>

**\*or supplies.** You can contact us at [info@popularresistance.org](mailto:info@popularresistance.org) <[info@popularresistance.org](mailto:info@popularresistance.org)>.

\*This newsletter is also available on the web here

<<https://popularresistance.us2.list-manage.com/track/clicku=33602bebbba8fb7dd6e71fb413&id=df0c5567d5&e=7f8afc5840>> "

**OAKLAND, CA- MAY DAY**

NO BAN. NO WALL. HUMAN RIGHTS & SANCTUARY FOR ALL. NO BORDERS. NO DEPORTATIONS. NO FAMILY SEPARATIONS. MARCH and STRIKE for IMMIGRANT & WORKERS' RIGHTS JOIN US FOR MAY DAY 2019!

**GLOBAL**  **SHUT IT DOWN**  
**MAY 1** **مع باارضاً**  
**STRIKE** **HUELGA GENERAL**  
**GENERAL STRIKE** **γενική απεργία**

"May 1st is International Workers' Day around the world. It is a commemoration of the workers of Chicago, who on May 4, 1886 in Market Square, were brutally repressed by the police, some were arrested and hanged. The United States is one of the most oppressive countries, not only nationally, but also

internationally through aggressive imperialism and global exploitation of the working class. And it is the only country that does not recognize May 1st as International Workers' Day. This May Day 2019, we gather in Oakland, on indigenous Ohlone land, to show our solidarity with workers around the world and demand that the US stop its racist policies towards communities of color, and stop demonizing and criminalizing migrants forced to flee their countries. We, the workers of the world, fight together to dismantle the racism, xenophobia, and classism that divides us, and we will win! This is why we march every year. Join our movement driven by people power!

ILWU LONG SHOREMAN RALLY & MARCH

Join ILWU to defend port jobs and demand accountability to the communities of Oakland! Tax the port to fund Public Schools

WHEN: 11am on May Day WHERE: Howard Terminal, Oakland (Market St. & Embarcadero)

ILWU & OSF CULTURAL RALLY & CHILDRENS GATHERING

Join ILWU and Oakland Sin Fronteras (OSF) as we come together to share culture and build as workers, migrants and Oakland Community to build people power. Abundant Beginnings will also hold a space for children and youth interested in creating signs, learning chants, and other May Day Activities! Cultural Performers, speakers, drumming circle for kids and youth led by Boomshake and much more.

WHEN: 2-3:30pm on May Day WHERE: Oscar Grant Plaza

OAKLAND SIN FRONTERAS INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY MOBILIZATION!

Join Oakland Sin Fronteras as we bring together Bay Area Community to build people power in the streets for International Workers Day. We come together in Unity with Third World People across the world standing for Worker's Rights!

Opening Rally at Oscar Grant Plaza WHEN: 3:30-4pm WHERE: Oscar Grant Plaza

March to Lake Merritt

WHEN: 4pm WHERE: March down 14th St to Lake Merritt Amphitheater

Closing Rally & Resource Fair

Includes Food, Speakers, Performers, Resource Tables

WHEN: 5:30-6:30pm WHERE: Lake Merritt Amphitheater

For more information, please see our Oakland Sin Fronteras Page"

### **Facebook must be held accountable for harming Black users.**

"Facebook and Mark Zuckerberg have repeatedly promised to fix their broken policies that have, all too often, allowed open white supremacy to remain while silencing the Black activists who call out anti-Black violence. This is just the tip of the iceberg; Facebook's failure to adequately tackle misinformation, discrimination, violent movements, and data breaches are putting Black users at risk.

It will take more than promises to keep us safe. We must address the dangerous concentration of corporate power that allows Facebook to operate on the whims of a single person. On May 30th, we have a huge opportunity to demand change at Facebook. One company is key to shaking up Facebook's governance: BlackRock. BlackRock is one of the largest outside shareholders of Facebook. If we can get them to join other major investors in voting against Mark Zuckerberg for the Board of Directors, we will trigger a public reckoning of Facebook's harmful power structure.

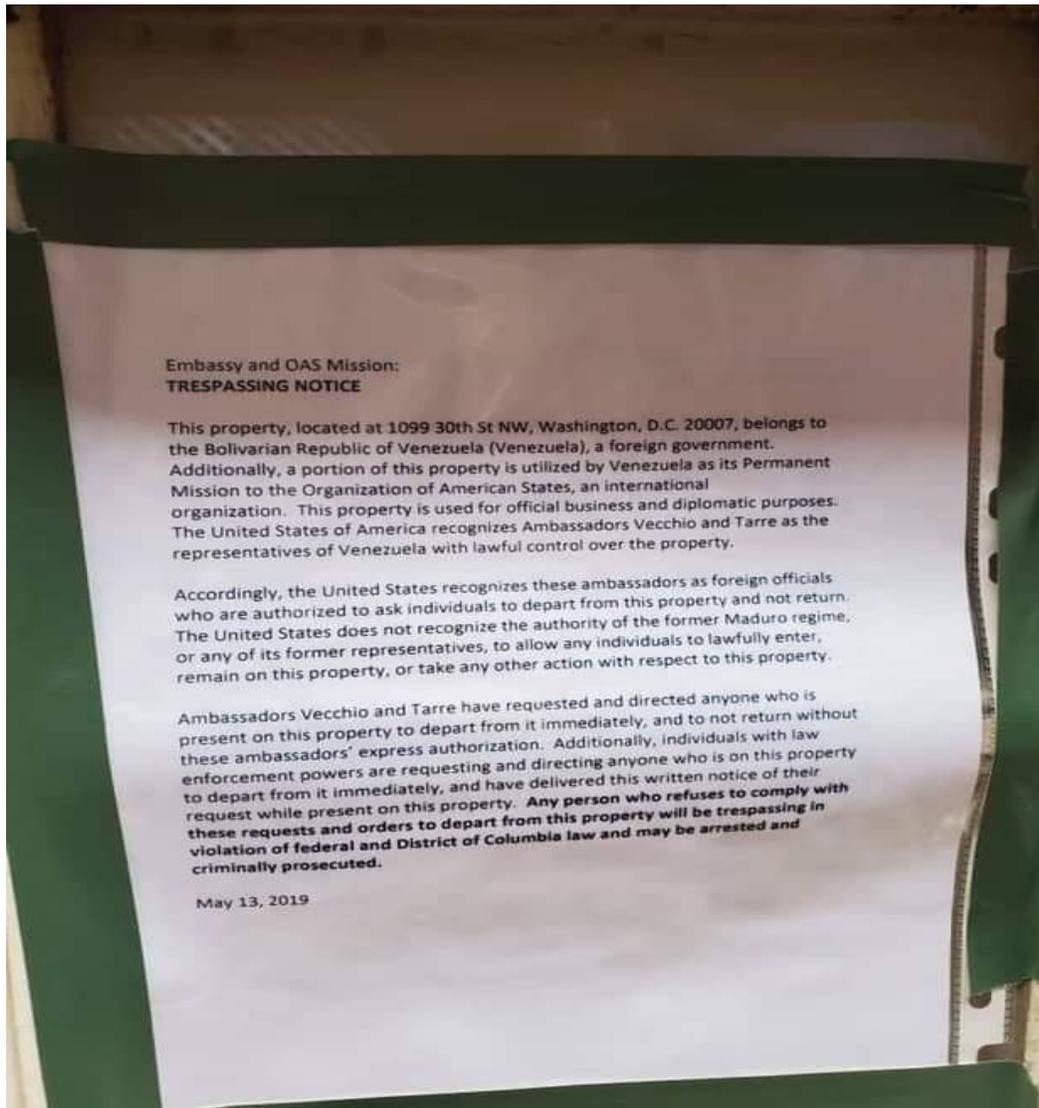
Tell one of Facebook's biggest shareholders — BlackRock — to vote NO on Mark Zuckerberg at the shareholder meeting."

<https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/BlackRock/?t=3&akid=29900%2E3038170%2E6giwkP>

**"WE CALL ON ALL DEFENDERS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND PEACE TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE US EMBASSY IN THEIR COUNTRY AND PROTEST AGAINST THE ILLEGAL ACT BEING COMMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!** A few minutes ago, we

received this text message from one of the protectors from inside the Embassy: "We are about to be arrested on the order of a fake ambassador of a failed US coup in violation of the Vienna Convention. The US will regret this decision."

The US police has started to raid the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington DC. Earlier they tapped the following notice — which has no seal, no signature, and even no header — to the Embassy door and after that they began to cut the chains off the doors:"



**Call for Art and Article Submissions: Knitting Together the Struggles: A call for art and article submissions for the 2020 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar.**

"The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar collective ([certaindays.org](http://certaindays.org)) is releasing its 19th calendar this coming fall. The theme for 2020 is "Knitting Together the Struggles," reflecting on the ways that different movements and groups can work toward a common goal of liberation. We are looking for 12 works of art and 12 short articles to feature in the calendar, which hangs in more than 5,000 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 prisoners –please forward to any prison-based artists and writers.

**THEME GUIDELINES:** We often talk about the importance of "intersectionality" in our social justice work, but are we really practicing it? We have been inspired by examples of organizing that reaches across borders, across generations, across struggles. At the same time, we have seen groups confronted with

major splits based on miscommunication, privilege, competing needs, and incompatible visions. How can we address these very significant challenges in working to build a better world, together? What historical and current successes or missteps can we learn from? We would love to hear practical examples of groups who are grappling with these ideas and making new connections.

Some topics that could be explored include: Organizing across borders and in different geographical locations, Making connections across prison walls, Sustaining our fellow organizers as they move through different life phases and challenges, Supporting prisoners, and families of prisoners in their activism, The intersection of Indigenous and environmental struggles, Confronting privilege, racism, ableism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia in organizing circles, Bridging the gap between tactical campaigns and revolutionary change, Indigenous healing and other non-western health practices and projects, Examples of intergenerational groups and how they work together Making tangible links between local and global struggles.

**FORMAT GUIDELINES ARTICLES:** 500 words max. If you submit a longer piece, we will have to edit for length. Poetry is also welcome but needs to be shorter than 500 words to accommodate layout. Please include a suggested title.

**ART:**1. The calendar is 11" tall by 8.5" wide, so art with a 'portrait' orientation is preferred. Some pieces may be printed with a border, so it need not fit those dimensions exactly. 2. We are interested in a diversity of media (paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, computer-designed graphics, collage, etcetera). 3. The calendar is printed in color and we prefer color images. Due to time and space limitations, submissions may be lightly edited for clarity, with no change to the original intent.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:** 1. Send your submissions by May 17, 2019 to [info@certaindays.org](mailto:info@certaindays.org).

**ARTISTS:** Please send images smaller than 10 MB. You can send a low-res file as a submission, but if your piece is chosen, we will need a high-res version of it to print (600 dpi).3. You may send as many submissions as you like. Chosen artists and authors will receive a free copy of the calendar and promotional postcards. Because the calendar is a fundraiser, we cannot offer money to contributors. Prisoner submissions are due June 7, 2019 and can be mailed to: Certain Days c/o Burning Books 420 Connecticut Street Buffalo, New York 14213 **or** Certain Days c/o QPIRG Concordia, 1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8 Canada

**ABOUT THE CALENDAR** The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal, Hamilton, New York and Baltimore, with two political prisoners being held in maximum-security prisons in New York State: David Gilbert and Robert Seth Hayes. The initial project was suggested by Herman Bell, and has been shaped throughout the process by all of our ideas, discussions, and analysis. All of the members of the outside collective are involved in day-to-day organizing work other than the calendar, on issues ranging from refugee and immigrant solidarity to community media to prisoner justice. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer and trans positive position."

## **JUNETEENTH: June 14-17 4th annual Fight Toxic Prisons Convergence and June 19 2nd annual End Prison Slavery Day Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons**

"By anarchist spirit, I mean that deeply human sentiment which aims at the good of all, freedom and justice for all, solidarity and love among the people, which is not an exclusive characteristic only of self-declared anarchists, but inspires all people who have a generous heart and an open mind." – Errico Malatesta, Umanita Nova, April 13, 1922

"Peace and Blessings, Sisters and Brothers!

Wow, how time flies. Four years ago, I was at the Pack Unit in Navasota, Texas, when I discovered that the prison unit had high levels of arsenic in the water supply! The oppressors at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality called me a liar. The fascist pigs who operate the Texas Department of Criminal Injustice retaliated. If it wasn't for the mutual aid and solidarity of Panagioti Tsolkas and a few other dedicated free world supporters, the toxic water would have been ignored.

Sisters and brothers, people of color are disproportionately housed in prisons all across the United States of Amerika. Many of these prisons are plagued by toxic water, black mold, radiation or, as in the case of

many prisons in Pennsylvania, they are located in close proximity to toxic sites, such as coal ash depositories which contaminate water and air breathed by the human beings forcibly housed at these toxic prisons! Contact [fighttoxicprisons@gmail.com](mailto:fighttoxicprisons@gmail.com).

I am personally calling on PEOPLE OF COLOR in Atlanta, Georgia, and Mobile and Birmingham, Alabama; I'm calling on folks in South and North Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana and my home state of Texas to come on down to Gainesville, Florida, June 14 through 17, 2019, and come see what the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons is all about." For full article please see <https://incarceratedworkers.org/news/juneteenth-june-14-17-4th-annual-fight-toxic-prisons-convergence-and-june-19-2nd-annual-end>

## 6/22: 4th Annual Day of Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico!



**ON THE 4TH ANNUAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO**

**WE CELEBRATE AND PAY TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM FIGHTER Patriot Lolita Lebrón ON THE CENTENNIAL OF HER LIFE & WORK**

During the 4th Annual Day of Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico we will commemorate the Centennial of our Comandante Lolita Lebrón and will examine the overall colonial situation in Puerto Rico focusing on the current economic crisis, environmental struggles, such as the struggle against coal ash dumping (cenizas), the struggle for public education and the people's resistance.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2019**  
**The Peoples' Forum**  
320 West 37 Street, Manhattan  
between 8th & 9th Avenues  
Trains: 1, 2,3,7, A,C, E, M, N, Q,R  
To 34 street  
**6pm**

**Call to Action on Puerto Rico**  
**Gmail:** [prcalltoaction@gmail.com](mailto:prcalltoaction@gmail.com)  
**Twitter:** [@PRCall2Action](https://twitter.com/PRCall2Action)  
**Facebook:** A Call to Action on Puerto Rico

**Donations Welcome. No One Turned Away For Lack Of Funds**

**Sponsors:** Asociación de Mujeres, CDSO/CRD, Frente Coalista de Puerto Rico, Frente Independencia Boricua (FIB), Frente Solidario de Puerto Rico - Comisión de NY, Estrada de Acabamos, Promesas, Casa de las Américas, Cuba, Fuerza de la Revolución Dominicana, Mercedes Martínez (Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico), Ministerio de Solidaridad con los Pueblos, Hollywood Church Iglesia Santa Cruz, NYC Latina People's Committee, Puerto Rico Me Llama, NYC Jericho Movement, People's Puerto Party, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, Workers World Party - Partido Mundo Obrero, International Action Center, Philadelphia/Camden Business Community, Socialist Workers Party, Dispersians, Movimiento Independiente Huelguero (MIEH), CDR RD, UNIA, Medical Alliance, Puerto Rico, Free Puerto, Rico Now, Puerto Rico Libre Ya, Tennessee

"The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign [www.ProLibertad.org](http://www.ProLibertad.org) ProLibertad@hotmail.com  
Facebook.com/ProLibertadFC Twitter: @ProLibertad Instagram: @ProLibertadFC  
ProLibertadTV/YouTube Channel Telephone: 718-601-4751"

## Community News, Articles and Updates

### **Zero Tolerance: Inside the Secretive Network of Immigrant Youth Shelters in Illinois**

"Here is all of ProPublica Illinois' local reporting on the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy. by Logan Jaffe April 19, 4 a.m. CDT"



by Lydia Fu for ProPublica Illinois

"Last summer, we learned that dozens of immigrant children and teens separated from their parents at the southern U.S. border had been held in a secretive network of shelters in the Chicago area. There were 11 shelters, nine run by the nonprofit Heartland Alliance, in mostly nondescript buildings in suburban Des Plaines and Chicago. Neighbors and even aldermen often didn't know about them. "I saw those kids playing soccer," Alderman Howard Brookins Jr., who represents the 21st Ward, said. "I had no idea who they were." For full articles please see: <https://www.propublica.org/article/zero-tolerance-illinois-immigrant-youth-shelters-reporting-propublica-illinois>

**NOTE:** If you send the updates to **Chelsea Manning**, please stop, as she has been released!

### **DJFreeLeonard**

New! The Lineage (Baby Eazy E & DJ Free Leonard) Featuring Casual & B-Legit "Native Style" Cuts by DJ Free Leonard

<https://soundcloud.com/djfreeleonard/the-lineagebaby-eazy-e-dj-free-leonard-feat-casual-b-legit-native-style> [www.DJFreeLeonard.com](http://www.DJFreeLeonard.com)

### **Palestinian Prisoners continue hunger strike for 8th day in Israeli jails** 15 April 2019

"Ramallah, ALRAY – Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails continue their open-ended hunger strike under the slogan "battle of dignity" for the 8th day in a row, amid attempts by Israeli service to try to end to break the strike.

Hundreds of prisoners joined the strike initiated by 150 leaders of prisoners' movement on Monday evening, after the failure of dialogues with the prison administration who didn't respond to their demands. The prisoners' demands are to remove the jamming devices on mobile phones, installing public telephones in prisons and canceling the ban on visits to hundreds of detainees.

They also demand to lift the collective punishment imposed by the prison administration since 2014, and to ensure humanitarian conditions while moving them between prisons.

It also includes transfer of female prisoners to another section, improve the conditions of detention of child prisoners, stop the policy of medical negligence, provide treatment for patients and end the policy of isolation." For full article see <http://alray.ps/en/index.php?act=post&id=11648>

### **Community Movement Builders: The Framing of H. Rap Brown**

"On this episode we rap with Attorney Kairi Al-Amin son of Imam Jamil Al-Amin (formerly known as H. Rap Brown) and WRFG Atlanta Radio Personality Ms. Dia about the murder of rapper Nipsey Hussle and the upcoming hearing in the case of Freedom Fighter Jamil Al-Amin who has been incarcerated for 19 years for the murder of a sheriff's deputy in Georgia. Check it out, rate and leave a comment."

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

<https://soundcloud.com/renegade-culture/govt-or-ngga-assassination-of-nipsey-and-the-framing-of-h-rap-brown>

#### **NOTE:**

If you write to Casey Brezik or Doug Wright, they've been moved:

**Casey Brezik** #1154765, WRDCC, 3401 Faraon, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506

**Doug Wright** #57973-060, USP Victorville, Post Office Box 3900, Adelanto, California 92301

If you currently send the updates to **Dion Ortiz**, please stop, as he has been released to a halfway house!

### **THE BLACK PANTHERS SPEAK.....FORMER 43 YEAR LONG CAPTURED "ANGOLA 3" PANTHER POLITICAL PRISONER ALBERT WOODFOX TO SPEAK & SIGN BOOKS**

"Book Excerpt Reflects on Three Years Ago February 19, 2016.

I woke in the dark. Everything I owned fit into two plastic garbage bags in the corner of my cell. "When are these folks gonna let you out," my mom used to ask me. Today, mom, I thought. The first thing I'd do is go to her grave. For years I lived with the burden of not saying goodbye to her. That was a heavy weight I'd been carrying.

I rose and made my bed, swept and mopped the floor. I took off my sweatpants and folded them, placing them in one of the bags. I put on an orange prison jumpsuit required for my court appearance that morning. A friend had given me street clothes to wear, for later. I laid them out on my bed.

Many people wrote me in prison over the years, asking me how I survived four decades in a single cell, locked down 23 hours a day. I turned my cell into a university, I wrote them, a hall of debate, a law school. By taking a stand and not backing down, I told them. I believed in humanity, I said. I loved myself. The hopelessness, the claustrophobia, the brutality, the fear, I didn't say. I looked out the window. A news van was parked down the road outside the jail, headlights still on, though it was getting light now. I'll be able to go anywhere. To see the night sky. I sat back on my bunk and waited.

Brooklyn, New York: March 27, 7:30 PM

Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3 will be in Brooklyn for the launch of his memoir, "Solitary: Unbroken by Four Decades in Solitary Confinement. My Story of Transformation and Hope," which received a terrific review in the New York Times under the title " 'Solitary' Is an Uncommonly Powerful Memoir About Four Decades in Confinement."



Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch, Dweck Cultural Center, Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn

In conversation with Jelani Cobb

UPDATED SCHEDULE:

Princeton, New Jersey: April 17

Princeton University

(More details to be announced)

Los Angeles, California: May 2, 6:00 PM

Eso Won Books, 4327 Degnan Blvd

(More details to be announced)

Berkeley, California: May 4

Bay Area Book Festival

(More details to be announced)

## Big news! Announcing the 2019 #Law4thePeople Convention



“... in Durham, North Carolina!

This October, we're thrilled to bring the #Law4thePeople convention back to the South! Details on registration, housing, calls for programming, and more will be available soon at [nlg.org/convention](http://nlg.org/convention).”

### **May 8--Commemorating the Nakba: Indigenous, Palestinian and Black Liberation!**

"We're thrilled to let you know about our new event coming up Wednesday, May 8 in Berkeley, with Nick Estes, Lara Kiswani and Kristian Davis Bailey.

It's called "Commemorating the Nakba: Movement-Building for Collective Liberation -- Indigenous, Palestinian, & Black Liberation."

MECA Bay Area Events

Commemorating the Nakba: Movement-Building for Collective Liberation Indigenous, Palestinian, and Black Liberation

Wednesday, MAY 8 – 7pm

Berkeley City College Auditorium 2050 Center Street

Featuring:

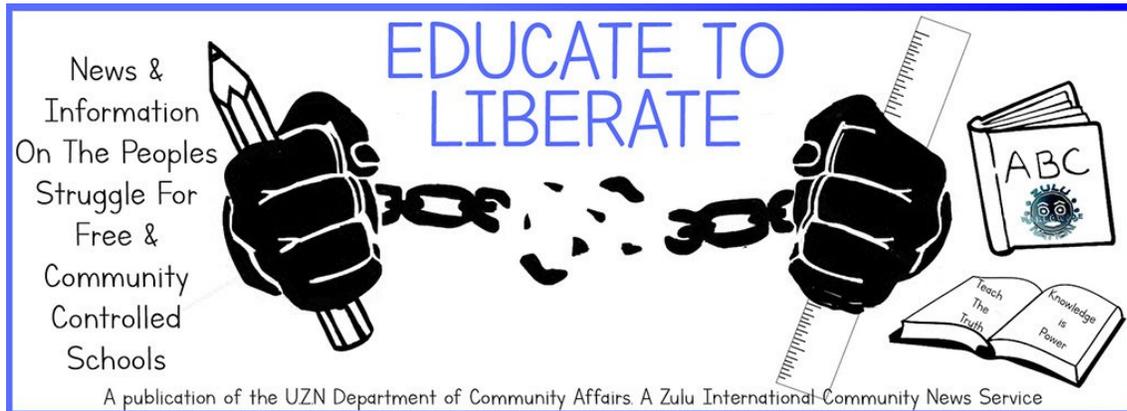
LARA KISWANI-Executive Director of the Arab Resource & Organizing Center, from Beit Iksa & Aqir, Palestine.

KRISTIAN DAVIS BAILEY-Co-founder of Black for Palestine, journalist, and co-author of the 2015 Black Solidarity with Palestine Statement.”

NICK ESTES-Co-founder of the Red Nation, author of Our History is the Future, and assistant professor of American studies at the University of New Mexico. Nick is a citizen of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe.



**EDUCATE TO LIBERATE:**



**EDUCATE TO LIBERATE: This Special Edition Dedicated To The Black Revolutionary Sister.. Ella Josephine Baker ~ Who Was Ella Baker? ~ Ella Baker Speaks On You Tube ~ April 18th Ella Baker Day 2019 Event @ Manhattanville College In Purchase, New York**  
This Special Edition Dedicated To The Black Revolutionary, Sister Ella Josephine Baker  
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019



**COUNTER PIG: DID YOU KNOW THE FIRST BLACK F.B.I. AGENT WAS COMMISSIONED BY J. EDGAR HOOVER TO SPY ON PROMINENT BLACK LEADER MARCUS GARVEY.**  
Just A Reminder To All Of Those Who Foolishly Wasted Their Time & Energy Following and/or Believing In The So Called FBI/Mueller Investigation

On The "President Donald Trump Mob"...While The real investigation on FBI Director J.Edgar Hoover and his illegal COINTERPRO has yet to happen.

As Long As Hoovers Name Remains Honored On The Walls Of FBI Building In Washington D.C.The FBI & It's Agents Will Always Be The Enemy Of Black & Brown Peoples In Amerikkka!



# COUNTER PIG:

## THE ANTI-POLICE TERROR REPORT

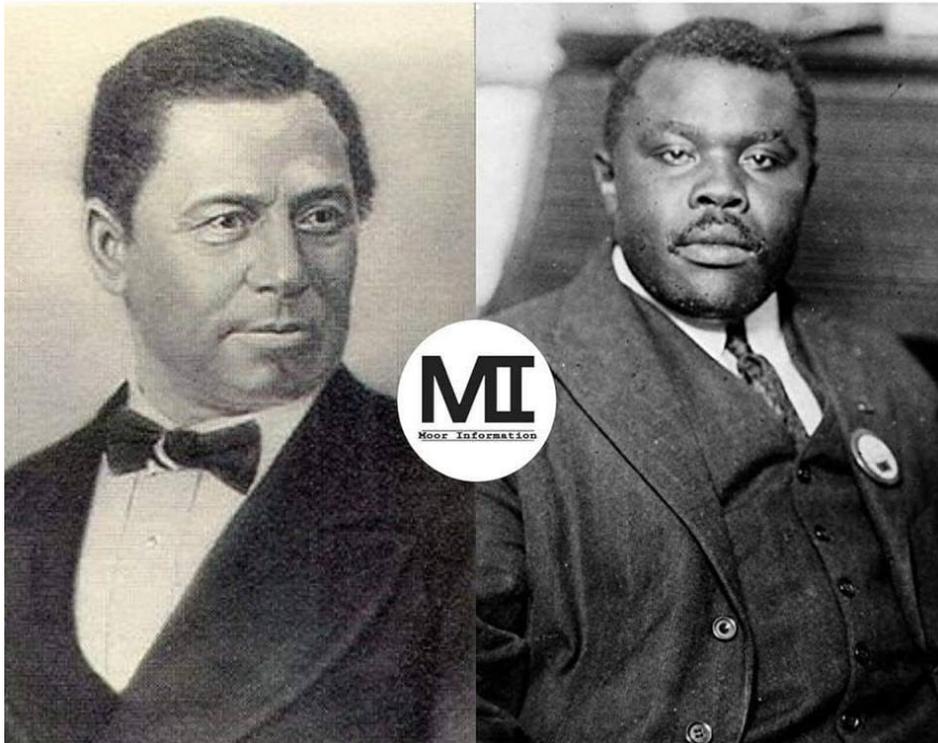
**NEWS ON THE PEOPLES WAR AGAINST LAWLESS  
POLICE FASCISM, BRUTALITY & UNACCOUNTABILITY.**

A Publication Of The U.Z.N. Department of World Community Affairs. A Zulu International Community News Service

Terrence Conscious Simmons April 6 at 12:02 PM

The first Black F.B.I agent #JamesWormleyJones was commissioned to spy on prominent black leader #MarcusGarvey. He join his organization to understand the inter workings of his organization and made it look like #MarcusGarvey was committing fraud. #moorinfo

## **Did you know the first Black F.B.I. agent was commissioned to spy on prominent black leader Marcus Garvey**



## Venezuela Won't Stop Sending Oil To Cuba Despite New Sanctions

Oilprice.com April 9, 2019

"Venezuela will not stop shipping crude oil to its political ally Cuba despite U.S. sanctions, the country's foreign minister said as quoted by Reuters. "When the conventional power of capitalism attacks you, you have to know how to respond through non-conventional means, always respecting international law," Jorge Arreaza said.

The official's statement follows the imposition of more sanctions by Washington on Caracas. This time the sanctions targeted 34 tankers owned or operated by PDVSA along with another vessel and two companies involved in shipments of Venezuelan oil to Cuba" For full article see <https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Venezuela-Wont-Stop-Sending-Oil-To-Cuba-Despite-New-Sanctions.html>



## US Takes Illegal, Dangerous Actions Toward Regime Change in Venezuela

Truthout; April 7, 2019

of offensive, defensive, and stability operations [in] in extremis conditions." For full article see <https://truthout.org/articles/us-takes-illegal-dangerous-actions-toward-regime-change-in-venezuela/>



"The United States is taking illegal and dangerous actions to execute regime change in Venezuela. In January, Juan Guaidó declared himself "interim president," in a strategy orchestrated by the United States to seize power from President Nicolás Maduro. In March, Guaidó announced that "Operation Freedom," an organization established to overthrow the Maduro government, would take certain "tactical actions" beginning on April 6. Part of the plan anticipates that the Venezuelan military will turn against Maduro. This strategy is detailed in a 75-page regime change manual prepared by the U.S. Global Development Lab, a branch of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The manual advocates the creation of rapid expeditionary development teams to partner with the CIA and U.S. Special Forces to conduct "a mix

### **Jailhouse Lawyers Speak: One Year Since Seven Fell in South Carolina**

#### **JLS official statement to commemorate the seven who fell at Lee Prison one year ago and to honor the struggle that continues**

News Article April 14, 2019 Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

This April 15, 2019 will mark one year since the unnecessary and preventable deaths of 7 people.

Raymond Angelo Scott, Michael Milledge, Damonte Marquez Rivera, Eddie Casey Jay Gaskins, Joshua Swin Jenkins, Corey Scott, and Cornelius Quantral McClary were allowed to be stabbed and die at Lee Prison in South Carolina. It is known as the incident with the worst number of prisoners deaths in a quarter of a century. These preventable deaths are what energized the inside (prisoners) to galvanize and issue a list of 10 demands and call a national prison strike. As prisoners we have been saying for years it was only a matter of time before we would have a tragedy of that magnitude. The problems South Carolina prisoners faced are the same problems prisoners face nationally.

For years prison police have been setting prisoners up to fight, or allowing them to fight. Lee Prison was no exception. In fact, Lee prison went a step further by allowing these people to fight, rest, fight, rest, and bleed out. Not one South Carolina official has been held accountable. Instead, South Carolina officials have clamped down.

Prior to these people deaths at Lee Prison, prisoners were allowed out of their cells from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. or 11pm. They were allowed access to outside rec time in a small enclosure daily if weather permitted.

Today prisoners at level 3 prisons are now on permanent lockdown status. A few units are allowed out of cell time for 4 hours a day. Others 1 hour. Others none. There is no recreation time to be noted. Food is brought to the cells.

Prison police are noted to be using a disproportionate amount of force. They are still allowing and setting up fights. Violence between cellmates is ignored, as the prison police do not want to open cell doors or they are not active in rounds checking on prisoners well being.

South Carolina prisoners are suffering high suicide rate attempts. This depression is largely from the current inhumane conditions of confinement. To include the blacked out cell windows or metal plates all blocking out natural sunlight. Job assignments are now only for the special program/privilege units on every level 3 that worked during the national prison strike. (We have reports that SCDC is now forming an additional privileged unit for work on every level 3)." For full article see

<https://incarceratedworkers.org/news/jailhouse-lawyers-speak-one-year-seven-fell-south-carolina>

### **Palestinian prisoners reach agreement to achieve demands, end hunger strike** April 16, 2019

"Palestinian prisoners have reached an agreement with the Israeli prison administration to achieve their demands and suspend their hunger strike, the Battle of Dignity 2, on Monday, 15 April. The agreement came as hundreds of Palestinian prisoners were engaged in their eighth day of a collective hunger strike. According to the leadership of the Palestinian prisoners' movement, the agreement includes the installation of public telephones in the prison sections, which prisoners would be allowed to use three times a week for 15-minute calls, as well as stopping the installation of cell-phone jamming devices. In addition, the repressive measures and sanctions imposed in the past year upon the prisoners will also be lifted, while fines imposed on prisoners in recent struggles inside the prisons would be reduced. Hundreds more prisoners have been set to join the hunger strike in the coming days, especially 17 April, Palestinian Prisoners' Day."



The Palestinian Prisoners' Society said that the agreement also included provisions to transfer the women prisoners from Damon prison to another detention center; the prisoners have repeatedly cited harsh, difficult conditions unsuitable for human life in the Damon prison. In addition, sick prisoners would be returned to the previous section in the Ramleh prison clinic, an area that was considered better than their current location.

The National and Islamic Forces held a press conference in Gaza City to highlight the prisoners' final statement. "The battle is not over; the hardest phase of this struggle is to implement what has been agreed upon," the prisoners wrote, noting that previous agreements have been repeatedly broken by the Israeli prison administration." For full article see <https://samidoun.net/2019/04/palestinian-prisoners-reach-agreement-to-achieve-demands-end-hunger-strike/>

### SEE THE PRISON JUSTICE NETWORK WEBSITE & BLOG

#### Notes for Abolition: Some Facts on Criminal Injustice Systems Jeff Shantz

"Criminal justice systems in settler colonial states like Canada are not institutions of justice as they claim. They are institutions of class rule, domination and control. And they operate on a basis of racialization and social stratification within a context of social class inequality. As an example, the prisoner population in Canada had increased by 7.1 percent over the five-year period up to 2013, with much of this increase coming from marginalized groups such as Aboriginal people and black people (Correctional Investigator Canada, 2013).

We can see this too if we look at incarceration rates for women which increased by 60 percent over the ten-year period between 2003 and 2013, with marginalized Indigenous and black females again being disproportionately represented in the Canadian prison population. The majority of black women are incarcerated for drug offences, including so-called trafficking, which many of them pursued, according to interviews with these prisoners, in an effort to rise above poverty (Correctional Investigator Canada, 2013). Indigenous women are Canada's fastest growing prison population. The rate has risen by over 100 percent between 2001 and 2016." For full article please see <http://prisonjusticenetwork.org>

## **BREAKING NEWS! Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Forced To withdraw appeal in Mumia Abu-Jamal Political Prisoner case**

"VICTORY PRESS CONFERENCE AT CITY HALL TOMORROW, APRIL 17th IN PHILADELPHIA @ 12:00 NOON Location: At the Octavius Cato statue on the south side of City Hall (around the corner from the DA's office) at South Broad St.

"PHILADELPHIA (April 17th, 2019)—Today the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office withdrew its recent appeal of an opinion granting a re-hearing of some previously decided issues in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. We withdrew the appeal because the opinion we appealed has been modified consistent with our primary concern—that ruling's effect on many other cases.

By way of background, Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted of the murder of a young police officer, Daniel Faulkner, that occurred on December 9, 1981. Even after Maureen Faulkner, the wife of the victim, chose not to continue seeking the death penalty several years ago in hopes of closure, the case has evoked polarizing rhetoric and continues to assume a symbolic importance for many that is distinct from the factual and often technical legal issues involved in the case.

The technical issue at stake here is simply whether or not some decided issues need to be re-heard by a Pennsylvania appellate court due to one former judge's having worn two hats—the hat of an apparently impartial appellate judge deciding Abu-Jamal's case after he earlier wore the hat of a chief prosecutor in the same case. Although the issue is technical, it is also an important cautionary tale on the systemic problems that flow from a judge's failing to recuse where there is an appearance of bias.

Justice Castille did not recuse himself before deciding appeals in the Abu-Jamal case and several others, including the Williams case. In the Williams case, the United States Supreme Court decided that Castille should have recused himself because of the role he took as a chief prosecutor in Mr. Williams's matter. The U.S. Supreme Court ordered that Mr. Williams's appeal be re-heard by the Pennsylvania appeals judges, without the taint of Castille's participation.

A similar question of Castille's role exists in the Abu-Jamal case. In order to help resolve it, our Office exhaustively searched hundreds of file boxes in relation to the Mumia Abu-Jamal matter, including six previously undisclosed boxes (now turned over to the defense, as required by law). While we did not find any document establishing the same level of involvement by Castille in the Abu-Jamal case as in the Williams case, we did find (and turned over) a June, 1990 letter from then-District Attorney Castille to then-Governor Robert Casey, urging that the Governor issue death warrants, especially in cases involving people who have killed police, in order to "send a clear and dramatic message to all police killers that the death penalty actually means something." Although the letter does not mention Mr. Abu-Jamal or his case by name, at the time Justice Castille wrote to Governor Casey, there were only three cases involving people who had been convicted of killing police that were pending. One was Mr. Abu-Jamal's.

In the end, the trial-level judge considering this issue wrote an opinion that agreed with us that these indications of strong feelings on the part of Justice Castille did not rise to the level of the direct and active involvement Justice Castille took in the Williams case but went further, deciding there should be a re-hearing of Abu-Jamal's decided issues anyway, based on more general principles of judges needing to recuse to avoid the appearance of bias.

We appealed, making it extremely clear in our court papers that our primary concern was with the overly broad language of the opinion and its potentially devastating effect on hundreds of long settled cases, decades after their cases were resolved, including its hurtful effect on victims and survivors. We highlighted our concern with the overly broad language of that opinion in five specific respects and specifically noted that we would re-consider appealing if the trial-level court issued another decision addressing the concerns we raised.

Although the judge was not required to do so, on March 27 he issued another decision that addressed the concerns we raised. The judge made clear that his opinion should not be read to mean that several hundreds of cases were disturbed—it should be applied only to people convicted of killing police officers whose cases were in the District Attorney's Office while Castille was District Attorney (the category of cases Castille highlighted in his June 1990 letter to Casey). Given that the trial-level court has now addressed the concerns that led us to appeal in the first place, we have withdrawn the appeal.

Our decision to withdraw the appeal does not mean Mr. Abu-Jamal will be freed or get a new trial. It means that he will have the appeals that Justice Castille participated in deciding reconsidered by a new group of appellate court judges, untainted by former Chief Justice Castille participating in their decision. The trial-level judge has ordered the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the defense to re-submit the legal briefs done in the past (which were written under prior administrations), effectively setting the clock back to where it was in the past.

The result will be that long-settled convictions in other cases will not be disturbed and that decisions made by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on the legal issues raised decades ago in the Abu-Jamal matter will no longer be tainted by the appearance of bias.

Cuando luchamos ganamos, When We Fight, We Win"

Noelle Hanrahan, P.I. 415-706-5222 cell globalaudiopi@gmail.com

### **Philly DA to drop challenge in Mumia Abu-Jamal case, clearing appeal to reach high court**

by Chris Palmer, Updated: April 17, 2019- 3:10 PM

"Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner said Wednesday that his office would drop its challenge of a judge's ruling in convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal's case, clearing the way for Abu-Jamal to again argue his appeal before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The decision marks the latest chapter in a long-running appeals battle that has gained renewed attention in recent years, as Abu-Jamal's lawyers contend he deserves another shot to take his case before the high court due to a recusal issue involving former Pennsylvania Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille.

Krasner said in a statement that his office decided to withdraw its latest challenge in response to an opinion last month from Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker. Expanding on a ruling he made in December, Tucker said Abu-Jamal was entitled to reargue his appeal because Castille — who was Philadelphia's district attorney during the early portions of Abu-Jamal's post-conviction efforts — did not recuse himself when Abu-Jamal's case later came before the high court.

Krasner's office challenged that initial decision, saying it believed Tucker's ruling was overly broad and could require any top prosecutor who becomes a judge to be recused from any case that had been pending before joining the bench — something Krasner's office believed could impact an untold number of already-decided cases.

Last month, Tucker issued an opinion saying prosecutors' reading of his earlier ruling was a "mischaracterization of the facts" and should not be taken in such a broad manner. Krasner said in his statement: "Given that the trial-level court has now addressed the concerns that led us to appeal in the first place, we have withdrawn the appeal."

Abu-Jamal, 64, a former Black Panther and radio reporter, is serving a life sentence for the Dec. 9, 1981, shooting death of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner, 25, at 13th and Locust Streets.

His case is one of the most closely watched and controversial in city history. Earlier this year, Krasner, elected on a reform-oriented platform, was uninvited from speaking at a Rebellious Lawyering conference at Yale Law School due to his handling of Abu-Jamal's appeal.

One of Abu-Jamal's lawyers, Judith Ritter, said in an email Wednesday that she and her colleagues were "very pleased" by the decision. "The D.A.'s decision is in the interests of justice," she said. "We look forward to having our claims of an unfair trial heard by a fair tribunal." <https://www.philly.com/news/mumia-abu-jamal-appeal-larry-krasner-withdraw-pennsylvania-supreme-court-20190417.html>

### **Palestinian Prisoners Day 17 April 2019 April 17, 2019**

Addameer acknowledges and celebrates the prisoners achievement in the hunger strike and continues to shed light on the ongoing individual hunger strikes against administrative detention

On Monday, 15 April 2019, and after 8 days being on a hunger strike, Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons ended their strike. This decision comes after long negotiation sessions between the prisoners' representatives and the prison administration which ended with an agreement between the two. The prisoners were able to achieve some of their main demands, such as cancelling the punitive measures lately taken against them, removing cell jammers from their sections and rooms, installing four public

phones in each prison, and improving some of their detention conditions. Despite this achievement, there are six Palestinian administrative detainees who have been on a hunger strike for several weeks protesting administrative detention and demanding their release.

On this Palestinian Prisoners day there are currently around 5500 Palestinian prisoners detained in 17 different prisons and interrogation centers. This number includes 497 administrative detainees.

Administrative detention (AD) is a procedure that allows Israeli occupation forces to hold prisoners indefinitely on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. The Israeli military commander in the West Bank, or the Minister of war for Jerusalemites, issues an administrative detention order for a maximum period of six months, subject to indefinite renewal. For full article see <http://www.addameer.org/news/palestinian-prisoners-day-17-april-2019>

### **Took a Plea? Brooklyn's District Attorney Will Support Your Parole Most prosecutors automatically oppose parole requests. Not Eric Gonzalez FILED 6:00 a.m. 04.17.2019**

"In 1996, when Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez was just starting out as a junior prosecutor, his younger brother was shot and killed in the Bronx. "I know how much the loss of my brother impacted my family," said Gonzalez, who was 27 at the time. "My father never got over it." This story was published in partnership with THE CITY. When the man convicted of the shooting came up for parole after serving 10 years for manslaughter, Gonzalez's father told the parole board he opposed it. Release was denied. Two years, later, however, the board voted to grant the parole. "Ironically, when that process was over," Gonzalez said in a recent interview, "knowing that this guy was punished and was put through the system, and my father didn't have to go to parole hearings anymore, there was a sense of closure. I believe in the rule of law and that is what the law allowed for, and we have moved on with our lives." In the 18 months since he was elected the borough's chief law enforcement officer, Gonzalez has rarely spoken of that personal tragedy from almost a quarter of a century ago. But he cited the experience as one that has helped shape his thinking as he has wrestled with how his office, the state's second largest, should handle those it convicts of serious crimes after they go to prison. Prosecutors around the country almost always turn thumbs down on parole requests. But at his office, Gonzalez plans to change that. In a memo this month to the state's Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, which oversees both the 47,000 men and women in the state's prisons as well as another 36,000 who are under post-release supervision, Gonzalez announced that his office will "cease our previous practice of ordinarily opposing parole." Instead, Gonzalez wrote, his office will now consent to parole at the initial hearing for all those who entered into plea agreements—as people do in 90 percent of cases—once they have completed their minimum sentence, "absent extraordinary circumstances and subject to their conduct during incarceration." For people who were convicted at trial, the DA stated, his office will for the first time consider supporting parole for individuals who were age 23 or younger and sentenced to lengthy prison terms. Gonzalez will also make it a policy for his office to seek the minimum probation and parole required by law. Prosecutors seeking lengthier terms will now have to state their reasons in writing to a supervisor, he said. "If they committed a crime, they should be punished," said Gonzalez. "But shouldn't we be reserving the maximum supervision for the person we are saying is the biggest threat?" Gonzalez said he recognized that opposition to his reforms is likely from police and others. "I view my job holistically," he said. "I believe it is about public safety, but also about promoting trust in our criminal justice system." By law, New York's parole board must solicit statements from crime victims, as well as a recommendation from the district attorney's office that won the original conviction. "It's often a form letter restating the crime and saying the applicant needs to remain in prison," said Robert Dennison, who served as chairman of the state's Board of Parole under former Gov. George Pataki.

#### **THE NEXT TO DIE**

A detailed, up-to-date schedule of upcoming executions in the United States

Gonzalez wrote many such letters himself. At the end of a trial, he said, he was told to draft a letter for the file recommending parole be denied at hearings many years in the future. Parole letters for defendants who had pleaded guilty were even more perfunctory. Most, Gonzalez said, were written by summer college or law school interns.

Since then, however, leadership has changed in the Brooklyn DA's office, and its perspective has shifted. It is now nationally renowned for its efforts to redress wrongful convictions. A unit established by Gonzalez's predecessor, Kenneth Thompson, has reversed convictions for 25 individuals since 2014. When Thompson died of cancer, Gonzalez, who was Thompson's top deputy, stepped in as interim DA. At the time, many expressed concern that the low-key career prosecutor, with no political experience, might jettison Thompson's reforms. But since winning election in November 2017, becoming the state's first elected Latino district attorney, Gonzalez, who is 50 years old and was raised in tough sections of Williamsburg and East New York, has embarked on his own reforms, including changes to bail and prosecution policies. His new parole effort, he said, will be merged with the conviction review unit in a new Post-Conviction Justice Bureau. The bureau will also assist in helping people seal old criminal records and address applications for clemency received from the governor's office. "To continuously keep people in jail for terms longer than they need to be in there, simply as more punishment, is unjust and unfair," Gonzalez said. "We made a deal with them that after 15 years or 20 years or whatever the number, they would be eligible to get a fair hearing on parole, and largely they are not." Prosecutors, he said, "were still putting over-emphasis on the nature of the crime in ways that are unfair because the person can never do anything about the nature of the crime."

The new policies have the potential to increase dramatically the number of men and women from Brooklyn who get released from prison. The borough sends the second highest number of people to prison, after Manhattan, among state counties. Last year, 832 from Brooklyn went to prison for new convictions, while 1,251 who were convicted in the borough came home. About 5,000 men and women remain in state custody who were convicted in Kings County, a little more than 10 percent of the prison population. The parole board has also been changing; last year, it approved 44 percent of those considered for parole, the highest rate in more than a decade. Eugene O'Donnell, a former assistant DA in both Brooklyn and Queens who is now a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said that routinely denying parole was a way to avoid blame if the person was released and committed another crime. But O'Donnell, who also spent three years as a New York City police officer, cautioned against a policy that presumes that all those who have served their minimum sentences are ready to return safely to the streets. "Replacing a no-need-to-think blanket policy of incarceration with a no-need-to-think blanket policy of relaxation of accountability is a mistake," he said. "If anybody thinks there aren't people who are bad to the bone walking around Brooklyn they are naïve." Tali Farhadian Weinstein, the general counsel for the Brooklyn DA who helped formulate the new policies, said the office will keep careful watch for those potential problems. "It is not this reckless, 'just open the door to our prisons' approach," she said. "If we think it is justified for public safety, there will be times when the right thing to do will be to recommend against parole." Once implemented, Gonzalez's new parole policies will help point the way for others, said Miriam Krinsky, who heads the Los Angeles-based Fair and Just Prosecution, a group that aids newly elected district attorneys. "We are going to start to see this become the gold standard as well for how we think about correcting past injustices," she said, "and having a broader lens on what the responsibility of the DA is to do that." <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/04/17/took-a-plea-brooklyn-s-district-attorney-will-support-your-parole?>

### **Register for the Fight Toxic Prisons 2019 Convergence, June 14 - 17 in Florida!**

"The 2019 Fight Toxic Prisons Convergence is taking place June 14-17 in Gainesville, Florida and will include speakers, panels, workshops, protests and cultural activities exploring the intersections of anti-prison and environmental struggles. We are currently confirming venue, speakers, music and action plans for the conference and are excited to share updates with y'all in the coming months. Please register to attend. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/671997813203505/>



2019 FTP Convergence Registration

DATES: Friday, June 14th to Monday, June 17th.

LOCATION: Gainesville, Florida (Exact Location TBA)

COST: While the convergence is free and open to all, paying the sliding-scale registration fee of \$25 - \$50 will help cover the cost of food, housing and travel assistance to those who request it.

This can be paid here: <https://www.gofundme.com/2019-campaign-to-fight-toxic-prison-convergence>

For updates and announcements related to the convergence, check the FB event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/671997813203505/>

### **A SPECIAL RAMADAN APPEAL from El-Hajj Mauri' Saalakhan & The Aafia Foundation**

"Stand firmly for justice, as witnesses to ALLAH, even if it be against yourselves..." -The Noble Qur'an

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam, Ramadan Mubarak!

On behalf of The Aafia Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt human rights charity, I have a very special request to make. For the first time in years I have decided to remain home this Ramadan to focus more intensely on ibaadah and the spiritual development that proceeds therefrom - while maximizing good works in the process, in shaa ALLAH. In order for this to be doable without undo burden we need your help. Like any other Muslim advocacy organization we need the material support of those who believe in our mission; and as many of you receiving this appeal are aware, there are very few organizations (Muslim or non-Muslim) doing the type of work that we do. Our work is not only in the interest of Islam and Muslims, it is good for the better of the "Two Americas" as well. As Shaykh ibn Taymeeyah (r) correctly noted: "Civilization is based on justice, and the consequences of oppression are devastating. Therefore it is said, ALLAH aids the just state, even if it is non-Muslim; and withholds His help from the oppressive state, even if it is Muslim." Please help us with a generous donation according to your means. The consensus of the scholars is that not only is our work Zakat-eligible, it constitutes one of the most meritorious forms of Zakat, or Sadaqah, a Muslim can give. (Please see the information below for an option that may be painlessly doable for most of you receiving this :). Jazakum Allahu khairan for your consideration. Please help spread the word!

In the struggle for peace thru justice, El-Hajj Mauri; Saalakhan, Director of Operations, The Aafia Foundation, Inc. Mobile: (202) 246-9608, E-mail: [peacethrujustice@aol.com](mailto:peacethrujustice@aol.com), Twitter: @maurisaalakhan P.S. As part of our Ramadan 1440/2019 initiative we are sharing, via Facebook, a 30th of The Noble Quran each day with our Facebook Friends. Here is the link to today's presentation: A sharing of The Noble Qur'an in blessed Ramadan"

Day 7 <https://www.facebook.com/mauri.saalakhan/videos/10161680660050623/>

#### **AN OPTION FOR GIVING**

Are you a person of modest means, with a burning desire to contribute significantly to human rights advocacy work in America? If so, join our: RAMADAN 1440 A.H. 'DOLLAR A DAY SUPPORT COALITION' For less than a cup of coffee a day (in harmony with a host of other supporting souls, in sha ALLAH) you can help insure that The Aafia Foundation has the resource on hand throughout this blessed month to continue making a positive difference! TO DONATE ONLINE: [www.aafia.org](http://www.aafia.org) BY MAIL: The Aafia Foundation, Inc., 11160 Veirs Mill Rd, Ste. LLH18, PMB 298 Wheaton, MD. 20902 (\*Please be advised that

the full address must go on the envelope to insure receipt.) Please help spread the word to facilitate the multiplier effect. Thank you! May your Ramadan be blessed!"

**The case against solitary confinement** Stephanie Wykstra - April 17, 2019

"Albert Woodfox was held in solitary confinement for more than 40 years in a Louisiana prison before being released in 2016, when he was 69 years old. In his book Solitary, published last month, Woodfox writes that every morning, "I woke up with the same thought: will this be the day? Will this be the day I lose my sanity and discipline? Will I start screaming and never stop?"

Thousands of people — at least 61,000 on any given day and likely many thousands more than that — are in solitary confinement across the country, spending 23 hours per day in cells not much bigger than elevators. They are disproportionately young men, and disproportionately Hispanic and African American. The majority spend a few months in it, but at least a couple of thousand people have been in solitary confinement for six years or more. Some, like Woodfox, have been held for decades.

Solitary confinement causes extreme suffering, particularly over prolonged periods of months or years. Effects include anxiety, panic, rage, paranoia, hallucinations, and, in some cases, suicide.

The United Nations special rapporteur on torture, Juan E. Méndez, deemed that prolonged solitary confinement is a form of torture, and the UN's Mandela Rules dictate that it should never be used with youth and those with mental or physical disability or illness, or for anyone for more than 15 days. Méndez, who inspected prisons in many countries, wrote, "[I]t is safe to say that the United States uses solitary confinement more extensively than any other country, for longer periods, and with fewer guarantees."

Many practices in the US criminal justice system are harsh, ineffective, even absurd, from the widespread use of money bail to detain unconvicted people to extremely long sentences and parole terms, and a host of other outrages. But placing people in solitary stands out as a violation of human rights." For full article see <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2019/4/17/18305109/solitary-confinement-prison-criminal-justice-reform>

**MAYDAY PLANNING (NYC)**

"May Day Planning Meeting-Wednesday, April 24 at 7pm-Solidarity Center (147 W 24th St, 2nd Floor, NYC)

Thanks to everyone who came to the packed planning meeting April 10!

Based on feedback, next WEDNESDAY, April 24 is the best day for our final May Day Meeting. Here is the

FB event for the planning meeting: <https://www.facebook.com/events/409812023153311/>

**May Day on Wall Street**

40 Wall Street  
Trump Building

Wednesday  
May 1, 2019  
2pm rally  
5pm march

**May 1 is International Workers Day.**  
It's a day when around the world, workers regardless of where they live,  
what their job is, or what language they speak, celebrate their unity as a global working class.

**NO WALLS IN THE WORKERS STRUGGLE**  
SUPPORT THE LAUNDRY WORKERS ON MAY 1 IN EAST HARLEM

215 East  
116th Street

Wednesday  
May 1, 2019  
Noon  
then onto Wall St. at 1pm

**On International Workers Day, come support the ongoing workers struggle at the TYS Laundromat! After years of wage theft and unsafe working conditions the workers are fighting back.**  
**On May Day, come out in solidarity!**

Today, the unity of workers of the world is critical in fighting against Trump and the billionaires that he represents, who are trying to use racism to divide and oppress workers. The war against immigrant workers is a war against the entire working class. Let's come together on May Day to tell the rich that there are no walls in the workers struggle.  
[MayDayWallSt@gmail.com](mailto:MayDayWallSt@gmail.com)

# Primero de Mayo en Wall Street

40 Wall Street  
Trump Building



Miércoles  
1 de mayo  
2pm rally  
5pm marcha

## El 1 de mayo es el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores.

Es un día en el que todos los trabajad@res celebramos nuestra unidad como clase trabajadora global, independientemente de dónde vivimos, cuál es nuestro trabajo, o qué idioma hablamos.  
TRABAJAD@RES DEL MUNDO. ÚNIOS

## NI MUROS NI FRONTERAS EN LA LUCHA OBRERA

Apoye a los/as trabajadores/as de lavandería en East Harlem el 1 de may

215 East  
116th Street



Miércoles  
1 de mayo  
12 del mediodía  
luego vamos a  
Wall St. a la 1

¡En el Día Internacional de los Trabajador@s, venga a apoyar la lucha continua de los trabajador@s de la Lavandería TYS! Después de años de robo de salarios y condiciones de trabajo inseguras, los trabajador@s están luchando.  
¡El 1 de Mayo de salgamos en solidaridad!

Hoy, la unidad de los trabajador@s del mundo es crítica en la lucha contra Trump y los multimillonarios que él representa, quienes están tratando de usar el racismo para dividir y oprimir a los trabajador@s. La guerra contra los trabajador@s inmigrantes es una guerra contra toda la clase obrera. Unámonos el 1 de mayo para decirles a los ricos que no hay muros ni fronteras en la lucha obrera.  
~MayDayWallSt@gmail.com ~ 212-633-6646~

This is exactly ONE WEEK before May 1. The Peoples Power Assembly-NYC has agreed to host the meeting.  
IMPORTANT UPDATES:

We are especially excited by the participation of the Laundry Workers Center in May Day on Wall Street. They are organizing a May Day action at noon in support of the ongoing workers struggle at the TYS Laundromat! After years of wage theft and unsafe working conditions these immigrant workers are fighting back.

On May Day, we will join them at 215 W 116 St and then come, as a contingent, to Wall Street, the Trump Building at 2pm.

To coordinate with the Laundry Workers Center Action, the Wall Street Rally will start at 2pm with a MARCH at 5pm.

UPDATED MAY DAY SCHEDULE:

Noon: Workers Solidarity Action at TYS Laundromat (215 W 116 St, Harlem)

2pm: Rally on Wall Street (Trump Building, 40 Wall Street)

5pm: March on Wall Street

FB EVENT: <https://www.facebook.com/events/409812023153311/> "

### Black Alliance For Peace Revives Black Anti-War Tradition (Pt 1/2)

"The US has been at war in the Middle East for 28 years, starting with Operation Desert Storm in Iraq, then into Afghanistan, Syria, and now we are learning of military bases, operations, and troops in African nations."



Please see video here: <https://therealnews.com/stories/black-alliance-for-peace-revives-black-anti-war-tradition-pt-1-2>

### Trump's Tweets Fuel Media Slander and Death Threats Against Ilhan Omar April 16, 2019

"James Zogby, of the Arab American Institute, analyzes the increasing threat against Arabs and Muslims in America and its impact on 2020 elections."



Please see video here: <https://therealnews.com/stories/trumps-tweets-fuel-media-slander-and-death-threats-against-ilhan-omar>

### **On this episode we rap with Attorney Kairi Al-Amin son of Imam Jamil Al-Amin**

"In Case You missed it. On this episode we rap with Attorney Kairi Al-Amin son of Imam Jamil Al-Amin (formerly known as H. Rap Brown) and WRFG Atlanta Radio Personality Ms. Dia about the murder of rapper Nipsey Hussle and the upcoming hearing in the case of Freedom Fighter Jamil Al-Amin who has been incarcerated for 19 years for the murder of a sheriff's deputy in Georgia. Check it out, rate and leave a comment <https://www.renegadeculture.org/> 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 Check out the website at [www.renegadeculture.org](http://www.renegadeculture.org) Check out some of our organizational efforts at [www.siafumovement.org](http://www.siafumovement.org) and community movement builders. Make donations to support our movement to [communitymovementbuilders.org](http://communitymovementbuilders.org) to keep this program going and our community programs."

### **On this Episode of Renegade Culture we talk Reparations, Pan-Africanism, and #ADOS (American Descendants of Slavery)**

"On this episode we talk reparations, the myth of Black Buying Power and #ADOS (American Descendants of Slavery). Our guests include Dr. Jared Ball, professor of communication studies at Morgan State University and host of mixtape radio show Imixwhatilike.org Also, we have in-studio Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo, Southeast Regional Representative of N'COBRA (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America) Check out this HEAVY DUTY episode, like, rate and share with your network. 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"

### **US Court Denies Manning's Appeal, Upholds Contempt Charges April 22, 2019**

"A federal United States appeals court denied on Monday Chelsea Manning's request to be released on bail. The judge upheld a lower court's decision to hold Manning in civil contempt for refusing to testify against WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, before a grand jury.

Manning said, in a comment released by a spokesman, that while disappointing, the appeals court ruling will still allow her to "raise issues as the government continues to abuse the grand jury process." Since March 8 Manning has been jailed after she appeared in front of a federal court in Alexandria, Virginia for a closed contempt hearing. U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton told her that she would remain in federal custody "until she purges or the end of the life of the grand jury" a statement from her representatives said. Immediately she placed in solitary confinement and released 28 days later on April 6.' For full article see: <https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/US-Court-Denies-Mannings-Appeal-Upholds-Contempt-Charges-20190422-0019.html>

### **Leonard Peltier & Mumia Abu-Jamal: Justice Barometers of our Soul-Check out this great article by former political prisoner Larry Pinkney**

<http://www.blackactivistwg.org/blog/leonard-peltier-mumia-abu-jamal-justice-barometers-of-our-soul/>

### **On the Music Scene: Tracks from DJ Free Leonard!!!**

#NowPlaying Intro Featuring Eric Sermon, B-Legit, Young Dirty Bastard, Lyric Jones, Sunspot Jonz,& Kirby Dominant <https://open.spotify.com/track/6HFg3VZHKodr171RsKKUCX?si=3QMVCxK1Qhm8ojjd7lfe-w>

#NowPlaying "Follow The Leader" By DJ Free Leonard Produced by @EASki #Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/track/11p8s6NhHyFrD3kH6tkFVM?si=d6OCEgpXRrs-q5znVrG0Hvg>

#NowPlaying "Medicine Man" by DJ Free Leonard Produced by @eligh of @LivingLegends #Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/track/7sUeaPMFTyQKyDtOu2rLwA?si=JJainWRpQv-YP-OhNflOTg>

#NowPlaying "The Legacy Continues" Featuring @BabyEazyE and @AesopLegends0\_o of @LivingLegends

#Spotify [https://open.spotify.com/track/6ZAKYnFtxf1EG11Td2yjPp?si=Vn88bV\\_JTIWywhOGXkv8JQ](https://open.spotify.com/track/6ZAKYnFtxf1EG11Td2yjPp?si=Vn88bV_JTIWywhOGXkv8JQ)  
#NowPlaying "Power To The People" Featuring Lucky3.0 of @LivingLegends #Spotify  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/511nfH95l2s1ebaFb02K2g?si=c6jsRUhLTeaW9EQ2SpWEeg>

#NowPlaying "As Seen In Ceremony" by DJ Free Leonard Featuring @EQUIPTO and #SmashTheIndigenous  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/5SqhbWLczeR2ra2zdwTvPt?si=BDhhdF8KRnG3ev35OK8V7Q>

#NowPlaying "The Precedent" By DJ Free Leonard Produced by Deuce Eclipse #Spotify  
[https://open.spotify.com/track/4EkiwfjyoT8XnhwaB51Ney?si=AaoPmWo2Qq05T08u\\_nGBHA](https://open.spotify.com/track/4EkiwfjyoT8XnhwaB51Ney?si=AaoPmWo2Qq05T08u_nGBHA)

I think my favorite record I've ever written has to be "Is This My Lost Native Language" #NowPlaying on #Spotify [https://open.spotify.com/track/5qAy0DT4OhVXjGX7j3diG?si=u8K\\_GBrGS6-NFIH3JmumzQ](https://open.spotify.com/track/5qAy0DT4OhVXjGX7j3diG?si=u8K_GBrGS6-NFIH3JmumzQ)

"War Paint" #NowPlaying DJ Free Leonard Featuring Rakaa of Dilated Peoples, Bicasso & Lucky3.0 of Living Legends & Rebels To The Grain <https://open.spotify.com/track/6OqESSuOwpi1ymoHq2Fr19?si=o5Q7fFZQRM007R56yq7chw>

"Take Aim" Featuring LuckyIAM.Psc and Deuce Produced by DJ Spair  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/2cfCxbdQJTh86Q0eCgusN?si=h81Jnay4SqG0-7mqcemABA>

"Hip Hop Ain't The Same" By DJ Free Leonard Produced by Tower Featuring LuckyIAM.PSC of #MysticJourneyMen & @LivingLegends and #Arievolution #nowplaying #spotify  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/3PBa76tloEfNwXYNZv4Skc?si=pYbTgpm8TbeCBm8w7k1EgA>

"Let's Get It In" Featuring Young Dirty Bastard of #WuTang By DJ Free Leonard now on #Bandcamp  
Download the MP3 <https://djfreeleonard.bandcamp.com/track/lets-get-it-in-feat-young-dirty-bastard-of-wu-tang>

"War Shield" Remix By DJ Free Leonard #Bandcamp #MP3  
<https://djfreeleonard.bandcamp.com/track/war-shield-remix>

"A Struggle For Human Rights (2013 Album) By DJ Free Leonard Featuring Truth Universal, Akir, Buggin Malone, Power Struggle, Luck & Lana & More! #Bandcamp  
<https://djfreeleonard.bandcamp.com/album/dj-free-leonard-a-struggle-for-human-rights>

"Spearhead The Lyrics" #1 Listened to Song On #Spotify  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/6nWLRM0hRXqNaPPTxXNryZ?si=YIPCcrSsRlaoUitTBXPqcA>

"The Precedent" By DJ Free Leonard Produced by Deuce Eclipse  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/4EkiwfjyoT8XnhwaB51Ney?si=x-9YGyCuTg-7umyBKcSQOg>

"Is It A Crime?" By DJ Free Leonard Featuring Mama Wisdom Produced by Mr Tower #Spotify #NowPlaying #HipHop <https://open.spotify.com/track/00ef0wxkf0YwRIRrki8Mcg?si=3mt8QH83RJeBddKwX1L6rg>

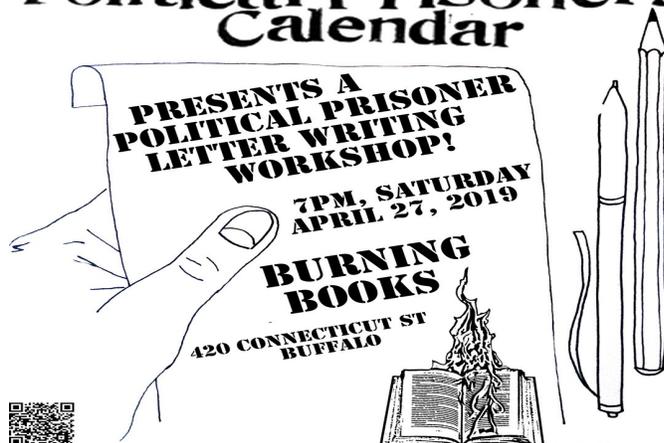
## Burning Books, Buffalo, NY



"The Certain Days collective produces an annual wall calendar that features visual art and writing by and about political prisoners. They raise significant funds and support for movement allies behind bars, while giving us something amazing and truly beautiful to look at every day of the year. The Certain Days collective will be coming to Burning Books at 7pm this Saturday to give a presentation on their work, updates on select political prisoners, and a workshop on corresponding with incarcerated activists. If you're thinking you know about all this already, it doesn't apply to your work, or doesn't interest you, please take a moment to think again. Incarceration is unfortunately a result of the hard and crucial work of effective activists of all stripes. This workshop can help us with support for allies who are facing protest arrests and civil disobedience charges, our neighbors and loved ones locked up for apolitical social crimes, and build a bridge between our current efforts on the streets and admirable comrades who have been taken from us because of their fights of yesteryear."

# certain DAYS:

## freedOm for Political Prisoners Calendar





Burning Books  
420 Connecticut Street  
Buffalo

.....  
"IMMIGRANTS AND ANCESTORS"

Words & Music by Tom Naples

Performed by Folk Street  
.....

A program of songs & stories about Immigrants coming to America in the late 19th & early 20th centuries. The songs touch on Norwegian, Italian, Irish & Jewish families coming to America.

7:00 PM

April 25, 2019



"Drop in for a hands-on workshop with an international collective of long-time activists and former political prisoners. You won't regret it." <https://www.facebook.com/events/609402976131729/>

**Lenny Foster: Native American Issues and Leonard Peltier**



**Lenny Foster:  
Native American Issues  
and Leonard Peltier**  
Sunday, April 28, 2019  
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**The People's Forum**  
320 West 37th Street, NYC  
With Dan Battaglia, ILPDC Board Secretary  
Light Refreshments Will Be Served

NYC Free Peltier • NYC Jericho • ProLibertad • NYC ABC  
Holyrood Church Ministerio de Solidaridad con los Pueblos  
For more info: [nycfreepeltier@gmail.com](mailto:nycfreepeltier@gmail.com) • 718-325-4407

Sunday, April 28, 2019. 2 to 5 p.m. The People's Forum 320 West 37th St., NYLight Refreshments Will Be Served With Dan Battaglia, ILPDC Board Secretary, Cultural Presentation by SpiritChild

"Lenny Foster of the Diné Nation is the former Director of the Navajo Nation Corrections Project and the Spiritual Advisor for more than 2,000 Native American inmates in ninety-six state and federal prisons in the Western U.S. He has co-authored legislation in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado allowing Native American spiritual and religious practice in prison and resulting in significant reductions in prison returns.

He is a board member of the International Indian Treaty Council, a sun dancer and member of the Native American Church. He has been with the American Indian Movement since 1969 and has participated in actions including Alcatraz, Black Mesa, the Trail of Broken Treaties, Wounded Knee 1973, the Menominee Monastery Occupation, Shiprock Fairchild Occupation, the Longest Walk and the Big Mountain land struggle. Lenny Foster has received many accolades and honors for his groundbreaking work with Indigenous prisoners' human rights and has testified many times at the United Nations on both Indigenous issues and Political Prisoner Leonard Peltier.

Leonard Peltier is a Native American activist who was unfairly and illegally tried and convicted for his participation in a firefight on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975. This event took place amid the high tensions and extreme violence known as the "Reign of Terror" and left one Native American and two FBI agents dead. After a trial the following year, in which two other firefight participants were acquitted on the grounds of self-defense, the FBI went to extraordinary lengths to get Leonard Peltier—someone had to pay.

Leonard Peltier was illegally extradited from Canada to face a trial filled with Constitutional violations. Since his sentencing, documents proving FBI misconduct that included the fabrication and suppression of evidence, have been revealed. During subsequent oral arguments, the US Prosecutor admitted "... we can't prove who shot those agents." Leonard Peltier remains in prison after being denied Executive Clemency by President Obama.

Sponsors: NYC Free Peltier, NYC Jericho, ProLibertad, NYC ABC, Holyrood Church Ministerio de Solidaridad con los Pueblos. For more info: [nycfreepeltier@gmail.com](mailto:nycfreepeltier@gmail.com); 718-325-4407  
FB Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1291669940987836/> "

## **Tuesday, April 30th – Letter Writing Dinner for Ramsey Orta**

"WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinner WHEN: 7pm sharp, Tuesday, April 30th, 2019

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

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

For well over a decade, NYC ABC has organized around the idea of keeping anarchists involved in political prisoner organizing and political prisoner support communities working with anarchists. This weekend, we are co-sponsoring a talk by Lenny Foster about Leonard Peltier, while also supporting fund raisers for Books Through Bars and Ramsey Orta. We are one part of a movement to free our folks and see the end of prisons. Until those days come, we provide every other week support via political prisoner letter-writing dinners. This week, we focus on Ramsey Orta. Ramsey Orta filmed the killing of Eric Garner by NYPD cops. The video traveled far, but it wouldn't get justice for Ramsey's dead friend. Instead, the NYPD has exacted their revenge through targeted harassment and eventually imprisonment — Orta's punishment for daring to show the world police brutality. For more information on Ramsey's case, read this article:

<https://www.theverge.com/2019/3/13/18253848/eric-garner-footage-ramsey-orta-police-brutality-killing-safety>

We expect to see you on Tuesday. If you can't make it, please take the time to write a letter to Ramsey:

Ramsey Orta 16-A-4200 Groveland correctional facility, Post Office box 50  
Sonyea, New York 14556 "

<https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2019/04/25/ramsey2019>

## FREEDOM ARCHIVES 20 YEAR CELEBRATION!!!



"MAY 19 @ 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Venue: The Lab

2948 16th Street San Francisco, CA, CA 94103

Music, raffle, culture and a look back at 20 years of preserving the past, illuminating the present and shaping the future!!

Music + Poetry from founder Nina Serrano and longtime friends and comrades Tongo Eisen-Martin and Lubna Morrar.

Great raffle items from local book presses and distributors, movie theaters, eateries and more!!

Light appetizers and drinks served."

### **Vengeful Pelican Bay gang investigators try to kidnap an author of Agreement to End Hostilities because it brings racial hostility to historic low** April 27, 2019 by Ronnie Yandell

"On Feb. 4, 2019, I was sitting in my cell in Ad-Seg STRH H-195 in California State Prison Sacramento, known as New Folsom Prison, reading a book, when around 10 a.m. the floor officer advised me that I was being transferred to Pelican Bay State Prison. On Jan. 23, 2019, I had been told by Associate Warden Peterson at my committee hearing that I would remain in Ad-Seg pending investigation over an alleged kite supposedly found in a routine cell search at Pelican Bay State Prison. Because I was told this, I knew my transfer was not sanctioned through normal procedures. So, I told the officer I wasn't going. I knew the Institutional Gang Inspectors (IGI) were trying to back-door me. Next, Lt. Cross tried to convince me to go, which again I denied. I told her this was a shady move by IGI and that Pelican Bay tried to frame me. I knew my life was in danger due to my participation as a hunger strike representative and co-author of the "Agreement to End Hostilities" manifesto between all races. When I was released from Pelican Bay Security Housing Units (SHU) in 2015, IGI said I would "one day pay for it." For full article see <https://sfbayview.com/2019/04/vengeful-pelican-bay-gang-investigators-try-to-kidnap-an-author-of-agreement-to-end-hostilities-because-it-brings-racial-hostility-to-historic-low/>

### **MAY DAY**

Juan Guaido and Donald Trump made a huge mistake picking May 1st as the day to stage yet another failed coup attempt. May 1st is International Workers Day, a day when many thousands across the world come into the street to raise righteous resistance in solidarity with the working class across the globe. If they are attempting to demoralize our forces, they have instead increased the militancy and number of those who will be in the streets tomorrow. Find a May Day action [HERE https://workersolidarity.net/#mayday](https://workersolidarity.net/#mayday)

### **Drawing from Memory: A Former Prisoner Creates Art from Pain and Loss**

"Drawing from memory: A former prisoner creates art from pain and loss. Vincent Nardone was released from prison in 2016 after serving decades behind bars for a murder a friend committed in Maryland. In prison, years ago, he first tried painting but stopped because he realized he was "slinging paint" all over his cellmate. So he took up the pen, and began to draw, and now his powerful work is on exhibit in an art museum in Connecticut. Here is the latest in our series "The Frame," featuring visual art." For full article

see <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/04/22/drawing-from-memory-a-former-prisoner-creates-art-from-pain-and-loss?>

### **Website of Free Mumia Abu-Jamal coalition was Hacked months before his new hearing!**

The freemumia.com website has been cyber attacked and hacked with viruses. The good news is that most of the content is there (and is backed up) but the website itself is unreachable and unusable in the near term. We are currently working to restore the site and remove all the malware/viruses with the hosting service. The hosting service (of course) is demanding more money from us to secure the website, so donations would be appreciated while we work to get operational again. Since the donations page on our website is also affected, the best ways to do so are: to go directly to:

- Alliance for Global Justice Free Mumia donations page <https://afgj.salsalabs.org/freemumia/index.html>
- PayPal Free Mumia donations page [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=WG2G7NXFCX2SS&source=url](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=WG2G7NXFCX2SS&source=url) "

In the meantime, the struggle for Mumia Abu-Jamal and other political prisoners continues. While Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner has dropped his appeal of Judge Tucker's decision, he continues to oppose a new trial for Mumia and his appeals process in general, let alone his unconditional release, as we continue to demand. We also have to organize and prepare for the upcoming appeal hearings and continue to organize, mobilize, and educate the community about the issues his case represents, which is ultimately about the liberation struggle for all colonized and oppressed peoples. In general and especially while our website is down, you can continue to help us Free Mumia, parole the remaining five MOVE 9 members, and support and free all political prisoners by going to our coalition partners: Mobilization to Free Mumia

### **Parole Board Release Rates and Updates on Parole Justice Initiatives-From: Michelle Lewin**

"Dear friends, I'm writing with some exciting updates on the movement for parole justice in New York State and new data on Parole Board release rates. See below.

\*Parole Board Release Rates\*

Thanks to the incredible work of the Vera Institute and parole justice advocates, we have new and updated parole board release rate data to share. You can view the stats in the attached spreadsheet or online <[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YafNtojG2HM105at1PFVP\\_AuJZ6it-sGuL5AJGQzdv8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YafNtojG2HM105at1PFVP_AuJZ6it-sGuL5AJGQzdv8/edit?usp=sharing)>.

We'll update the online sheet as the numbers come in. We're also currently working with Vera to get you commissioner-specific release rates, which we'll hopefully have before the end of May.

\*Updates on Fully Staffing the Parole Board \*

The Parole Board in NYS remains woefully understaffed, with only 12 seated Commissioners. Another Commissioner, Carol Shapiro, plans to retire in June, leaving eight vacancies on the Board and 11 seated Commissioners, such understaffing has led to serious procedural problems--shorter and postponed parole interviews, high commissioner caseloads, two-person panels that cannot reach consensus, etc. On Friday, May 3, 2019, advocates met with Alphonso David and other staff from Gov. Cuomo's office and learned the following:

- \* Gov. Cuomo has committed to nominating new Commissioners this legislative session, increasing the Board to at least 17, and possibly 18 or 19 Commissioners.

- \* Preliminary interviews of candidates were conducted late last year and early this year, and next round interviews formally began on Monday, May 6th.

- \* Candidates include advocates, faith-based leaders, former public defenders and others.

- \* Gov's office would not commit to releasing the names of potential candidates before they are sent to the Senate for confirmation.

- \* Gov's office did commit to regular meetings with advocates.

Advocates from the Parole Preparation Project and the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign (RAPP) will continue to push for a fully-staffed Board with commissioners who believe in rehabilitation, redemption and mercy. Updates to come on that campaign.

**\*Upcoming Action on May 14th in Albany!\***

Join us for a Parole Justice Advocacy Day on May 14, 2019 in Albany, NY. Advocates and formerly incarcerated leaders will call on the Governor and NYS legislature to fully staff the Parole Board and pass our two legislative initiatives that would transform the parole release process. There will be free buses from NYC, Long Island and other parts of the state. Lunch for all participants included. Details to come when you RSVP <<http://bit.ly/May14AdvocacyDay>>."

**Bob Lederer attacked- VIGIL on Thur., May 9 at 6pm in Morningside Park**

"On Wednesday, April 17th, Bob Lederer, a long-time LGBT and AIDS activist was attacked and beaten at 4:30 in the afternoon in Morningside Park. He spent 8 days in the hospital with a traumatic brain injury, and is now in rehab to work on regaining his memory and his physical strength; he is steadily recovering. Since this assault, we've heard of at least four other recent attacks in Morningside and another local park. The targets have included queer, straight, Black, Asian, white, immigrant, men and women. Some attacks are by groups young people including school-aged kids who seem to target people walking alone and who appear vulnerable. Some attacks include sucker-punch attacks.

We see this as a community safety issue-both for people using the parks, and for kids headed for incarceration and lifelong trauma themselves. We're looking for restorative justice that addresses the causes, not more policing. Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behaviour. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders. This can lead to transformation of people, relationships and communities.

(<http://restorativejustice.org/restorative-justice/about-restorative-justice/tutorial-intro-to-restorative-justice/lesson-2-values/#sthash.OxviWFTf.dpbs>)

On Thursday, May 9 at 6 pm we'll join Street Corner Resources, a Harlem-based non-profit organization, to have a SPEAK-OUT against violence in our community and to demand restorative justice.

( <http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2016/dec/22/street-corner-resources-gets-new-headquarters/> )

We will meet in Morningside Park at West 113th street and Manhattan Avenue. We need everyone there: Bob's friends, Harlem community members, and New Yorkers working for shared justice, please come out with us. Please RSVP to the facebook event <https://www.facebook.com/events/1036337966557330/>  
We thank you all for your love, solidarity, and support."

**May 3, 2019 after the Oral Arguments for Jamil Al-Amin in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals - "11**

Alive's Doug Richards has been going out of his way to make sure this story is covered in the mainstream media in Atlanta "

"The oral arguments went well. I agree with the Judge who stated that our argument was "very well presented." Much appreciation as always to Attorney Allen Garrett and our entire Kilpatrick Townsend team/family. Once the transcript of the oral arguments are available, I will be doing a video breakdown of them from my perspective for you all Insha Allah (2). This isn't new. This is a vendetta realized and we must remember that. The support from around the country was beautiful and in some instances overwhelming in the best way. It's a blessing and Allah truly sends the help. I was feeling kind of alone because support wasn't present in places where I thought it'd be a given but masha Allah (3), Allah truly sends the help and we are thankful for you all. Now we will be waiting for the Court to make a decision. In the meantime, we must continue our efforts to spread the TRUTH. Also, Thank you to Doug Richards (11 Alive News) for his fair reporting thus far. My father called me during the debriefing yesterday and was able to speak to those present and his request was that you remember him in your Dua (4) and remember him to your friends, family and colleagues. Keeping him alive in the hearts and minds of the people is paramount to our success and so, that is exactly what we will do Insha Allah (2). Shukran (5) again for everything, this is just the beginning."

FOOTNOTES:

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"Note from Heather Gray (Justice Initiative): While I have studied Spanish, French and Russian languages, I have not learned the Arabic language. So for those of you who, like me, don't know the Arabic narrative, below are footnotes for you and me!!

(1) English translations of alhamdulillah include: "all praise is due to God alone" (Muhammad Asad) "all the praises and thanks be to Allah" (Muhammad Muhsin Khan) "praise be to Allah" (Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Marmaduke Pickthall) (Wikipedia)

(2) 'In shā' Allāh (Arabic: إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ, 'in shā'a llāhu; pronounced [ʔm ja:ʔa ʔʔa:h]), also inshallah, in sha Allah or insha'Allah, is the Arabic language expression for "God willing" or "if God wills". The phrase comes from a Quranic command which commands Muslims to use it when speaking of future events. (Wikipedia)

(3) Masha Allah (Arabic: مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ, mā shā'a llāhu), also Masha'Allah, Ma shaa Allah is an Arabic phrase that is most often translated as "God has willed", "God willing" or "as God willed" and used to express appreciation, joy, praise, or thankfulness for an event or person that was just mentioned. ( Wikipedia )

(4) In Islam, du'ā' archaically transliterated Doowa, literally meaning appeal or "invocation", is a prayer of supplication or request. Muslims regard this as a profound act of worship. Muhammad is reported to have said, "Dua is the very essence of worship." (Wikipedia)

(5) In Arabic "Thank you" is "Shukran". ( Wikibooks )"

### **Why the Vaughn 17 Case Matters to Us All** May 6, 2019

"Editor's note: Shandre Delaney is a prison abolitionist. Her son, Carrington Keys, was released from prison on May 15, 2018, after serving 20 years. He spent 10 of those years in solitary confinement. Since then, Delaney has become a vocal advocate for her son and all prisoners. Read her piece with the Community Based News Room here. She is a regular CBNR contributor on criminal justice.

Imagine sitting in a windowless 6-foot by 9-foot room the size of a bathroom for 23 hours a day, unable to communicate with family or anyone on the outside. The lights are on 24/7. The only drinking water you have is brown from rust. You constantly hear mentally ill people screaming and harming themselves. Within days of this torturous isolation you may begin to feel mental breakdown. Is this Guantánamo? Abu Ghraib? A torture chamber in some distant land? A torture chamber, yes, but a homegrown one. This is solitary confinement in a state prison near you. " For full article see <http://lawatthemargins.com/why-the-vaughn-17-case-matters-to-us-all/>

### **Black Women Political Prisoners of the Police State** by Linda G. Ford - May 3, 2019

"The Rev. Joy Powell says she was "raped, railroaded and bamboozled" by police. Her crime? Being a poor black woman who faced off against the police—protesting their violent brutality against black people in Rochester, NY. Once she defied them, she was warned, then targeted and framed for serious crimes. A few weeks ago, Australian Julian Assange was forcibly dragged from his political asylum to face the American police state. His crime? Like Rev. Powell, he dared to tell the truth about the violence and brutality that defines the American state. Scottish political analyst Jon Wight, citing the treatment of American political prisoners Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu Jamal, calls the US "justice" system the "most cruel and callous in the world." That system does not tolerate the exposure of its war crimes and abuses of its police state quietly—it retaliates against those who expose its injustice by treating them to cruel and callous punishment.

Black women who have confronted the abuses of America's white authority have suffered its punishment throughout our history. Anarchist Lucy Parsons, born in 1853, is one of the few black women mentioned in labor histories, usually as the wife of the martyred Albert Parsons, who was executed in the wake of Chicago's Haymarket Riot of 1886. Parsons was a dedicated "revolutionist" for labor's cause, leading rallies and making speeches in 43 states, advocating the use of explosives by tramps and their taking a "few rich people with them." She was constantly arrested, roughly handled, and jailed: in 1913, at age 60, she was stripped and jailed in Chicago for "peddling literature without a license." Another labor radical, Claudia Jones, who headed the Women's Commission for the US Communist Party, was jailed in 1955. She fought the "madam-maid" relationship of white to black women, and felt socialism was the only hope for American blacks. Jones was deported to England where she continued to work for socialism." For full article see <https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/05/03/black-women-political-prisoners-of-the-police-state/>

## **Death Can be a Slow Traveler: Peltier, Mumia and Rap Brown** by Stanley L. Cohen - April 26, 2019

"When the history of our times is recorded, any volume on domestic political prisoners must, per force, begin with the legendary ones of conscience. To these icons of principle, determination and courage we owe much. It is, after all, not by mere default that they risked, and often paid, all to demand the gale of change sweep away generations of ignorance, hatred and greed that have long fed on communities of color and poverty, from coast to coast, in the United States. For them, it was never about personal risk for they knew all too well the price that can be exacted for such integrity. For them, the alternative of silence was simply an option without a choice."

### **Leonard Peltier**

Leonard Peltier, a founder of the American Indian Movement, is now well into his fourth decade of imprisonment. Wrongfully charged and convicted for the defense of Wounded Knee [this is an error on the author's part] against an FBI onslaught, his, more than any other continuing political persecution, lays bare the myth that the Department of Justice is committed to the pursuit of truth or equal application of law. Having failed to secure a conviction in the first trial against his codefendants, at Peltier's subsequent trial, the government recast, in its entirety, its storyline of what happened that fateful day during the firefight at the Pine Ridge Reservation between some 150 FBI agents, local law enforcement and vigilantes... and forty members of AIM.

At the first trial, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, federal prosecutors argued that two FBI agents were essentially "murdered" during an exchange of gunshots with Native activists barricaded at an AIM compound located some distance away. Rejecting the assertion the agents were targeted, the jury acquitted the defendants on the basis of self defense. After succeeding in moving the second trial to a more favorable government venue in Fargo North Dakota (long a hotbed of anti-Native animus and violence), federal prosecutor's concocted a new strategy. Using a patchwork of evidence built of altered or suppressed testimony to remake a case already soundly rejected, prosecutors rewrote the script to now one where the agents were executed by close range gun shots to their heads. Because of this dramatic shift, Peltier was precluded from submitting any self-defense testimony. Inexplicably, the new judge also prevented the defense from establishing, at trial, that the FBI had a proven history... in Native prosecutions... of tampering with evidence and witnesses. Unlike the first trial, where prosecutors introduced evidence that agents had been pursuing a red pickup truck before the shootout, this time they testified they were looking for an orange and white van... such as the one that Peltier had been seen using on occasion. Likewise, while an FBI ballistic expert testified that a shell casing recovered near the agents' bodies matched a weapon tied to Peltier, prosecutors suppressed a different ballistic test which proved the casing could not have come from his gun. These changes were part of a conscious effort by government prosecutors to convert the trial... of this high profile political and human rights activist... from a search for truth to a staged performance in which it withheld more than 140,000 pages of discovery from the defense in its desperate drive to convict Peltier no matter what the truth or the cost. Nowhere is the nature and extent of the government's misconduct in the persecution of Leonard Peltier better summed up than it was by one of his appellate attorneys, former United States Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who branded the evidence used against him as "fabricated, circumstantial ... misused, concealed, and perverted." Different in tenor and tone, yet, essentially the same in conclusion, during one of Peltier's appeals before the Eight Circuit his former prosecutor conceded "... we do not know who killed those agents. Further, we don't know what participation, if any, Mr. Peltier had in it."

Ultimately, this candid admission of a government frame proved worthless when Barack Obama denied Peltier's request for a sentence commutation via cryptic email, on January 18, 2017, as he raced out the oval office no doubt to ready for his first book signing tour. Next eligible for parole in 2024, when he is 79 years of age, Leonard Peltier, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee who is essentially wheel chair bound and suffers from a potential life threatening internal bleeding condition, is likely to die in prison.

### **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

The thirst for vengeance is no less voracious in state court prosecutions that target political dissidents. Though state substantive offenses may vary and the rules of evidence change, prosecutors and judges still adhere to an age-old obedient oath that those who forcefully confront and expose institutional power and

authority must be called to task... and damn the truth. While examples abound, no clearer one exists than the decades long political feed on Mumia Abu-Jamal. Much has been written by and about Abu-Jamal and his journey, over the course of almost 40 years of imprisonment, largely spent on Pennsylvania's death row, as an ever-present thorn in the veil of institutional isolation and secrecy that consumes its every prison bunk. And while, for some, debate continues over whether he pulled the trigger in the shooting death of a Philadelphia police officer, no such disagreement concerns his life as a community activist and full-time challenge to its notoriously corrupt police department and office of the District Attorney. After his beating by white supremacists, as a mere teen, Mumia found his voice through the Black Panther Party, a chapter of which he helped to found in Philadelphia eventually becoming its "Lieutenant of Information" responsible for writing its policy positions and news releases.

Like many others, Mumia was targeted by the FBI COINTELPRO program which in Philadelphia drew upon the cooperation of local police as they targeted community activists and dissidents. Across the country, black "radical" groups were infiltrated and disrupted with hundreds of their members physically attacked, falsely charged and imprisoned; more than a few the subject of outright government assassination. Over the years, Mumia became a widely recognized and respected voice in alternative news while working at various local, and then national, outlets ranging from university radio stations to NPR... from which he was eventually fired because of his opinions. Ultimately, becoming the President of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, whenever controversy arose, Mumia was sure to be found providing a platform for dissenting views otherwise silenced by the long seated powerful of Philadelphia.

Mumia was a relentless critic of the Philadelphia police department... often citing its documented history of excessive force and corruption including fabricating evidence. He was no less critical of Mayor Frank Rizzo, a former police commissioner, accusing him of fostering an environment rife with systemic racial bias and police brutality. Nowhere is that more evident than in his damning criticism of the police department's repeated confrontations with MOVE, the communal Black liberation movement that lived in West Philadelphia promoting a revolutionary ideology like that of the Black Panther Party. Two major confrontations with the police, one an armed standoff which resulted in the death of an officer and another where a police helicopter dropped a bomb on the MOVE compound causing a fire that killed eleven of its members, including five children, and destroyed 65 neighborhood houses, best define the tension between a movement which Mumia at first supported, and then later joined, and the Philadelphia police. Can it be mere happenstance that Abu-Jamal's favorable reporting on behalf of the accused, during the trial of the "MOVE Nine" for the death of that officer, presaged his own arrest and prosecution for a like accusation not all that long thereafter?

While legal scholars continue to argue over the weight of evidence at Mumia's trial, there can be no reasoned disagreement over the fact that it was a racially charged prosecution of a dynamic political dissident from the African American community of Philadelphia in 1982. Indeed, in exercising eleven out of fourteen peremptory challenges to eliminate prospective black jurors, prosecutors ended up with a jury panel comprised of two blacks and ten whites, all but guaranteeing the trier of fact was tainted with racial bias even before it heard the first witness. Years later, any question about Abu-Jamal's trial being fueled by racial hate was further evidenced by an affidavit of a court stenographer who swore that she overheard the trial Judge, Albert Sabo, comment outside the courtroom, "...Yeah, and I'm going to help them fry the nigger."

Against this light, the trial, itself, was replete with prosecutorial misconduct ranging from suppression of the confession of a man who said he was the actual shooter to the failure to call an eyewitness who told police Mumia was not the gunman. Later, he testified police tore up his original statement and coerced him into signing another one implicating Abu-Jamal. Other witnesses subsequently claimed they had seen another person fleeing from the scene of the shooting. Though this other person's presence at the crime was known to prosecutors at the time of the trial, it was concealed from the jury. Forensic evidence connecting Mumia to the crime was no more reliable. For example, the coroner testified at trial that the bullet extracted from the deceased was a .38-caliber round which matched the weapon recovered from Mumia. At the time of the autopsy he noted in his official medical examiner records that it was a .44 caliber. Just this past week, Abu-Jamal prevailed in his decades old battle to obtain justice when the current Philadelphia District Attorney withdrew his opposition to his de novo appeal based upon a conflict of

interest by the former Pennsylvania Chief Justice, Ronald Castille, who oversaw Mumia's state court appeals between 1998 and 2012. Castille, an avid supporter of the death penalty with close ties to police unions, had been Philadelphia's District Attorney during the early years of Abu-Jamal's attempt to overturn his conviction.

Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal are but two of the most prominent long-term political prisoners in the United States today. Meanwhile dozens of others now well into their sixties, seventies and older have also spent decades entombed in maximum security state and federal penitentiaries that crisscross the country.

### **H. Rap Brown**

To many, Rap Brown is a legendary figure synonymous with revolutionary movements that drove generations of activists in the 60's, 70's and 80's to confront Jim Crow, the war in Vietnam and systemic class, race and gender based discrimination through militant action. Now 76 years of age, and known as Jamil Abdullah al-Amin, he sits in the United States Penitentiary in Tucson fighting cancer while doing a life sentence for a state court conviction for a murder that occurred some eighteen years ago. Like so many other prosecutions of high profile black leaders of his day, his is one beset by nagging questions.

Thus, the prosecutor's theory that Abdullah al-Amin opened fire on police officers who came to arrest him for his mere failure to appear in court for a speeding ticket beggars the imagination. Given his long history as an iconic leader in the national African American community, his then success in local business and prominence as a Muslim preacher and community activist speaking out against drugs and gambling, this inexplicable act of gratuitous violence reeks of intent...looking for motive.

At trial, prosecutors argued al-Amin had failed to provide an alibi for his whereabouts at the time of the crime. Nor did he offer any explanation for fleeing the state after the shooting or account for why the weapons used in it were found near him at the time of his arrest. Against this entirely circumstantial evidence, the defense established that al-Amin was not wounded during the shootout... as the surviving deputy had reported. That same officer described the killer's eyes as grey... al-Amin's are brown. Most important, another man, Otis Jackson, while incarcerated on another charge, confessed to the shooting well before the trial but the court did not allow his confession into evidence. That admission matched essential, and not publicly known, details from 911 calls following the shooting... including a report that a bleeding man was seen limping from the scene. Jackson said he knocked on doors attempting to obtain a ride while suffering from wounds that he had sustained during his firefight with deputies.

### **So Many More**

Who among us today remembers the names let alone the history of Ruchell Magee or Álvaro Luna Hernández or Kamau Sadiki or Kojo Bomani Sababu or Bill Dunne or Joy Powell or Jalil Muntaqim or Russell Maroon Shoats or Edward Poindexter or Romaine Chip Fitzgerald or Joseph Bowen or Fred Burton or Janet Holloway or the other MOVE Nine who remain imprisoned years after evidence showed that the officer they were convicted of killing likely died of friendly fire. Each of these men and women has been imprisoned for decades; victims of a rush to judgment... of politics and prosecutions and passion all but blinded by the hate and fear of the day.

While movements such as the Black Panther Party, the BLA, AIM and MOVE still resonate among some in a new generation of activists, many of their former members, now riddled with poor health and buried in prison, have been all but lost to the passage of time as death can be a slow traveler.

Stanley L. Cohen is lawyer and activist in New York City."

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/04/26/death-can-be-a-slow-traveler-peltier-mumia-and-rap-brown/>

## Russell "Maroon" Shoatz



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CORRECT NUMBER FOR RUSSELL SHOATZ IS 3855.

NYC Jericho received a call from Theresa Shoatz, Maroon's daughter, on Friday, May 3, 2019 with the following report:

Russell "Maroon" Shoatz was seen today in the prison infirmary. He was lucid and able to speak, but complained of nausea and abdominal pain. Maroon was unable to keep any liquids or food down. He was seen by the doctor and the decision was made to send him to a hospital for diagnostic testing. The head nurse at SCI Dallas has been very cooperative, and has kept the family informed regarding his condition. Maroon is unable to make calls, receive emails or have any visits. The family is also working with Maroon's legal counsel. The family is asking that you keep his spirits up once he returns to SCI Dallas by sending get well letters to the address listed below."

Smart Communications/PADOC

SCI Dallas

Russell Shoatz

AF3855

PO Box 33028

St. Petersburg FL. 33733

## In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Campaign

Jericho is spearheading the “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela” campaign proposed by political prisoner and co-founder of the National Jericho Movement Jalil Abdul Muntaqim. This initiative appeals to the international community, including the International Commission of Jurists, to call for special hearings within the United Nations to review the cases of Political Prisoners.

Several meetings have already occurred in collaboration with interested others, and much headway is being made regarding organizing efforts. The campaign “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela” met in NYC on April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup>. For June's meeting, please contact: [nycjericho@gmail.com](mailto:nycjericho@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming involved. We invite you to support this initiative. Everyone is encouraged to check out the website <http://spiritofmandela.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **“Greetings of Peace!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your input is valued at any level.

In solidarity,

The National Jericho Movement

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Coalition”



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

## **Moving Forward**

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

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

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

## **Gratitude and Appreciation**

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

Prisoner's/Prisoner's of War know it as well. There is power in the people, and this is where their freedom lies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free all Political Prisoners!

In struggle and gratitude, The National Jericho Movement

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

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

There are two ways to make a donation:

**Please make non-deductible donations to:**

**National Jericho Treasury**

**Mail to: "Jericho Treasury/Michael Alston"**

Ashanti Alston

[162 Miller Ave](#)

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

**For tax deductible receipt, send donations to:**

**Alliance for Global Justice**

**Subject Line: Jericho**

**Mail to:**

**David Archuleta**

**Alliance for Global Justice**

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

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