

## The Dragons Fire

THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

in Fierce Determination Since 1996

Dec 15, 2019- Jan 15, 2020 Vol. 22

<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 Prisoners/Prisoners of War as well as updates on activities, events and actions.

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

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

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

## **Jericho Movement's Current Work and Progress**

Jericho actively maintains direct connections with our Political Prisoners by visiting or writing them monthly. We also maintain contact and assist their families. We monitor health & legal status and provide support and intervention. We hold political education classes, table at events, travel to give presentations, interviews and speak on radio shows. We are actively involved in collaborating with and supporting other organizations and events which are in alignment with our missions and values to break down walls of injustice, racism, oppression and Free our Political Prisoners. Jericho meetings and teleconferences occurred during the month nationwide. The Jericho Movement has initiated as well as supported and participated in many rallies, events and calls to action this month. We are currently focusing on the campaign “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela”, supporting our PP’s who are going for parole hearings and addressing several health and legal issues of our Political Prisoners. We are also tending to “end of the year” goals and deadlines, as well as pre-planning for a spring National Jericho conference.

**Announcement from Freedom:** PLEASE JOIN BLACK AUGUST LOS ANGELES, ALLIES & COMRADES AS WE GATHER ON THE FIFTH DAY OF THE PRINCIPLE OF KWANZAA - NIA (PURPOSE) TO DISCUSS AND BUILD A CAMPAIGN FOCUSED ON THE LIBERATION OF RUCHELL CINQUE MAGEE, the lone survivor of the august 07, 1970 marin court liberation attempt. CINQUE, WHO HAS BEEN CONTINUOUSLY HELD IN CAPTIVITY SINCE 1963, HAS USED HIS LEGAL EXPERTISE TO HELP MANY prisoners GAIN THEIR FREEDOM, BUT THE STATE HAS USED ILLEGAL AND FRUADULENT TACTICS TO KEEP HIM CONFINED. DECEMBER 30, 2019, MONDAY 6 – 9 PM, AFIBA CENTER, 5730 CRENSHAW BLVD, SPEAKERS \* DOCUMENTARY FILM\* DRUMMING \* FOOD

### **Memorial for Seth Hayes**

Jericho is planning a memorial for Seth Hayes in NYC within the next few months. Date and details to follow.

### **Mondo Art and Writings Update:**

Sis Tekla is Currently inventorying the Papers of Mondo We Langa (plays, poems, critical essays, journals). There are approximately 10 boxes. She is in conference with Sis. Haquikah who has about three boxes of Mondo's materials. Tekla plans to contact Black Classic Press over the next several weeks about publishing Mondo's work, as well as a scholarly treatment of his case. The goal is to have the full inventory before approaching them again. She would like to have proceeds from his written work, benefit his nieces and nephew (if possible).

### **Jericho Retreat**

Jericho is in the process of planning our yearly retreat. We are looking at summer in Providence Rhode Island. More details to follow!

### **Report Back: Seth Hayes Memorial and Burial in Buffalo, NY**

The memorial on Friday, December 27th was beautiful. Ralph Poynter read the moving statement for Seth written by Jihad. People shared memories and afterwards there was food and time to talk with old friends and comrades and meet new ones.

Seth was a decorated Viet Nam Vet and was given a military burial on Saturday, December 28th.. Joe Hill sang the AIM Honor Song for the passing of a warrior.

-Ann Jaffe and Anne Lamb



Photo: Chango, Seth's son and Myaisha, Seth's granddaughter at the burial grounds

]"Be not deceived by imagery of the "Red, White & Blue Colors" displayed during the "free reparation paid" burial ceremony of Robert "Seth" Hayes. Just like Comrade Seth, Hundreds of other Veteran Black Panther Party members & Black Liberation Army soldiers such as Geronimo Jijaga Pratt, Nat Shanks, Dhoruba Bin Wahad, James "Tarik" Haskins and Mark "Smitty" Smith; All received and then utilized their U.S. military training & combat experience as real revolutionary freedom fighters for the people!" by Bro Shep



Nate, Joe Hill, Leslie and Theresa



Eliza Pickering (Leslie's daughter) & Nayeli Buckley (Nate's daughter)



Road trip home from Buffalo-Dave George, Myaisha's life partner (RAPP) (front left), Myaisha, Yasmeen, Ann Jaffe and Anne Lamb, Tarik and Shep



Flowers sent by Billie from Jalil's family

After Seth's memorial NYC Jericho was reminiscing and shared a memory about Seth which occurred at the Jericho Holiday Party. Seth sent a text to relay the following message at the party:

“Hello everyone, this is Robert Seth Hayes. I heard about this and desired a few Moments to say.....THANK YOU. Sisters and Brothers are able to purchase from commissary every needed item to supplement the cause available. The help that comes but never asked for, is a blessing and demonstration of your compassion and grace. It is the right thing to do and do just that. Thank You. Have a Blessed Night. Robert Seth Hayes , December 13, 2019”



Rest in Power Comrade

## Jericho Highlights and Tributes

**Robert Seth Hayes, Oct. 15th, 1947 - Dec. 21st, 2019**



”We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our beloved friend, father, and grandfather Robert Seth Hayes. Seth transitioned Saturday morning December 21st, 2019 in his own home at the age of 72 years old. Seth devoted his life to fighting for freedom, justice, and peace. We will forever miss his uncompromising spirit, love, gentleness, and grace. We will honor his legacy every day in our lives and communities. A memorial will be held in Buffalo, New York Friday night, December 27th followed by a burial service on Saturday, December 28th. We will share the exact details as soon as we can. If you would like to travel from NYC to Buffalo for the services, please contact Dave George (ddgeorge23@gmail.com). If you are able to, please consider making a donation to Myaisha Hayes through PayPal (myaisha@mediajustice.org) or through the Venmo app (@Myaisha-Hayes-1) to help cover the funeral costs. We appreciate the tremendous love and support.”

With Love,  
Seth's Family & Friends

### **UPDATE From Seth's granddaughter Myaisha:**

“Hi Everyone,

Thank you for the condolences. Here's an update on the memorial and burial: There will be a memorial held at 6 pm on Friday 12/27 at Burning Books, 420 Connecticut St, Buffalo, NY and the burial services will be held on Saturday 12/28 at 11:45 am at St. Matthews Cemetery, 180 French Rd., West Seneca, NY. Please share with anyone who would like to know and to attend and celebrate Seth's life.

Much love and reflection as Seth transitions to an ancestor.

If you would like to travel from NYC to Buffalo for the services, please contact Dave George (ddgeorge23@gmail.com). If you are able to, please consider making a donation to Myaisha Hayes through PayPal (myaisha@mediajustice.org) or through the Venmo app (@Myaisha-Hayes-1) to help cover the funeral costs. We appreciate the tremendous love and support.”

**With Love,  
Seth's Family & Friends**

### **Jericho's Salute for Seth Hayes**



### **A SALUTE TO OUR COMRADE AND PEOPLE'S WARRIOR**

**Robert Seth Hayes**

**Oct. 15th, 1947 - Dec. 21st, 2019**

National Jericho joins with all its affiliates, comrades, friends, and sisters and brothers to salute our beloved comrade, Robert Seth Hayes, and to send condolences to his family. In prayer we say: “Innallahi wa innallayhi raji’oon,” from Allah we came and to Him we shall return. In our shared revolutionary consciousness, we salute Seth by quoting Chairman Mao: “All men must die, but death can vary in its significance. The ancient Chinese writer Szuma Chien said, ‘Though death befalls all men alike, it may be weightier than Mount Tai or lighter than a feather.’ To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai, but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather.” Seth’s passing is weightier than Mount Tai! We are emboldened with the knowledge that legacy of the Black Panther Party and of our struggles to

defend the human rights of all people will live through the life and death of Comrade Seth. We are at peace knowing that our unified efforts, campaigns and support for Seth made it possible for him to taste the relative freedom of minimum security (life outside of prison) and not die in prison. And so it must be for all of our comrades still inside!  
Lest Robert Seth Hayes' death be in vain,

### **Fight to Free all Political Prisoners!!!**

Jihad Abdulmumit  
National Jericho

## **Announcement**

### **Abdul Jabbar Caliph's Book is Released!**

This book is a labor of love-truly. It is a labor of love by comrade sister Tomiko Shine. "Tomiko Shine is a Cultural Anthropologist with a focus on identity/narrative of people of African descent. She is Founding Director of "Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign" (APP-HRC) see: <https://www.apphrc.com/> . Sister Tomiko is a well-known and respected activist not only in her city of Baltimore, but nationally and internationally as well. It is no wonder her and Jabbar crossed paths in this life. Sister Tomiko met brother Jabbar about two years prior to his transcending. The two bonded as comrades in the movement. During brother Jabbar's stay in the hospital, sister Tomiko was always by his side, encouraging him, bringing him food, calling friends so they could talk and pray with Jabbar, and sing African songs to him. She was with Jabbar until he took his last breath. Thus, it is no surprise that she began the time consuming work of compiling Jabbar's essays, writings, and other works to put together this most revolutionary book. She knew his work was not finished. She also knew that too often, when great freedom fighters' transition, their works can get lost forever....Through her fierce determination and dedication to compile this book of essays, Jabbar's work lives on. Much honor, Respect, and Love to the sister.

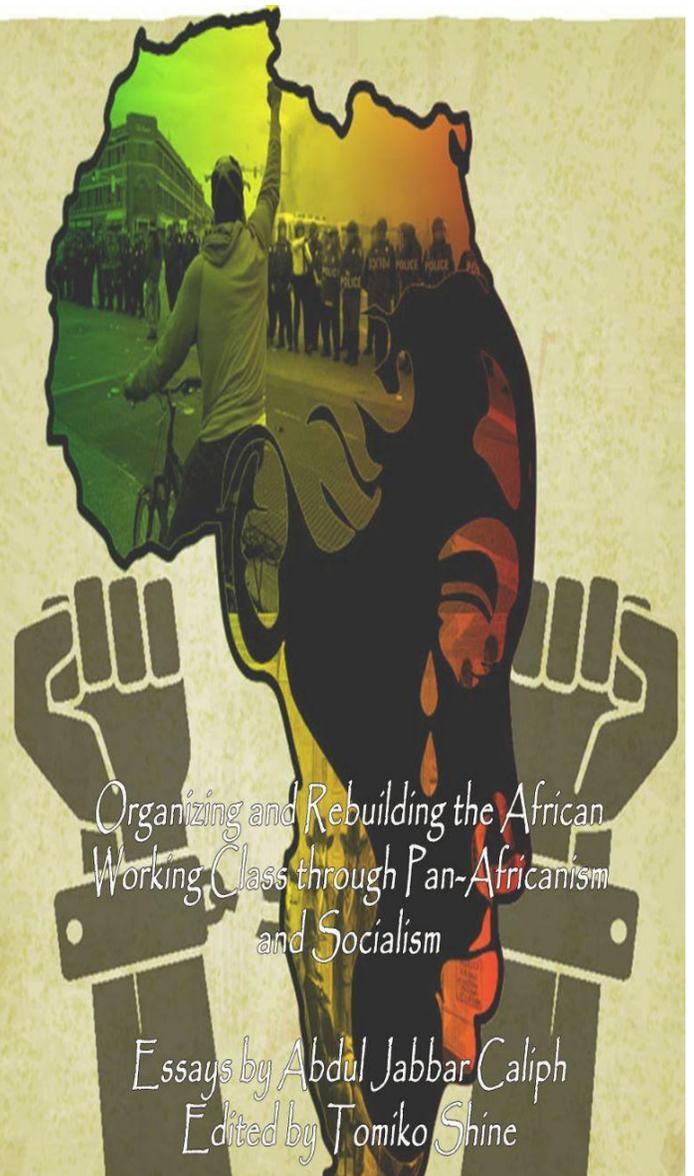
The book of essays, "Rebuilding and Organizing the African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism" is an intriguing and serious look into the life and works of Abdul Jabbar Caliph. It is also an introspection of self, in relationship to what progress has been made, and how one can contribute to the movement in a meaningful, solidified way. When analyzing the essays, the reader develops an awareness that it is "everyday" people that can accomplish great things, create change, and help move people forward towards freedom and self-determination. This is a journey of serious ponderance and deliberation. This book reflects a portion of Jabbar's passion and commitment to change. Anyone who is truly interested in doing movement work that makes a difference, needs to read this book in its entirety. If you knew Jabbar, it will be a deep heartfelt reminder. If you did not know him, it will be a wakeup call.



Abdul Jabbar Caliph ( May 16, 1961— October 8, 2018); was co-chair of National Jericho Movement, Chair of UJIMA, Founder/Director of Maryland State Jericho Amnesty Movement, George Jackson University, Advisor of MDRAPP (MD Release Aging People in Prison), Advisor to APP-HRC (Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign), Co-Creator of the Assata Shakur Liberation Day, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Chief Editor African World Report Online.

Tomiko Shine is a Cultural Anthropologist with a focus on identity/narrative of people of African descent. She is Founding Director of *Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign*; a human rights organization that advocates for the human rights and release of aging men and women imprisoned for decades across the United States.

*Pan-Africanism and Socialism*



To purchase a copy of “Rebuilding and Organizing the African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism”, include your name, mailing address, and send payment via PayPal to [paypal.me/jabbaessays](https://paypal.me/jabbaessays)  
 \$20.00 Book  
 \$5.00 Shipping

## **Chairman's Corner**

Please check Back Next Month

# Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War

## POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE MONTH

Please Check Back Next Month

### Medical Updates

#### **Rev. Joy Powell**

Joy has been experiencing chest pains and was taken to Westchester 70% blockage to artery. Jericho to follow up.

#### **Leonard Peltier**

They don't give flu shots to Prisoners. Leonard had the flu and has been down for days but is feeling better now.

#### **Russel Maroon Shultz**

Cancer treatments continuing, family says he looks relatively good, but he was moved to facility near Pittsburg which is difficult for his family to get to.

#### **Mutulu Shakur**

“Dr. Shakur received a diagnosis of life-threatening bone marrow cancer in October 2019. Until now, he has requested that this information be kept private. For over a year he had experienced pain in his bones, but he was not even x-rayed until April 2019. Although the prison doctor probably suspected cancer and called for a CT scan, the scan was delayed for four months. After a year of delay, we know now that Mutulu is suffering from extensive painful bone lesions, caused by a rapidly growing bone marrow cancer. He is 69 years old, and aging in prison after 33 years of incarceration. In 2014, he suffered from a stroke, which required several months for recovery. He has high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and vision problems from glaucoma. We fear for his survival and his life.”

<http://mutulushakur.com/site/2019/12/medical-legal-update/>

**Mutulu Shakur UPDATE:** “Dr. Shakur has been transferred from the USP in Victorville to the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky for continued treatment and chemotherapy. Family and friends have been able to speak with him on the phone since his arrival at the facility and his spirit is strong. We have updated his mailing address on his support website. Please send correspondence to him at the below address until future notice. We will update his website and social media as more information is available.”

#### **\*MUTULU NEW ADDRESS:**

Mutulu Shakur #83205-012  
FMC Lexington, P.O. Box 14500  
Lexington, KY 40512

## Legal Updates

### Jalil Muntaqim



“Jalil Muntaqim was given a 12-month hit by the NYS Parole Board. This was a unanimous decision by the Board, despite the fact that Jalil has been in prison since August 28, 1971

As many of you know, Jalil has been to the parole board twelve times since 2002, when he first become parole eligible.

Jalil has been denied each time for a variety of reasons, all of which

are tantamount to the nature of the crime—something that will never change.

Pursuant to NYS Constitutional Article IV, Section 4, Jalil has filed an Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served with NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Governor Cuomo has the authority to grant the Application and order Jalil’s immediate release from NYS DOCCS custody.

Since the Application’s submission it has been revealed that the NYS Board of Parole had a “secret deal” with the NYC Police Benevolent Association (PBA), permitting them to submit opposition letters directly to the Board of Parole from their website. These opposition letters negatively influenced the decision-making process, ensuring Jalil would not receive a fair and impartial parole hearing. During Jalil’s 2014 parole hearing, he was told that “current and former members of law enforcement” were parole commissioners, many of whom decided to deny his release.

On December 4th & 5th, 2016, The New York Times published an extensive exposé entitled “The Scourge of Racial Bias in New York States Prisons” that informed: “The racism can be felt from the moment a black inmate enters New York’s upstate prisons.” This implacable racism has been institutionalized in the entire parole system, permitting subjective biases of parole commissioners to influence parole decisions.

Since the submission of the Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served, Governor Cuomo has received many letters and communications urging him to grant Jalil’s Application. However, due to the revelation of political collusion between the Board of Parole and the PBA, and the PBA/media backlash and scrutiny of the Parole Board’s release of Jalil’s co-defendant, it has become necessary to launch this initiative in support of Jalil’s Application.

Jalil exceeds all requirements for release. His release on parole has been supported by activists, academics and community leaders from across the country and around the world, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the family of one of the victims. The political nature of his conviction has prevented parole commissioners from giving fair and impartial consideration to his release, despite the overwhelming community support.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During his 48+ years of his imprisonment, Jalil has accomplished the following: Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, Certificate of Architectural Drafting,

Certificate of Computer Literacy.

He has established many programs, such as the first Men's Group for therapeutic training in the NY State prison system, an African/Black Studies program, a computer literacy class, a Sociology class and a poetry class. He has received two commendations for preventing prison riots. He has raised money for the children's fund, was office manager of the computer lab and a teacher's aide for GED classes. Jalil is also the recipient of several certificates for rehabilitation programming, and is a published author, poet, educator and blogger.

As a human rights advocate, he had the first U.S. prisoners national petition heard and recorded by a Special Committee at the United Nations on U.S. prisons and the existence of U.S. political prisoners. He has litigated several civil rights complaints on behalf of prisoners. In 2000, Essence magazine featured an article on father-daughter relationships. The article, entitled "Daddy Says," quoted Jalil stressing the importance of maintaining these relations even during incarceration.

We request that people do the following for Jalil throughout the months of November and December: We are requesting that Friends and Supporters call, tweet, email and write NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office and appeal to him to grant Jalil's Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served.

We also request that this initiative be widely posted on social media platforms, encouraging freedom loving people around the world to join in this initiative.

Since this will be ongoing throughout the months of November and December, 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/>

### **Mutulu Shakur**

"Dr. Shakur's legal team has filed a compassionate release petition, because now Dr. Shakur's very survival depends on his release. He meets the conditions for compassionate release under federal law. He is a recognized advocate for human and civil rights who poses no danger of committing any crimes against anyone. As evidenced by widespread support for his parole, he will be welcomed back into a community that will also provide for his financial and medical support. **However, on December 5th he was denied compassionate release by the Central office of the BOP.** He is currently receiving chemotherapy, but the BOP has not told him or his lawyer the exact type of treatment he is getting. He has been able to talk with his newest lawyer Mark Kleiman and may receive a family visit from his son. Most importantly, Mutulu says that he is managing the treatment and his spirit is strong."

<http://mutulushakur.com/site/2019/12/medical-legal-update/>

### **Sundiata Acoli-Denied Parole December 27, 2019**

Sundiata Acoli, now 82, denied parole. A three-judge appellate panel affirmed the state parole board's denial of Acoli's latest bid for parole, with one judge dissenting.

## **Birthdays**

### **Please send a card!**

### **January Birthdays**

**Jeremy Hammond:** Birthday: January 8, 1985 Affiliation: Anarchist-computer hacker



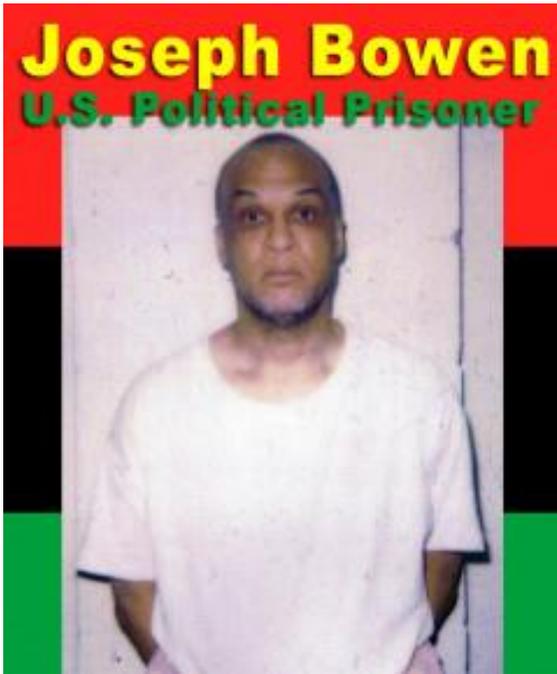
Contact Information/Prison Address  
A0182888, William J. Truesdale ADC,  
2001 Mill Rd.,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Captured: March 5, 2012. Sentence: 10yrs

“Jeremy Hammond, a former member of the hacking network Anonymous who has become a cause célèbre for hacktivists, civil libertarians and those concerned about the rights of whistleblowers, is a gifted young computer programmer who is currently spending a decade in prison. His crime? Leaking information from the private intelligence firm Strategic Forecasting, information which revealed that Stratfor had been spying on human rights activists at the behest of corporations and the U.S. government.”

<http://freejeremy.net>

**Joseph Bowen**-Birthday: January 15, 1948



Contact Information/Prison Address

AM-4272 1 Kelley Drive, Coal Township,, PA 17866-1021

Affiliation: Black Liberation Army

Captured: 1973: Life Without Parole

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

**Marius Mason** [Address mail to Marie Mason]: Birthday: January 26, 1962



Affiliation: Anarchist and Earth First!

Contact Information/Prison Address

#04672-061, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811

Captured: March 10, 2008. Sentence: 22yrs.

"Marius was an extended care assistant at a small Cincinnati school when arrested on March 10, 2008 by federal agents. Marius was convicted of involvement with a December 1999 arson at a Michigan State University office in which GMO research was being conducted and a January 2000 arson of logging equipment in Mesick, Michigan. Both arsons were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front." <https://supportmariusmason.org/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marius\\_Mason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marius_Mason)

**Abdul Azeez:** Birthday Jan. 9, 1947



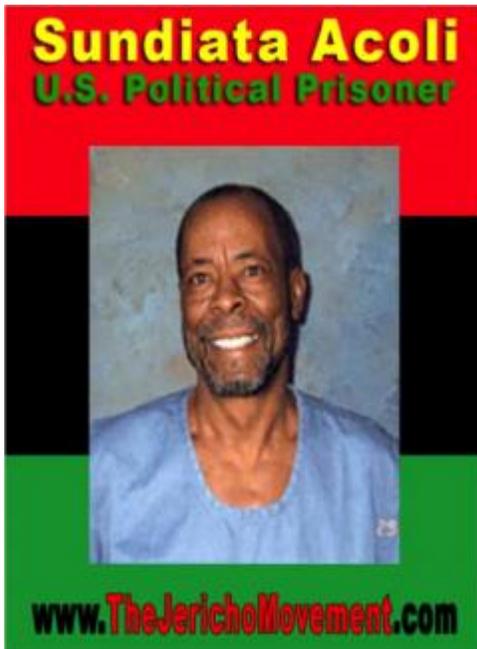
Contact Information/Prison Address

Warren Ballantine #5161422, Citrus County Detention Facility, 2604 West Woodland Ridge Drive, Lecanto, FL 34461

Captured 1972--8 Life Sentences

A history of the "Virgin Island Five", a group of activists accused of murdering eight people in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The murders took place during a turbulent period of rebellion on the Islands. The island was put under virtual martial law, and eventually five men: Ismail Ali, Warren (Aziz) Ballantine, Meral (Malik) Smith, Raphael (Kwesi) Joseph, and Hanif Shabazz Bey were apprehended and then charged with the attack. All the men were known supporters of the Virgin Island independence movement. The five were charged after being subjected to vicious torture, in order to extract confessions. They were beaten, hung from their feet and necks from trees, subject to electric shocks with "cattle prods", had plastic bags tied over their heads and had water forced up their noses by the "defenders of the law." The judge (Warren Young) overlooking the case prior to being placed on the federal bench worked as Rockefeller's private attorney and even handled legal matters for the Fountain Valley Golf Course. Eventually, the five went to trial in what became known as the "Fountain Valley" murder trial. This was an obvious Kangaroo Court and a mockery of any sense of a fair trial. On August 13, 1973, each of the five men convicted and sentenced to eight (8) consecutive life terms. Today, Warren (Aziz) Ballantine, Meral (Malik) Smith, and Hanif Shabazz Bey are all confined in federal prisons. Ismail Ali was liberated to Cuba via an airplane hijacking in 1984. Raphael (Kwesi) Joseph was granted a pardon by the V.I. governor in 1992. Six years later Kwesi was mysteriously found dead of poison-laced drug overdose, after it was said that he was about to reveal evidence that would have exonerated at least one or more defendants. <http://abcf.net/abc/pdfs/vi5.pdf>

**Sundiata Acoli:** Birthday: January 14, 1937



Affiliation: Black Panther Party-New African

Contact Information/Prison Address

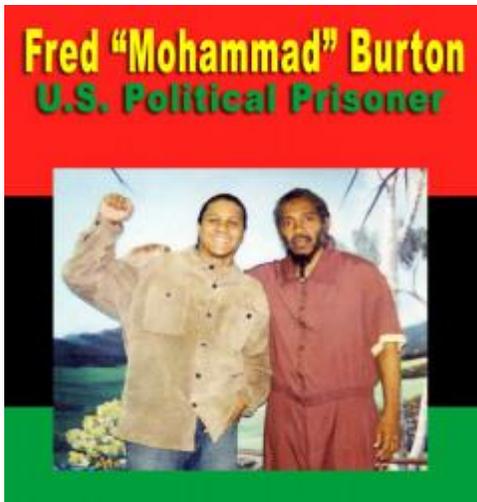
#39794-066 (\*Address envelope to Clark Squire), FCI Cumberland, P.O. Box 1000

Cumberland, MD 21501 Captured: 1973- Life Sentence

"The Parole Board's stated reason for the 20-year hit was Sundiata's membership in the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army prior to his arrest and the receipt of hundreds of "Free Sundiata" form letters that characterized him as a New Afrikan Prisoner of War." <http://SundiataAcoli.org> For complete article see: <https://www.thejerichomovement.com/profile/acoli-sundiata-clark-squire>

## December Birthdays

**Fred "Muhammad" Burton-December 15th**



Contact Information/Prison Address

Smart Communications/PA DOC Burton, Fred "Muhammad" AF 3896

SCI Somerset, Post Office Box 33028, St Petersburg, FL 33733

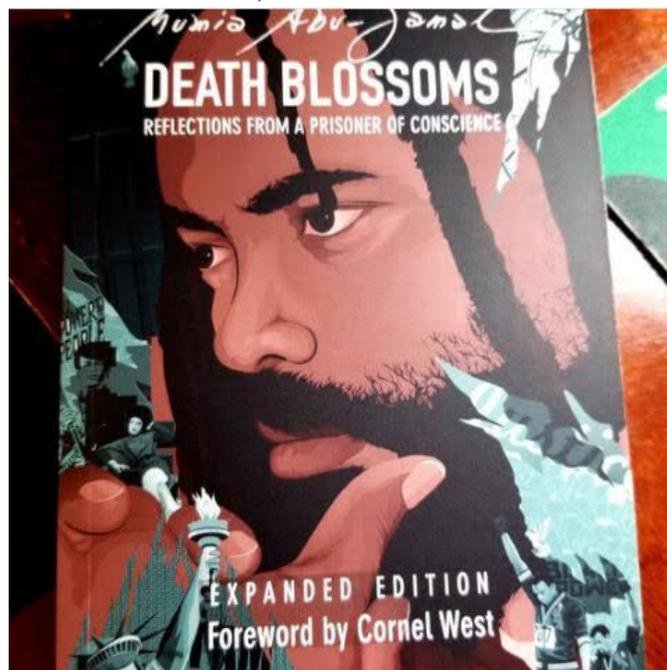
United States <http://www.advocateforjustice.net/SupportFreedomForFrederickBurton.html>

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

**Mumia Abu-Jamal: Death Blossoms Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience, Expanded Edition, Mumia Abu-Jamal**



**Mumia Abu-Jamal: Death Blossoms Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience, Expanded Edition, Mumia Abu-Jamal**

“Foreword by Cornel West,

Introduction by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Preface by Julia Wright

Cover Artwork by Intifada Street <http://www.intifadastreet.com/>

“Profound meditations on life, death, freedom, family, and faith, written by radical Black journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal, while he was awaiting his execution.”

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist, political activist, and author. In 1981, he was elected president of the Association of Black Journalists (Philadelphia chapter) and was a radio reporter for National Public Radio (NPR). As part of a team of reporters at WHYI, one of NPR's premier stations, he won the prestigious Major Armstrong Award from Columbia University for excellence in broadcasting.” See

[http://www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI=87286100309860&fa=author&person\\_id=8211](http://www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI=87286100309860&fa=author&person_id=8211)

**Veronza Bowers: In search of a sound – lessons from bamboo** December 25, 2019



“In the spring of 1985, I was gifted with a beautiful wooden recorder from a friend from Lebanon. I immediately fell in love with its sound. That sound led me to the C-concert flute and a long horizontally held bamboo flute. I spent many hours each day blowing and learning. In the evenings, because I lived in a single occupancy cell, I would practice softly blowing my bamboo. On the wall, I had a bigger than life-sized picture of the beautiful Winnie Mandela – just her face with

those big pools of Black African Magic Woman's eyes casting a spell on me.

I would just get lost in her eyes and blow ever so softly. From that blowing, a sweet melody was born and became a song with a jazz band and I called it "Ode To Winnie" – with lyrics. We entered a talent show and won first place and had to do an encore, to a standing ovation.

In 1987, I was transferred from USP Lompoc in California to a state prison in Washington and couldn't take my instruments and found myself **NEEDING TO BLOW**. While thumbing through a Mother Jones magazine, I ran across an advertisement of a man who made bamboo flutes and Shakuhachi. Never having heard of Shakuhachi, I ordered a bamboo flute from Monty Levenson – and thus began a lifetime friendship.

Whoooooaa, the sound of breath sliding across bamboo was sooo much different from the sounds of my silver flute and wooden recorder. But in order to play it required that I spend a lot of time stretching my fingers wider apart to be able to cover the holes. I was too impatient for that, so I contacted Monty and told him that I wanted to exchange it for one of his student model Shakuhachi.

When my Shakuhachi arrived, I didn't have a clue as to how to even produce a sound. I spent weeks trying to figure it out, blowing across each of the four holes on the top side of my 1-foot-8-inch piece of bamboo. THAT couldn't be the way to make music with it. Then one day it was as though my Shakuhachi said, "Blow me like you used to blow soda pop bottles when you were a little boy." Ahhh, THAT was THE sound I'd been searching for! From that day on, the bamboo of the Shakuhachi became my teacher, my Sen-sei! I would blow for hours each day. I would blow one single note (one sound, if you will) and hold it for as long as I could, making it as whole and as beautiful and sweet as I could. With my eyes closed, I would watch and listen to that single note expand to its fullness and gradually fade into a haunting, yet as beautiful and sweet SILENCE.

Then, in 1990, I was transferred to USP Terre Haute, Indiana. There I established a meditation group and called it Meditation Healing with Shakuhachi. The following is an account written by me in 1990 of an amazing healing experience we all participated in. It was published in The Annals of the International Shakuhachi Society and in The Journal of Noetic Science – quite an honor.

#### Meditation healing with Shakuhachi

I have lived the past 24 [now 46] years of my life as a federal prisoner with the Bureau of Prisons number 35316-136 appended to my name. For those of you who have never been inside a maximum security penitentiary, it might be difficult, if not impossible, to imagine it is a place where the plaintive sounds of Shakuhachi can be heard. Ah! But it is true.

I am honored and happy to be able to share with you a story about a young man – whom doctors had told would never walk again – and a piece of bamboo. This is a story of the human spirit and will at their finest, and a story of the healing power that is within Shakuhachi. In 1987, this young man (let's call him Punchy) was shot in the back in Detroit, Michigan. The shot and subsequent operation left him completely paralyzed from the waist down. Call it coincidence, fate or simply the way things happen, but in that very same year I was introduced to Shakuhachi by a man named Monty H. Levenson, Shakuhachi maker and now dear friend.

Three years later, on the recreation yard of Terre Haute Federal Penitentiary in Indiana, I first saw Punchy – he, being pushed in his wheelchair around the quarter mile track; me, sitting under the shade of a lone tree blowing my Shakuhachi. I closed my eyes and continued to blow. The song in my heart reflected what I had just seen and my Shakuhachi began to cry.

After about two weeks of watching Punchy go for his daily ride, I made arrangements through one of his drivers to meet him. I explained to Punchy that I practiced an ancient art called Hands on Healing. I explained about Touch for Health, Acupressure, Tsubo Therapy, Shiatsu Therapy, Jin Shin Do, Massage Therapy and Meditation Healing using sounds and colors.

We talked about Chi and the circulation of energy, chakras, stretching as well as other kinds of physical therapy and exercise. I looked into his eyes and told him I'd like to try to help him. Although he had never heard of such things and was unable to hide his skepticism, he agreed.

Where? How to begin? That was the burning question in my mind as we made arrangements to meet the following afternoon. I knew that I would have to examine his entire body from head to toe and would have to work with him daily for quite a long time. We would have to be committed to each other and to ourselves. This would involve much work, way beyond physical therapy.

As agreed, we began the following day. After a solid month – six days a week, two and a half hours a day – of breathing exercises, acupressure treatments, stretching etc., we were basically where we were when we started. Punchy was locked up inside of himself where I could not touch.

I knew that unless he would allow me to come in, unless he could open up and share with me his deepest pain, no amount of massage and manipulation of muscles, no amount of stimulation of nerves, no amount of stretching, no amount of anything would result in an improvement of his condition.

Were the doctors, with their professional diagnosis, correct in their approach? Or was Punchy, a young man, who had so much energy inside of himself, being sentenced to a wheelchair for the rest of his life? Is it true that the solution – if there is a solution – to any problem lies within the problem itself? A breakthrough was needed.

I had recently started conducting meditation sessions with members of our Rastafarian Community in the chapel during which I blow Shakuachi. I asked Punchy to attend. For this special session I gathered together seven men, all physically strong and emotionally and spiritually well-balanced.

The seven men would represent the Sun, the Moon, Mother Earth and the Four Directions – North, East, South and West. I explained to them Punchy's condition and what was needed of each man as well as all of them as a collective body. The following is part of a Self-Monitoring Cross-Consciousness account of our first meditation healing session written immediately following the session by Darrell, one of the participants.

"A wounded Brother was placed on his back in the center of the room. We were instructed to form a circle around him, lying on our backs with our heads nearest to him and focus upon channeling positive energy so that he might be healed.

"We were instructed to breathe in a rhythmic and harmonious flow, inhaling deeply to the count of five and exhaling deeply to the count of five until we were in perfect unison. A flute began to play. With my eyes closed, I can hear the melody uttering words of transient delight, making it hard to resist complete relaxation. I have given myself totally to the Wounded One.

"There is a light. I used it to focus on as I attempted to channel my energy towards the Wounded One. I concentrated on the lower half of his body, for he was unable to walk. The light was drawing near and growing dim, the musical sounds freeing me from anxiety. The light now, ever so near and dimmer still, as the sounds of winds from the flute hovered over my body. I am conscious as my body releases the tension from the controlled breathing and begins to act upon its own to recover its natural pace. The hollow sounds of beauty making me ever so comfortable as the dimness of the light slowly turned to a red.

"The flute player is standing over me. I am aware of his presence, but why am I moaning? Why can I not respond to acknowledge him? Where am I? Can I help my wounded Brother, and who and where are the drummers? My body won't respond, but I am conscious. I can hear everything and the breaths of everyone; we are all breathing out of time. Everyone has lost the rhythm except the flutist. He has acted as a tour guide down the pathway of total redness, almost leading me towards serenity, if it weren't for the pain. What pain? Whose pain? So much pain – but why am I still moaning? Where am I?

"It appears that I have allowed the flutist, the tour guide, to take me beyond the realms of my control. I can sense serenity, but the pain. Oh! The pain! And why do I feel as if I'm not alone? The corridor, or

pathway, which has turned blue some time ago is now glowing and has a strange aura. The silence broke. ‘Rub your hands together’ It was the familiar voice of the tour guide, and I made motions with my hands, which, which was all I could do to make him aware that the command had been heard.

“I didn’t quite know how to function, for I was distant, incoherent and a slight bit delirious; but I could sense that he knew, for I was still trapped in space. ‘Rub your hands together so they generate energy, and then rub the warmth over your face. Wash your face with energy.’ I was able to comprehend the fact that this was, no doubt, a command, and I found myself obedient, my body began to respond, my eyes opened. It was over.”

After the session had ended and everyone else had returned to this plane, Punchy was still out. When he finally awoke, he blurted out, “What happened? Where I been?” Everyone laughed.

I was terribly excited and anxious to talk with the Brother who had been moaning and rolling his head back and forth. I needed to know what he had seen, what he had experienced. He and I got together immediately after everyone had left the chapel. As I blew Shakuuchi at the top of the stairwell, he recorded what you have just read.

Ahhh! The breakthrough! On so many levels. A small piece of bamboo, 1-foot-8-inches long, had opened doorways which had previously been welded shut. Shakuuchi had done in one and a half hours what no human being had done in three years. Shakuuchi had made it possible, via Darrell’s psychic bonding with Punchy, to connect with and to deeply understand Punchy’s psychological and spiritual pain. During our next working session, Punchy and I discussed all that we had both learned and for the first time he opened up completely.

From then on, we began each working session with Shakuuchi. A healthy diet with vitamins, a combination of disciplines mentioned earlier, meditation and circulation of Chi, weight lifting for upper body strength, stretching, stretching and more stretching for leg strength – the strength of the tiger lies in his flexibility – and a determined will, all combined so that by the end of the summer, 10 months after our first meditation healing session, on Dec, 10, 1990, Punchy could do 100 full squats non-stop, walk five steps on his own, and walk behind his wheelchair with me sitting in it and push me one full lap around the quarter-mile track on the yard.

I wish I had more space to share with you the details of this inspiring struggle of a young man determined to walk again and the neverending mystery that is Shakuuchi. I am deeply thankful to my dear friend Monty for introducing me to Shakuuchi, and I am eternally grateful to Shakuuchi for so graciously accepting my breath and for allowing me to be an extension through which healing can pass. [This entire article, which first appeared in Kyoto Journal No. 32, Summer 1996, can be seen on my website with photos in color.].

Healing the healer

In 1998, I was transferred to FCI Coleman, Florida, the first medium custody prison I was sent to after having been in maximum security USPs for 27 years. Shortly after my arrival, I established the All Faith Meditation Group.

Once the warden saw that we were serious and many men joined with us, he allowed us to have a five-day Meditation Retreat. That attracted the attention of the Dharma instructor of the Gateless Gate Meditation Center in Gainesville, Florida.

To the honor and delight of all of us he brought with him a Rimpoche (Monk) from Tibet – and 38 men of our group attended. I was given the honor of blowing Shakuuchi for the first and last hour of each session for the entire retreat.

Upon hearing the first note of my Shakuhachi, the Rimpoche was moved to tears. Later, through his interpreter, he said: “I was so overwhelmed by the beauty and purity of that single sound, my tears flowed freely from my thankful heart. It reminded me of home.” He bowed and I bowed – and we all bowed to him and he bowed to us.

In May of 2017, I was diagnosed as having lymphoma (a cancer that attacks and invades the lymphatic system), and transferred to the Federal Medical Center in Butner, N.C., to undergo chemotherapy. My white cell blood count became so low my immune system was compromised and I contracted pneumonia. I was moved from the fourth floor to the fifth and hooked up to an IV machine that pumped antibiotics into my bloodstream. (For a detailed account, please see “Veronza, don’t die in prison!” in the Bay View.)

A good friend of mine was in a room – a cell – three doors down from me. I went to visit him and was shocked and pained to see how the cancer had eaten away his body, and his legs and stomach were sooo badly swollen. Sighhh. He was in a constant and terrible pain.

I went back to my room/cell and fetched my Shakuhachi. Even though I was very weak myself from the pneumonia, I leaned against a wall in his room/cell, closed my eyes and just BLEW my Shakuhachi. After about 10 minutes, I opened my eyes and saw my friend smiling, even as tears streamed down his face. He said: “Brother Veronza, that was sooo beautiful. ALL of my pain just went away. It was like those sounds was a river and the pain got washed away by the current.”

From that day on until he was moved into the hospice area, despite my own weakness, I would will myself to go to his room/cell and BLOW Shakuhachi for him – and for me – and for all the other sick and dying men in rooms/cells on that floor. My friend passed away – all alone in hospice.

There is sooo much more I’d love to share with you about my wondrous journey with Shakuhachi and the effects it has and continues to have on me and the people who have been touched and moved by its sounds and SILENCES.

But for now, I just want to thank my dear friend Monty Levenson for introducing me to Shakuhachi – and I thank the bamboo that is Shakuhachi for being my Sen-sei and teaching me to blow and for accepting my breath and allowing me to be a vessel through which healing and peace can pass on to others.”

In Emptiness and Nothingness

Veronza Bowers, Jr. (Daoud)

“Send our brother some love and light: Veronza Bowers, 35316-136, Butner Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 1600, Butner NC 27509, and visit his website, [www.veronza.org](http://www.veronza.org). Veronza has served more than 46 years in the federal Bureau of Prisons, 15 of them past his mandatory parole release date of April 7, 2004. Learn more at Jericho.” <https://sfbayview.com/2019/12/veronza-bowers-in-search-of-a-sound-lessons-from-bamboo/>

## Community Calls for Action

**Truth & Reconciliation: Dr. Mutulu Shakur: Raising funds for the production of a documentary on Dr. Mutulu Shakur**

“This documentary aims to push forward the ongoing work of others who support the release of Dr. Mutulu Shakur from federal prison. We are striving to reach new networks of people locally and

internationally, people who actively push for change, progress and are aware of our political climate and are taking a stand to see change in our criminal justice system. We present to you the unparalleled impact and positive work of Dr. Shakur as an acupuncturist, political prisoner and human rights activist, who has fought for the betterment of African American people and communities across the country.” See <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/truth-reconciliation-dr-mutulu-shakur#/>

**NYC Jericho received a phone call from Joyce Powell today, January 8, 2020.**

Legal documents and school textbooks were confiscated from Joyce Powell #07G0632 at Bedford Hills some months ago. Bedford originally threatened to destroy these legal documents, but it turns out the documents have been on site all this time (since it is probably illegal for DOCCS to destroy them). Now Deputy Miller and Deputy Russell are insisting that Ms. Powell come up with \$500 to send these legal materials out of the facility. These documents pertain to a current legal case, and Ms. Powell needs access to them as she continues to represent herself pro se.

Additionally, Bedford Hills authorities now inform Ms. Powell that none of her disbursements received via mail or JPay will be processed until she comes up with the \$500. This means she has no access to commissary and probably to email as well.

Joyce requests our help to end this harassment and to ensure that her legal documents are neither sent out nor destroyed.

**Please call:**

Superintendent at Bedford Hills: (914) 241-3100

Gov. Cuomo: 1-518-474-8390

Commissioner Annucci: (518) 457-8126

Demand that Ms. Powell's legal documents and school textbooks be returned to her immediately and that the hold on her disbursements be lifted. Be polite but firm.

**Please let NYC Jericho know what response(s) you receive: [nycjericho@gmail.com](mailto:nycjericho@gmail.com)**

Thank you. Anne Lamb, NYC Jericho Movement

**BREAKING: Trump starts war on Iran: ALL OUT Sat. Jan. 4 National Day of Action-Answer Coalition**

“The Trump administration and Pentagon have moved to start a war with Iran by assassinating Qassem Soleimani, the top military leader of that country. If Iran openly assassinated a top U.S. general and bragged about it, there is no question that the United States would initiate full scale war. Trump and the Pentagon have acted illegally, in violation of the Constitution, the War Powers Act and international law. The targeted assassination and murder of a central leader of Iran is designed to initiate a new war. Unless the people of the United States rise up and stop it, this war will engulf the whole region and could quickly turn into a global conflict of unpredictable scope and potentially the gravest consequences. The Pentagon high command is recklessly bragging about this illegal, targeted assassination in the most crude and false manner. “This strike was aimed at deterring future Iranian attack plans,” stated the lying generals. They know that the objective of the strike is just the opposite. They want a war with Iran – a country of more than 80 million people. Trump wants it too because he thinks it will guarantee his re-election in 2020. For all who believe in peace, for all who are opposed to yet another catastrophic war, now is the time to take action. On Saturday, January 4 in cities across the country there will be protests against a new war in the Middle East and calling for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops and bases in the region.” More emergency demonstrations announced for Wednesday, Jan. 8: "Step back from the brink -- No war with Iran!" See

[https://www.answercoalition.org/national\\_action\\_us\\_troops\\_out\\_of\\_iraq?utm\\_campaign=us\\_troops\\_out\\_of\\_iraq&utm\\_campaign=iraq\\_demos\\_1\\_2\\_20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_sour](https://www.answercoalition.org/national_action_us_troops_out_of_iraq?utm_campaign=us_troops_out_of_iraq&utm_campaign=iraq_demos_1_2_20&utm_medium=email&utm_medium=email&utm_sour)

[ce=answercoalition&utm\\_source=answercoalition](https://www.answercoalition.com/?utm_source=answercoalition)

### **Justice NOW! It's Time To Stop The Humanitarian Crisis at Parchman Prison**

#### **Parchman Prison is hell on earth!!! SIGN PETITION**

“Parchman Prison is Mississippi’s oldest prison, and it’s also hell on earth. It’s plagued with a history of convict leasing, torture, systematic rapes, and inhumane conditions. And even though it’s been over 40 years since several whistleblowers, including incarcerated people, have sounded the alarm about the harmful conditions,1 little has changed for those confined behind the walls of the prison.

So it’s no surprise that over the last few weeks things took a turn for the worse. Five people were murdered in their cells.2 Traumatized and scared for their safety, incarcerated men took to social media for help and what they shared was horrific. Claims were made that it was prison guards who gave the assailants keys to people’s locked cells and aided in the attacks. Dozens of videos were shared from inside the prison showing people being stabbed to death. Pictures revealed dead and bloodied bodies filling cells, pipes leaking water and flooding cells, molded walls caving in on themselves, and up to six people sleeping side by side in a cell with nothing more than a sheet to cover their bodies.” See [https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/Shutdown\\_Parchman\\_Now/?t=4&akid=40326%2E3038170%2EX-8638](https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/Shutdown_Parchman_Now/?t=4&akid=40326%2E3038170%2EX-8638)

#### **Sundiata Acoli Denied Parole Again, Donate to his Legal Fees** by newafrikan77

“The NJ Appellate Court denied political prisoner Sundiata Acoli's release on parole on December 27, 2019. He gets a mandatory appeal to the NJ Supreme Court.

Please donate to his offset the legal fees. You can PayPal a donation to SAFC766@gmail.com

or checks or money orders can be payable to: Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign (SAFC)

and mailed to: Florence Morgan 120-46 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Please send him a letter/note (most federal prisons do not allow postcards or cards). Remind him after 47 years in prison he is loved, especially with his recent parole appeal denial.

Clark Squire\* #39794-066, FCI Cumberland, P.O. BOX 1000, Cumberland, MD 21501

\* Address letter to Sundiata

More via <http://www.sundiataacoli.org>

The Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign

Sundiata Acoli Exclusive Interview

Listen to Sundiata Acoli Exclusive Interview, We Must Demand Sundiata's Freedom!” Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smmGu44iZP4&w=420&h=237>

See <https://newafrikan77.wordpress.com/2020/01/12/sundiata-acoli-denied-parole-again-donate-to-his-legal-fees/>

#### **Sign the Petition: Free Chelsea Manning Now Judge Anthony Trenga**

“In 2010, former military intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning disclosed earth-shattering information about the nature of asymmetric warfare and U.S. handling of global affairs. And she paid dearly for it. Chelsea was incarcerated for years, including long stretches in solitary confinement, under conditions that the United Nations condemned as torture. After millions of people around the world spoke out and demanded her release, Chelsea’s sentence was commuted. But the US government did not stop persecuting her. Now, Chelsea has been back in jail for nine months, and faces nine more. Not because she has committed any crime, but because of her conscientious objection to participating in a secretive grand jury investigation into the publication of her 2010 disclosures.” See

[https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-free-chelsea-manning-now?clear\\_id=true&referrer=group-fight-for-the-future&source=direct\\_link](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-free-chelsea-manning-now?clear_id=true&referrer=group-fight-for-the-future&source=direct_link)

**Call to Action: Free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian Prisoners! 15-29 January 2020**

“The Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa'adat and Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network are launching an international call for people to take action between 15-29 January 2020 to free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian prisoners: We urge all supporters of Palestine and defenders of freedom for the Palestinian people to join us between 15 and 29 January 2020 in weeks of action to free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Ahmad Sa'adat is the imprisoned General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Palestinian national liberation movement leader and a symbol of the international left and revolutionary movements. He was sentenced to 30 years in Israeli prison on 25 December 2008, accused of leading a prohibited organization and “incitement.” The PFLP, like all Palestinian political parties and resistance organizations, is labeled a “prohibited organization” by the Israeli occupation authorities.

We urge international action for the freedom of Sa'adat, his comrades, and all Palestinian prisoners, because their imprisonment is an international affair. In the case of Sa'adat and his comrades, this year marks the 18th anniversary of their imprisonment by the Palestinian Authority under “security coordination” with the Israeli occupation, a practice that continues to this day – to the detriment of Palestinian students and resistance organizers, who are imprisoned in PA jails in a “revolving door” with the Israeli occupation.” See <https://samidoun.net/2019/12/call-to-action-free-ahmad-saadat-and-all-palestinian-prisoners-15-29-january-2020/#call>

**DONATE!! Benefit for Dr. Mutulu Shakur.** January 4th, 2019 (Saturday) “7pm-Starr Barr, 214 Starr Street, Bushwick, Brooklyn. \$10-20 sliding scale (no one turned away) With the All Of Us Or None Ensemble <https://www.facebook.com/events/731003200735906/>

Dr. Mutulu Shakur was just diagnosed with bone marrow cancer & needs money for lawyers to file a compassionate release petition. If you cannot make the show, donate via paypal at his website (go to [mutulushakur.com](http://mutulushakur.com) and click on the red and white DONATE button in the right sidebar”

**Commutation Campaign to Gov Cuomo for Jalil Muntaqim**

We request that people do the following for Jalil throughout the months of November and December: We are requesting that Friends and Supporters call, tweet, email and write NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s office and appeal to him to grant Jalil’s Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served. We also request that this initiative be widely posted on social media platforms, encouraging freedom loving people around the world to join in this initiative. Since this will be ongoing throughout the months of **November and December**, we propose that people tweet and/or email Governor Cuomo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and call and write the Governor every Tuesday and Thursday. Communications to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s office must refer to Jalil as: ANTHONY JALIL BOTTOM, 77A4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 116, Fallsburg, New York 12733-0115. Write the Governor:

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

Call the Governor: 1-518-474-8390

Tweet the Governor: @NYGovCuomo

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



**Jalil also requests that the following article be included in his campaign:**

**“I-Team: Gov. Cuomo's Program for More Clemency Applications Appears to Stall, As Prisoners Wait and Hope for a Second Chance** by Melissa Russo and Hilary Weissman

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

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

#### WHAT TO KNOW

1. Gov. Cuomo's program to help more prisoners apply for clemency in NY appears to be stalled, leaving prisoners waiting for a second chance
2. In 2017, Cuomo asked lawyers to volunteer to identify prisoners worthy of mercy, and assist them in making their best case
3. More than two hundred lawyers stepped up, but after two years and 107 clemency applications filed, Cuomo hasn't taken action on any of them

Governor Andrew Cuomo’s program to help more prisoners apply for clemency in New York State appears to be stalled and the Governor’s office is declining to explain why.

In 2017, Cuomo asked lawyers to volunteer to help identify prisoners worthy of his mercy and assist them in making their best case for a shortened sentence.

More than two hundred lawyers stepped up. But two years and thousands of pro bono hours later, Governor Cuomo has neither approved nor denied any of the 107 clemency applications filed through the program. “It’s discouraging. We’ve put a lot of resources into it.” said Norman Reimer, executive director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, which partnered with Families Against Mandatory Minimums and the State at the Governor’s request.

“We put people away for ridiculous amounts of time, often for mistakes they made when they were very young,” Reimer added. Lawyers involved in the NACDL/FAMM project tell News 4 because there has been no action in these cases, they are reluctant to take on new prisoners. More than 1,600 prisoners are currently waiting to be assigned attorneys through the project.

“The idea that you can’t find a single one of those to grant is inconceivable to me. There’s just no greater feeling than giving somebody freedom,” said NYU Law Professor Rachel Barkow and author

of “Prisoners of Politics.” The power to commute a prisoner’s sentence rests solely with the Governor. NACDL says the Cuomo administration has been highly cooperative, producing records and helping to vet cases. Cuomo administration insiders familiar with the clemency review process say the problem is not that these cases are being ignored. Sources with first hand knowledge say the cases submitted by NACDL/FAMM were carefully reviewed by a team of attorneys inside the office of the Counsel to the Governor. They say the team identified a group of worthy candidates for a possible mid-year clemency grant this past Spring, but the Governor did not act. Timing, they speculated, may have played a role, citing pushback from some law enforcement groups for Cuomo’s role in the early release of Judith Clark in May 2019. Clark was the getaway driver in the deadly 1981 Brink’s robbery and the Governor commuted her sentence to make her eligible for early parole.

One person who has discussed the project at length with the Governor’s senior staff described a sense that politically speaking, “the bang was not worth the buck.”

Several sources familiar with the internal review process say the Governor’s office may have been taken aback by the large number of applications lawyers submitted on behalf of prisoners who committed violent felonies. These cases are more politically sensitive for a governor, because it is not uncommon for district attorneys, law enforcement groups and family members of victims to oppose early release. But Norman Reimer says if the severity of the crimes is the reason for Cuomo’s inaction, that’s not how the governor’s office promised to approach this process.

“What I like about Governor Cuomo’s initiative is he didn’t limit it based on the nature of the crime,” said Reimer. “We pressed that issue and it was an affirmative decision by them to let the person’s record of rehabilitation speak the loudest, even in violent crimes.”

Governor Cuomo’s office did not respond to repeated requests for an explanation for his inaction on the NACDL/FAMM cases, nor for a breakdown of the clemency grants he has issued.

According to public reports, Cuomo has commuted at least 18 sentences in almost nine years, including three in 2018. Barkow says compared with some other Democratic governors, Cuomo has used his executive clemency powers sparingly. Gavin Newsom of California commuted the sentences of 23 prisoners since September of this year, including prisoners involved in violent felonies.

Under the guidelines for Cuomo’s clemency program, a prisoner must have served more than half of his or her sentence, demonstrated rehabilitation, remorse, personal growth, strong prospects for safe re-entry to the community and be more than a year away from parole eligibility.

Dominic Dupont, who served 20 years of a 25-to-life term for killing a man while defending his twin brother, was one of the prisoners to whom Cuomo afforded clemency in recent years.

“I think that the Governor can do more. I really do,” said Dupont. “There are other people who are deserving of a second chance. And I think the Governor recognized that when he made that statement to the press and got these lawyers together.” Dupont says he’s eternally grateful for the life-changing mercy Cuomo showed him, adding that he does not feel awkward about pressuring Governor Cuomo to sharpen his clemency pen. Dupont has joined a public clemency campaign by the group New Yorkers United for Justice. Dupont called it “a legitimate question” when asked whether he thinks Cuomo intentionally raised expectations about clemency grants before entering his 2018 reelection cycle without a real commitment to action.

In last year’s primary, the progressive wing of the Democratic party hammered Cuomo for what they considered insufficient criminal justice reforms. “The people who care about these issues want to see real results,” said Professor Barkow. “They want to see that people are walking the walk and not just kind of throwing talk out there.” As for Cuomo’s record on justice issues like clemency and marijuana legalization, Barkow added “It seems like the pattern is to wait and just make sure where the political winds are blowing.” See <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Gov-Cuomo-Program-for-More-Clemency-Applications-Appears-to-Stall-Prisoners-Wait-for-Second-Chance-564261291.html?amp=y>

For more information concerning Jalil's case, check his website: [www.freejalil.com](http://www.freejalil.com) and <https://thejerichomovement.com/>

**THE N.Y.C. PEOPLES SURVIVAL PROGRAM (PSP) IS ASKING FOR ALL TO GET ON BOARD WITH THE SOUTH BRONX BASED "EL MAESTRO" ORGANIZATION TO HELP THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN PUERTO RICO!**

## **New York With Puerto Rico**

**Collection drive continues, to send desperately needed food & supplies to earthquake victims in Puerto Rico.**

**Monday-Friday: 2 PM-7 PM  
Saturday, Jan 18th and Sunday, Jan 19th  
1 PM-5:00 PM**

You can drop off donated items at  
**El Maestro, Inc. 1300 Southern Blvd.  
Bronx, New York 10459**

You may also donate via the following:  
**Go Fund Me: El Maestro Inc.  
PayPal [elmaestrobx@gmail.com](mailto:elmaestrobx@gmail.com)  
Venmo: [elmaestrobx@gmail.com](mailto:elmaestrobx@gmail.com)**

**Saturday, January 25th: Cargo container to be Loaded. Come lend a hand - 9:30 AM**

**For more information contact Ponce Laspina.  
E-mail: [tuconsentido@aol.com](mailto:tuconsentido@aol.com), (646) 299-6507**

**Checks or M.O. Payable to; El Maestro, Inc.**

**“RAPP: Join us Wednesday at Gov. Cuomo's NYC Office:**

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**RALLY TO CALL ON GOV. CUOMO TO GRANT CLEMENCY  
TO PEOPLE IN PRISON BEFORE THE NEW YEAR**



**Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 12:00pm**

**Gov. Cuomo's NYC Office: 633 3rd Ave.**

**ABOUT:** Ahead of the new year, advocates and community leaders will call on Governor Cuomo to grant clemency to long serving incarcerated New Yorkers who have languished in prison for years and decades. We'll call on Cuomo to exercise his unilateral power to reunite families and communities this holiday season. Contact Dave for more info: [ddgeorge23@gmail.com](mailto:ddgeorge23@gmail.com)

“We Demand #ClemencyNow in 2019“Join RAPP this Wednesday, December 18, 12pm outside Gov. Cuomo's NYC Office: 633 3rd Avenue (between 40th and 41st Streets) to demand that Cuomo grant clemency to long-serving incarcerated New Yorkers before the end of the year.”

“While other governors across the country have exercised their clemency power in 2019, Cuomo has not granted a single clemency this year. Rally with us, the Parole Preparation Project, Survived and Punished NYC, Candles for Clemency, and others to call for #ClemencyNow!”



## Support Nina's GoFundMe Account!



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

“The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign is calling on our allies and supporters to join us this holiday season and Support the Nina Droz Franco GoFundMe Account!

Transitioning into civilian life isn't easy!

Nina has to deal with transportation issues, medical expenses, and other costs.

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated! <https://www.gofundme.com/f/nina-quiere-retomar-su>  
 Give a donation!

Help her get back on her feet!”

## Noise Demo Against the Prison Industrial Complex, In Solidarity with PPs and POWs

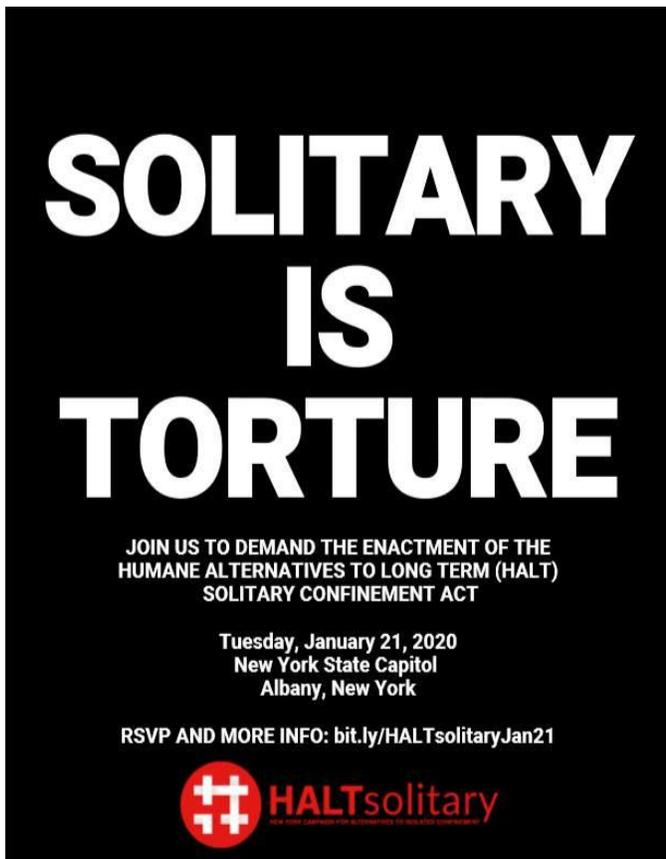
“WHAT: Noise Demo Against the PIC, for the Liberation of PPs + POWs WHEN: 9:00pm, Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

WHERE: Metropolitan Correction Center–Pearl Street, between Cardinal Hayes Place and Park Row

BRING: Noisemakers, air horns, drums, anything that is loud!

MORE: On the noisiest night of the year in New York City, come help us remind folks locked up that they are not alone. NYC Anarchist Black Cross, in response to an international call for noise demonstrations outside of prisons, is asking folks to join us outside of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in lower Manhattan. Come, not to appeal to authority, speak truth to power, or any other contrivance, but rather to stand arm in arm with comrades and show direct solidarity to those on the other side of the wall. The state, writ large, is targeting anarchists all across the United States and abroad. This will be both protest and celebration. To keep the cold at bay, comrades from MACC will be on hand with cookies and hot cocoa to keep the vocal cords nice and warm”. See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/updates-24-dec-2019.pdf>

## Solitary is Torture: Join the #HALTsolitary Campaign on January 21 in Albany



“Please RSVP for the #HALTsolitary Campaign's largest Advocacy Day ever in Albany:

<http://bit.ly/HALTsolitaryJan21>.

Solitary Confinement is TORTURE and it must end NOW!

#HALTsolitary has more than enough votes to pass.

We need you to sign up and get others to join on January 21 to demand the Senate and Assembly bring HALT to a vote and the Governor signs it.”

See <http://bit.ly/HALTsolitaryJan21>

## Community News, Articles and Updates

### How Soleimani’s Assassination Violates International Law and Puts Peace Further Out of Reach

“Phyllis Bennis says Congress must stop Trump from taking the U.S. to war without any justification or provocation.” See <https://therealnews.com/stories/soleimani-assassination-violates-international-law>

## Leonard Peltier: La Riva / Peltier Presidential Campaign Announcement



“The world is facing unprecedented crises, none of which can be solved within the existing capitalist system. We are in a race against time. The need for the radical reorganization of society on a socialist basis has never been greater or more urgent,” said Gloria La Riva in announcing her 2020 presidential candidacy as the nominee of the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

La Riva’s vice-presidential running mate is the renowned Native leader and political prisoner Leonard Peltier, who has been unjustly incarcerated for more than 43 years. He was railroaded into prison by the FBI and federal prosecutors in 1976, despite his innocence. A worldwide movement demands his freedom.

In a letter from the Federal Corrections Unit in Coleman Florida accepting the nomination, Leonard Peltier wrote: “I am not only a Native traditionalist, but also a socialist, who is against any abuse and exploitation of the working and poor class!

“Plus, as you are well aware, we Natives are the true environmentalists. These are just reminders.

Nothing has changed for me! So, I’m more than honored to accept your offer to run on your VP ticket.”

See [https://www.larivapeltier2020.org/campaign\\_announcement](https://www.larivapeltier2020.org/campaign_announcement)

## Soul Rebel Radio Interview With DJ Free Leonard (Christmas Special)

<https://soundcloud.com/djfreeleonard/soul-rebel-radio-interview-with-dj-free-leonard-christmas-special>

## Mutual Aid Fest III: Mutulu Shakur

“WHAT: Benefit for Dr. Mutulu Shakur WHEN: 7:00pm, Saturday, January 4th

WHERE: Starr Barr–214 Starr Street, Bushwick, Brooklyn COST: \$10

MORE: FEATURING: All Of Us Or None Ensemble and more...!

“Dr. Mutulu Shakur was just diagnosed with bone marrow cancer & needs money for lawyers!

If you cannot make the show, donate via paypal at Family and Friends of Mutulu Shakur paypal (go to [mutulushakur.com](http://mutulushakur.com) and click on the red and white DONATE button in the right sidebar if this direct link doesn't work).” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/updates-24-dec-2019.pdf>

### **Mutulu Shakur**

“We are asking his comrades and supporters to give money for medical, legal defense, commissary, and more. The quickest way to send financial support is through the Family and Friends of Mutulu Shakur paypal (go to [mutulushakur.com](http://mutulushakur.com) and click on the red and white DONATE button in the right sidebar if this direct link doesn’t work). For your contribution to be tax deductible, FFMS has a partnership with Community Aid and Development (CAD) ([cadnational.org](http://cadnational.org)) that allows for tax deductible donations via the Paypal button on their website. For a check or money order to be tax-deductible, make it payable to CAD, P.O. Box 361270, Decatur, GA 30036-1270 with “FFMS” in the memo line.”  
<http://mutulushakur.com/site/2019/12/medical-legal-update/>

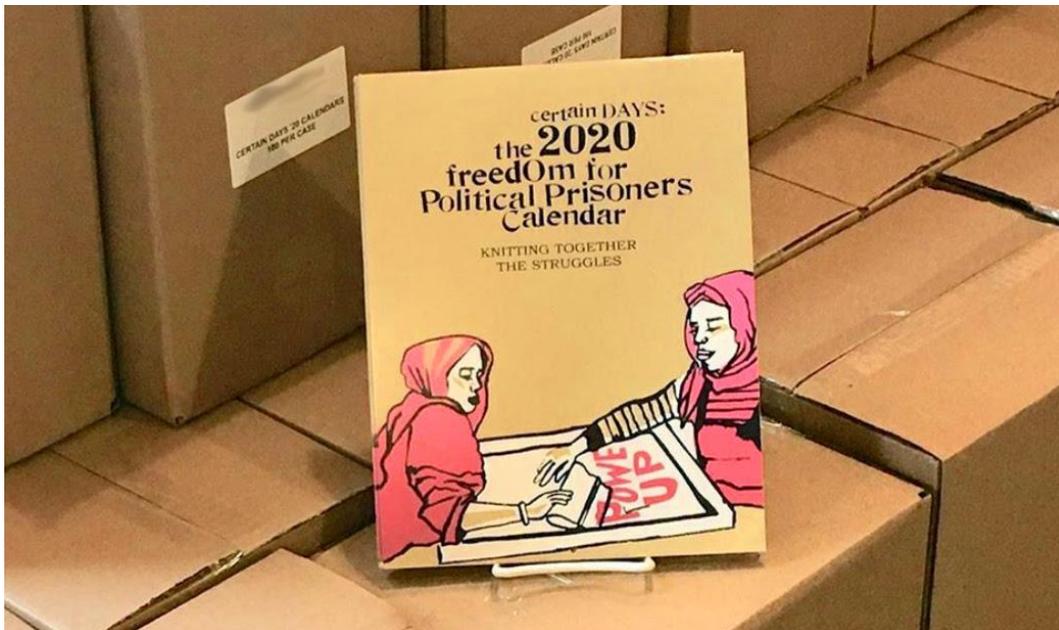
### **New Yorkers Freed from Prison Urge Cuomo To Set More Free—Before It's Too Late**

**By Victoria Law** - December 20, 2019

“In 1988, Roy Bolus, then 18 years old, and five other men drove from Brooklyn to Albany to rob a drug house. One of the other men Bolus was with shot and killed two men in the house, George Mosley and William Patterson. On New Year’s Eve 2018, after serving nearly 30 years of an 80-to-life sentence for felony murder, Bolus learned that Governor Andrew Cuomo had commuted his sentence. On January 28th, Bolus walked out of prison. “I was asked by those inside, ‘Don’t leave us behind,’” Bolus told the assembled advocates.”

This past Wednesday, Bolus joined nearly three dozen people at a rally in front of Cuomo’s Midtown office to demand that he grant clemency to people in the state’s prison system.” See [https://gothamist.com/news/new-yorkers-freed-from-prison-urge-cuomo-to-set-more-freebefore-its-too-late?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=shared\\_twitter](https://gothamist.com/news/new-yorkers-freed-from-prison-urge-cuomo-to-set-more-freebefore-its-too-late?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=shared_twitter)

### **Certain Days 2020 Calendars: It's time to start getting organized for 2020!**



“Burning Books has developed a strong partnership with the Certain Days collective over the last few years. Certain Days has been producing a beautiful and incredible wall calendar, focused on Freedom for Political Prisoners, since 2000. Our partnership has helped to streamline US sales and more than double the number of Certain Days calendars hanging on walls or radical spaces around the globe. Get a Certain Days calendar now and help support political prisoners and prison reform/abolition efforts while having the coolest calendar in town. Better yet, get 10 or more calendars wholesale with online coupon code "BULK," and sell/distribute them in your community however you please. 2020 will be here before we know it. Be ready for it with a Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar from Burning Books.” Contact: info@certaindays.org

### **Certain Days calendar collective on Beyond Prison podcast**

“I recently was on the Beyond Prison podcast with my fellow collective members, Sara and Josh to discuss our calendar project project with people in prison, as well as charting radical history, political prisoners, why prison censors suck, the significance of time while in prison, and a lot more. Listen to it at <https://shadowproof.com/2020/01/10/beyond-prisons-certain-days-collective/> or wherever you check out podcasts. If you have not yet gotten a Certain Days calendar for 2020, be sure to order one via [burningbooks.com](http://burningbooks.com) They are \$15 each or \$10 each if you buy 10 or more. Shipping is free on orders over \$25 too so check out Burning Books' amazing catalog.- Daniel McGowan”

**NEW ADDRESSES:** Abdul Aziz, Casey Brezik, Joe Dibee, Ronald Reed, Mutulu Shakur, have been moved:

Warren Ballantine\* #19-1878, Citrus County Detention Facility, 2604 West Woodland Ridge Drive Lecanto, Florida 34461 \*Address card to Abdul (Aziz).

Casey Brezik #1154765, Western Missouri Correctional Center, 609 East Pence Road Cameron, Missouri 64429

Joseph Dibee #812133, MCDC, 1120 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

Ronald Reed #219531, Minnesota Correctional Facility-Lino Lakes, 7525 Fourth Avenue Lino Lakes, Minnesota 55014

Mutulu Shakur #83205-012m FMC Lexington, Post Office Box 14500 Lexington, Kentucky 40512

### **RAPP Co-Founder and Former Director Mujahid Farid**

“One year ago today, RAPP Co-Founder and Former Director Mujahid Farid died at 69 years old. In the final days of his life, Mujahid Farid (translated to mean “Unique Warrior”) asked our RAPP family to gather in his living room. In the weeks leading up to this moment, someone from RAPP was with Farid twenty-four hours per day. He was at a point where he needed hospice care and we were there for him. Take Action in Support of Farid’s Legacy Help RAPP dismantle mass incarceration, end death by incarceration, and fulfill Farid’s vision of transforming the criminal justice system. Get involved in our work by taking action in the following ways:

- 1.) Join our upcoming membership meetings in NYC, Albany and Long Island (flyers and info below).
- 2.) Attend our upcoming Day of Action in Albany on January 14th (more info below). RSVP here.
- 3.) Support RAPP financially by becoming a sustainable donor. Donate here today to help cover our organizing expenses across the state.
- 4.) Celebrate the freedom of many of those who Farid’s work and legacy most recently benefited. Join us tomorrow, November 21st for the Parole Preparation Project’s Annual Welcome Home Party and Fundraiser, 7pm at the Riverside Church in Harlem. Tickets can still be purchased here <https://ticketbud.com/events/6445369c-d4a0-11e9-8432-42010a717007> .”

### **Eye Steel Film, on the groundbreaking work Dr. Shakur**

“In the new year, the long awaited feature-length documentary, by Mia Donovan of Eye Steel Film, on the groundbreaking work Dr. Shakur accomplished in detox acupuncture and addiction recovery is due to be released! DOPE IS DEATH (2020) is the story of how Dr. Mutulu Shakur, stepfather of Tupac Shakur, along with fellow Black Panthers and the Young Lords, combined community health with radical politics to create the first acupuncture detoxification program in America in 1973 - a visionary project eventually deemed too dangerous to exist in America. Keep your eyes peeled for the premier and showings to be announced!” See <http://www.eyesteelfilm.com/>

### **A Rare, White Christmas in a Texas Prison**

Christmas in prison is not normally cheerful. We are away from our homes and loved ones, and the holidays are just reminders of that. Even the guards don't want to be there. Only the most dedicated security hounds, the cranks with no one to go home to — and those too inexperienced to know how to get the days off — remain on duty. And there are not many of them, either, which makes for restricted activity on the unit. There is no recreation, craft shop, school, church, work, or other diversions. On Christmas Eve, 2004, everyone in the W.F. Ramsey Unit, 3 Wing, in Rosharon, Texas, was in a foul mood. A church group of kindly citizens had come in the night before, sharing cheerful jokes, Gospel, a lot of singing. Gave us each a bag containing soap, shampoo, toothpaste, cookies, pamphlets. I was thankful for their concern, but the main message I kept feeling was, “You ain't home.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2015/12/23/a-rare-white-christmas-in-a-texas-prison?>

### **On International Human Rights Day, Palestinian People's Suffering Continues**

December 10, 2019

“Palestinians mark International Human Rights Day following a year of nonstop violence and widespread human rights violations by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), against the Palestinian population used, as a form of collective punishment and a method of control of Palestinian society. These consistent and systematic policies by the occupation include, extrajudicial executions and issuance of discriminatory legislations, mass arrests campaigns, torture, administrative detention, and medical negligence against Palestinian political prisoners.” See <http://www.addameer.org/news/international-human-rights-day-palestinian-peoples-suffering-continues>

### **War week was fifty years ago when the FBI fought the Black Panthers in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Omaha**

Michael Richardson - December 11, 2019

“War week against the Black Panther Party fifty years ago, in early December 1969, took on lethal ferocity with the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago. The killings were orchestrated by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents under a clandestine counterintelligence operation code-named COINTELPRO. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had declared war on the Black Panthers and wanted them eliminated. Hoover pushed the FBI field offices to get Panthers off the streets using any tactics necessary.” See <https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2019/12/11/war-week-was-fifty-years-ago-when-the-fbi-fought-the-black-panthers-in-chicago-los-angeles-and-omaha/>

### **No good is served by David Gilbert's continued incarceration**

By Cynthia Grant Bowman - December 9, 2019

“Chesa Boudin was recently elected district attorney in San Francisco. His promise of a new approach to “criminal justice grounded in fairness appealed to voters more than his opponents' law-and-order

model, which has failed citizens throughout the country. When he received the news, Boudin was visiting his father in an upstate New York prison. His father, David Gilbert, has been imprisoned for 38 years; he is 75 years old. The fact that he is still behind bars is a disgrace to the criminal justice system in New York.” See <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Commentary-No-good-is-served-by-David-Gilbert-s-14894188.php>

**WHAT: Send Love Through The Walls: Holiday Card-Writing For Political Prisoners**

“WHEN: 4:00-8:00pm, Sunday, December 15th, 2019, WHERE: 263 Eastern Parkway, Apartment 5D phone: 718.783.8141, COST: FREE (Donations to cover the cost of stamps greatly appreciated)

In what many prisoners have told us is their favorite event of the year, Resistance in Brooklyn and NYC Anarchist Black Cross again join forces to bring you the annual holiday card-writing party for U.S. held political prisoners, prisoners of war, and prisoners of conscience. This event is always a lot of fun, the food outstanding, the camaraderie lively, and the handmade cards flat out amazing. This year will be no different. So plan to bring your friends, your creativity, and a healthy appetite. We’ll have updates on the pp/pow campaigns as well as paints, markers, crayons, and envelopes.” See <https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2019/12/04/sendlove2019>

**PLEASE NOTE: NEW ADDRESS DR. MUTULU SHAKUR**

***Mutulu Shakur #83205-012  
FMC Lexington  
P.O. Box 14500  
Lexington, KY 40512***

**No good is served by David Gilbert’s continued incarceration**

“Chesa Boudin was recently elected district attorney in San Francisco. His promise of a new approach to criminal justice grounded in fairness appealed to voters more than his opponents’ law-and-order model, which has failed citizens throughout the country. When he received the news, Boudin was visiting his father in an upstate New York prison. His father, David Gilbert, has been imprisoned for 38 years; he is 75 years old. The fact that he is still behind bars is a disgrace to the criminal justice system in New York. Gilbert was sentenced to 75 years to life under New York’s felony murder law, which holds anyone involved in a felony responsible for any death that results from it, even though they did not kill anyone, fire any shots, possess a weapon, or have any intention, or even expectation, that anyone would be killed. Gilbert and other former members of the Weather Underground served as getaway drivers for a botched robbery by the Black Liberation Army, a group formed in the wake of the murders of numerous Black activists, such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Mark Clark and Fred Hampton. A Brink’s armored car guard and two Nyack police officers were killed. Gilbert was unarmed and not involved in the shooting”.....” Gilbert has paid a heavy price for his crime. We believe that it is past time for him to be released from prison. We are absolutely certain that granting him clemency would present no danger to society. Rather, he would contribute his many talents to his family, friends and the community at large, and his release would send a message of hope to the many elders serving

lengthy sentences across New York.” See <https://sfbayview.com/2019/12/no-good-is-served-by-david-gilberts-continued-incarceration/>

### **Brooklyn to Buffalo - Resisting Discriminatory Policing in New York**

“What does police accountability and racial justice work look like across New York State? That’s what our Senior Staff Attorney Darius Charney discusses with Anthonine Pierre of the Brooklyn Movement Center and Marielle Shavonne Smith of Black Love Resists in the Rust, two leaders of Black-led grassroots organizations doing critical racial justice work on opposite ends of New York State. They discuss the strong similarities in police abuses happening in New York City and in Buffalo; their work to divest from harmful institutions and instead invest funds into their communities; the need for further transparency about and accountability for police misconduct; and how action from New York’s legislators and Attorney General could address these issues...” See <https://ccrjustice.org/activist-files>

### **Mississippi burning.**

“The state’s prisons have exploded in a wave of violence, with at least five prisoners stabbed or beaten to death in just the last week. The Marshall Project has been following Mississippi prisons closely for more than a year: last June, our investigation revealed how officials at one private prison allowed gangs to run the facility. The latest from Joe Neff and Alysia Santo explains what has sparked the current spate of violence inside: a fatal combination of severe understaffing, virtually non-stop lockdowns, and gangs—along with easy access to weapons and cellphones. And stay tuned for a big new investigation we’re co-publishing tomorrow with several Mississippi newsrooms on “restitution centers,” where people get sentenced to a dollar amount instead of a length of time.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/06/26/corporate-confession-gangs-ran-this-private-prison?>

### **The Art And Design of No New Jails**

“A new exhibition, accompanied by a series of events, examines the design, art, dance, and cultural work involved in the prison abolition movement’s organizing. The New York City branch of No New Jails, a grassroots prison abolition movement, has partnered with the Lower East Side nonprofits ABC No Rio and the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space (MoRUS) to bring the exhibition No New Jails NYC — The Art & Design of a Movement, currently on view at MoRUS in New York’s Lower East Side. The exhibition examines the design, art, dance, and cultural work involved in No New Jails NYC’s organizing activities. It is accompanied by a series of participatory events including art-making workshops, performances, teach-ins, and talks” See <https://hyperallergic.com/534824/the-art-and-design-of-no-new-jails/?>

### **DJ Free Leonard is creating Spoken Word, DJ, Music Videos-Please Support!!!**

<https://www.patreon.com/DJFreeLeonard>

### **FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover approved frame-up in 1970 police murder case during COINTELPRO secret war on the Black Panther Party** Michael Richardson - January 6, 2020

“In 1919, J. Edgar Hoover, a Bureau of Investigation supervisor, received a tip from the Bureau office in the Panama Canal Zone about Jamaican-born Marcus Garvey, founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Hoover, who spent World War I chasing immigrants and radicals, launched

what would become a life-long personal war against black leaders that he considered undesirable.” See <https://richardsonreports.wordpress.com/2020/01/06/fbi-director-j-edgar-hoover-approved-frame-up-in-1970-police-murder-case-during-cointelpro-secret-war-on-the-black-panther-party/>

### **Gov. Cuomo Only Grants Two Clemencies on January 3rd After No Clemencies for People in Prison in 2019-Reported by RAPP**

“It is outrageous that Governor Cuomo issued only a small handful of clemencies and failed to grant a single sentencing commutation in 2019. Last week we gathered outside his mansion to demand he use his executive power to bring our people home. Read our full statement demanding Cuomo free more people in 2020. Find also press coverage on the issue from the New York Daily News, NBC New York, ABC Albany, NBC Albany, and an op-ed by formerly incarcerated leader Roy Bolus.” See <https://wnyt.com/news/people-gather-outside-the-governors-mansion-for-a-candlelight-vigil-for-clemency/5597775/>

### **New Year's Eve Noise Demo--> Tuesday 9 pm**

“WHAT: Noise Demo Against the PIC, for the Liberation of PPs + POWs

WHEN: 9:00pm, Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>,

WHERE: Metropolitan Correction Center (MCC, the federal prison in, downtown Manhattan); Pearl Street, between Cardinal Hayes Place and Park Row (J to Chambers Street or 4/5/6/ to City Hall),

BRING: Noisemakers, air horns, drums, anything that is loud! On the noisiest night of the year in New York City, come help us remind folks locked up that they are not alone. NYC Anarchist Black Cross, in response to an international call for noise demonstrations outside of prisons, is asking folks to join us outside of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in lower Manhattan. Come, not to appeal to authority, speak truth to power, or any other contrivance, but rather to stand arm in arm with comrades and show direct solidarity to those on the other side of the wall.” See

<https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2019/12/03/nye2019>

### **California’s jails are in a deadly crisis. Here’s how experts suggest fixing them** by Jason Pohl-ProPublica Jan. 6,2020

“An investigation by McClatchy and ProPublica found unchecked violence and inhumane conditions in county jails, but the state’s oversight agency has no power to stop it. Experts say that needs to change.”

See [https://www.propublica.org/article/californias-jails-are-in-a-deadly-crisis-heres-how-experts-suggest-fixing-them?utm\\_source=pardot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dailynewsletter](https://www.propublica.org/article/californias-jails-are-in-a-deadly-crisis-heres-how-experts-suggest-fixing-them?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter)

### **Chicago Jail’s Quest to End Solitary Confinement Is a Work in Progress** by Valerie Kiebala

“We stood in the middle of the Cook County Jail’s Special Management Unit dayroom, its perimeter lined with cells. Five African American men sat on steel stools connected to small steel tables, each with shackles around his belly, hands, and feet, bolted to the center of the table.

The SMU, located in the maximum security Division 9 building, housed 173 men in four separated living units as of last month. “They used to call this the ‘Thunder dome,’” the sheriff’s Chief of Staff Bradley Curry said, leading us into the most secure of the four pods. “You’d walk in here and it would be rockin’.” The place used to be called segregated housing, another name for solitary confinement.

Now they call it a “rehabilitative unit.” See <https://solitarywatch.org/2020/01/06/chicago-jails-quest-to-end-solitary-confinement-is-a-work-in-progress/>

**Activist Faces Jail for Resisting Massachusetts Sheriff's Collaboration With ICE** Karen Savage  
January 6, 2020

“Andre goes to trial in Massachusetts on Tuesday for charges stemming from an August 2018 protest calling for Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson to end an agreement allowing his deputies to act as U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement Officers” See <https://portside.org/2020-01-07/activist-faces-jail-resisting-massachusetts-sheriffs-collaboration-ice>

**BK/NY – Tuesday, January 14th – Letter-Writing Dinner For David Gilbert and Jalil Muntaqim**

“WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinner, WHEN: 7pm sharp, Tuesday, January 14th, 2020

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

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

COST: Free

While the majority of Americans use New Years Eve as an excuse to drink as much alcohol as they can consume only to ‘turn over a new leaf’ the following day by joining a gym, we at NYC ABC are doing the work we always do. We were excited to see your smiling faces at our annual New Year's Eve Noise Demo at MCC in Manhattan. And as per usual, we will be kicking off yet another calendar year of bi-weekly letter writing nights and hope to see y'all there, too. NYC ABC is starting the first month of the year by focusing on comrades near to us, both in affinity and proximity—David Gilbert and Jalil Muntaqim, two of our New York state political prisoners.” See

<https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2020/01/08/DavidAndJalil2020>

**107 Days of Hunger Strike: Israeli occupation military court rejects Ahmad Zahran's appeal**

January 7, 2020

“The Israeli occupation’s Ofer military court rejected the appeal of Palestinian prisoner Ahmad Zahran, on hunger strike for the 107th day against his imprisonment without charge or trial. The military court had repeatedly delayed in issuing the decision, despite Zahran’s weakening health. It earlier had requested that he end his hunger strike in order to be subjected to further interrogation, which Zahran refused. He has been jailed under administrative detention, Israeli imprisonment without charge or trial, since March 2019.” See <https://samidoun.net/2020/01/107-days-of-hunger-strike-israeli-occupation-military-court-rejects-ahmad-zahrans-appeal/>

**NEW JERSEY MEMORIAL SERVICES: Black Panther Party Veteran, Roger William Newman Smith, Deputy Chairman of the Newark, New Jersey Chapter... Has joined the Ancestors**

“Comrade Roger went into the hands of the Ancestors on Sunday Morning December 22nd of 2019.

He resided at JFK estates nursing home in Edison N.J.

His request was to be cremated and to have his ashes laid to rest in the Middle Passage (at Sea) with his Ancestors.

Memorial Services will be held on January 13, 2020 at:

G. G. Woody Funeral Home

206 E. 8th Avenue

Roselle, New Jersey 07203

Phone: (908) 245-6800

January 13th, 2020

10 am viewing 11 am Service

<https://www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com/>

## **Biography**

Roger William Newman Smith was born May 31, 1952 in Newark, New Jersey to the late Louise Newman Mandeville and Roger William Smith.

He is predeceased by his sister Victoria and Loving Uncle and Aunt Frank and Zelma Earl. Roger transitioned peacefully to the ancestors on Sunday, December 22, 2019.

Roger leaves a daughter and his brother Atno Smith, sister-in-law Gloria Montealegre, nieces Cali, Attiya Newman, nephews Camilo, Kelvin Chinkanizi and grandnephew Emiliano and numerous Cousins of the Hawley, Green, and Gordon and Earl Family Lineage.

Roger was a member of the Queen of Angels Parish in Newark, the church that made it possible for him to participate in the historic March on Washington in 1963 and his meeting of Dr. Martin Luther King on his historic March in Newark in 1968. Roger graduated from West Side High School in June 25, 1970 where he was a founding member of the Newark Student Union, which protested for Black History courses to be implemented in the Newark School System, protested against dress codes, and against the Vietnam War. As part of the Newark Student Union he gave support to the Black Organization of Students' take over of Rutgers Conklin Hall where he met long-life friend Joel Myron, a member of the Students for a Democratic Society, who introduced him to Carl Nicholas, the Leader of the Newark Chapter of the Black Panther Party, which he joined. Roger attended the newly created Livingston College at Rutgers University in Piscataway, NJ.

He left College to participate in community work with the Black Panther Party, working with the Free Food and Clothing Programs, Political Education, and Welfare and Tenants Rights. As Deputy Chairman of the Newark Chapter of the Black Panther Party, Roger organized numerous Tenant Organizations in the City of Newark and participated in the African Liberation Solidarity Committees fighting against Apartheid in South Africa. He was instrumental in the New Jersey Peace Mobilization against the Vietnam War. In 1979, Roger went to Cuba as a member of the Venceremos Brigade. He worked with the people of Cuba and learned valuable skills as an organizer. He returned to the United States determined to make further changes in the Black Community.

Roger recalled a quote from Huey P. Newton "The revolution has always been in the hands of the young. The young always inherit the revolution. " Roger started working in the Juvenile Court system, in Essex county, resulting in participating and organizing programs at the Elizabeth Port Presbyterian Center and the Youth Advocate Program (YAP). YAP is a nationally recognized, nonprofit organization that advocates for families and youth at risk to provide safe, cost effective social services.

### **In lieu of flowers please make taxable donations to the Jericho Movement.**

Please write your check to: "M. Alston/National Jericho Treasurer" and

Mail check to: Ashanti Alston, 162 Miller Ave., Providence, R.I. 02905.

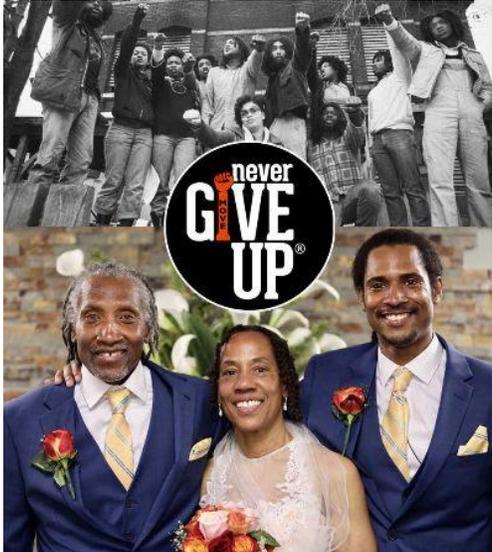
For tax deductible donations write your check to: "Alliance for Global Justice/Jericho" and mail to: Alliance for Global Justice, 225 E. 26th Street, Suite 1, Tucson, Arizona 85713. "

### **Palestinian child prisoners face further repression and transfer January 11, 2020**

"Israeli occupation officials announced that child prisoners would be transferred away from the Ofer prison and separated into cells without the adult prisoner representatives who support them before the prison administration on Saturday, 11 January. In response, the Palestinian Prisoners' Society noted that this is another attempt to confiscate one of the achievements of Palestinian prisoners that came through long periods of struggle, putting Palestinian children and youth at further risk. The Prisoners Society noted that, rather than being held in groups, child prisoners would be held two to a cell. It said that this tactic was designed to isolate imprisoned children further from one another and from protective oversight of Palestinian elder prisoners. It also noted that prisoners would launch a series of protests in

response, noting that this comes as part of a series of efforts to roll back achievements defending Palestinian prisoners' rights that has been taking place systematically since 2018." See <https://samidoun.net/2020/01/palestinian-child-prisoners-face-further-repression-and-transfer/>

**SF - Thursday, January 16th 6:30p - Born on the MOVE with Mike Africa Jr and Debbie & Mike Africa Sr**



## Born on the MOVE

*An event with Mike Africa Jr.  
and parents Debbie & Mike  
Africa Sr., moderated by  
Maisha Quint*

January 16, 2020  
6:30pm to 9pm

518 Valencia St, San Francisco

“Using storytelling and hip hop, Mike Africa, Jr will take us on a journey of his life from the day that he was secretly born in prison, to the bombing of his family on May 13th, 1985, up to his parents’ release from prison after each serving 40 years. Mike will be joined by his parents Debbie and Mike Africa, Sr for a conversation moderated by Maisha Quint.”

### **Fighting Time When You’re Doing Time**

“Time has made it abundantly clear that my ability to exercise patience—or not to—doesn’t sway it in the least.” “In prison parlance, one would say I have been locked up a couple of “minutes.” Here, 10 years is considered a respectable stretch: a “minute.”

“Much like having a nightmare while in a coma, there is no waking up to make it end. Sometimes I have looked up to realize that another day has passed, but it was so similar to the previous one—and the one before that, and all the ones before that. The only thing that sets it apart is its number designation on a calendar. I recognize the elasticity of prison time. My desire for it to hurry up and pass causes it to stretch so taut I fear it will snap like a whip on my back, which is already bowed under the weight of the many mistakes I have made in my life. Yet when I try to force myself not to think about its passage, it hangs limp, endless.” See [https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/01/09/fighting-time-when-you-re-doing-time?utm\\_medium=email](https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/01/09/fighting-time-when-you-re-doing-time?utm_medium=email)

### **Victory for Ahmad Zahran! Hunger strike ends after 114 days of struggle** January 13, 2020

“On Monday, 13 January, Palestinian prisoner Ahmad Zahran announced a victory in his hunger strike, as he was just about to enter his 114th day on strike against his Israeli administrative detention, imprisonment without charge or trial. Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network expresses its warmest congratulations to Ahmad Zahran at this moment of victory. His steadfastness and commitment to struggle stand as an inspiration to all those around the world who support the

Palestinian people and their just cause of return and liberation.” See

<https://samidoun.net/2020/01/victory-for-ahmad-zahran-hunger-strike-ends-after-over-113-days-of-struggle/>

**Joseph JoJo Bowen Black Liberation Army Political Prisoner of War** by newafrikan77

“Joseph "Joe-Joe" Bowen is one of the many all-but-forgotten frontline soldiers in the liberation struggle. A native of Philadelphia, Joe-Joe was a young member of the "30th and Norris Street" gang, before his incarceration politicized him. Released in 1971, his outside activism was cut short a week following his release when Joe-Joe was confronted by an officer of the notoriously brutal Philadelphia police department. The police officer was killed in the confrontation, and Bowen fled.

After his capture and incarceration, Bowen became a Black Liberation Army combatant, defiant to authorities at every turn. In 1973, Bowen and Philadelphia Five prisoner Fred "Muhammad Kafi" Burton assassinated Holmesberg prison's warden and deputy warden as well as wounded the guard commander in retaliation for intense repression against Muslim prisoners in the facility. In 1981, Bowen led a six-day standoff with authorities when he and six other captives took 39 hostages at Graterford Prison as a freedom attempt and protest of the prison conditions at Graterford.” See <https://newafrikan77.wordpress.com/2020/01/14/joseph-jojo-bowen-black-liberation-army-political-prisoner-of-war/>

## 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" is busy framing ideas about how to proceed with the charges for a tribunal and then bring that to main committee and start getting professionals involved nationally.

NYC Jericho's met on January 11<sup>th</sup> for the campaign "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela". For February's meeting 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 forum for truth-telling, where witnesses listen and reflect upon voices “from the margins” to organize for an end to structural and militarized state violence. Jalil Muntaqim has called for campaigns “in the spirit of Mandela,” where the international social and political context which helped revise the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in 2015 be utilized in the case of those incarcerated in the U.S. Our International Tribunal will call for testimony from both sides of the wall, both on issues of the torturous conditions of political imprisonment and on the root colonial and neo-colonial conditions and repression which inevitably lead to growing numbers of political prisoners. We will not separate the work to free our prisoners with the work to free the land, and for ultimate liberation of all.”

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

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

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

**“Greetings of Peace!**

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

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

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

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

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

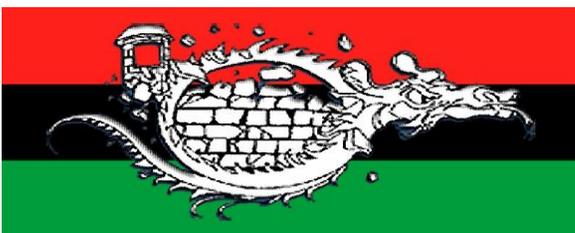
1. Agreeing to support by clearly identifying your organization and contact person;
2. Providing your accurate email and phone number (We will keep you informed of developments of this initiative); and
3. Partaking of the unique experience of collectively brain storming strategies to bring this struggle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

Your input is valued at any level.

In solidarity,

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

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



## Moving Forward

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

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

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

## Gratitude and Appreciation

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

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

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

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

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

As you know, the obstacles to helping free our political prisoners are immense. It is to challenge the 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 Prisoners/Prisoners of War-volunteer to help us if you can, for everything matters and no sincere deed is left unnoticed. We are the ones, for a prisoner's options are limited, we have the key, we just have to figure out together, how to unlock those doors.

## **Free all Political Prisoners!**

In Struggle and Gratitude, The National Jericho Movement

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

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

There are two ways to donate:

**Please make non-deductible donations to:**  
National Jericho Treasury  
Mail to: "Jericho Treasury/Michael Alston"  
Ashanti Alston  
[162 Miller Ave](#)  
[Providence, R.I. 02905](#)

**For tax deductible receipt, send donations to:**  
Alliance for Global Justice  
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Alliance for Global Justice/The National  
Jericho Movement  
Subject Line: Jericho  
Mail to:  
David Archuleta  
Alliance for Global Justice  
[225 E. 26th Street, Suite 1](#)  
[Tucson, Arizona 85713](#)

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