

## The Dragons Fire

### THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

in Fierce Determination Since 1996

March 15-April 15, 2020 Vol. 25

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

**"And, if I know anything at all,  
it's that a wall is just a wall and nothing more at all.  
It can be broken down."**

**Assata**

### 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 assists 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.

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

## Jericho Highlights and Tributes

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:  
BLACK PEOPLE FIGHT BACK!  
WEBCONFERENCE**

**CHAIRMAN**  
OMALI YESHITELA

**VICE-CHAIR**  
LISA DAVIS

**SECRETARY**  
ELIKYA NGOMA

**BELINDA PARKER-BROWN**

**RALPH POYNTER**

**BETTY DAVIS**

**AJAMU BARAKA**

**DIOP OLUGBALA**

**REV. EDWARD PINKNEY**

**KAMM HOWARD**

**DR. AISHA FIELDS**

**NATIONAL BLACK  
POLITICAL AGENDA FOR  
SELF-DETERMINATION**

**REGISTER ON ZOOM NOW!**  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/6015859194747/WN\\_ubBDJEWfQR2tVolg3V8Pqw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/6015859194747/WN_ubBDJEWfQR2tVolg3V8Pqw)

**WATCH LIVE ON FACEBOOK AT:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/bibcoalition/>

**Black is Back**

[blackisbackcoalition.org](http://blackisbackcoalition.org)

On the weekend of April 11th and 12th the Black is Back for Social, Peace and Reparations sponsored the COVID-19 Pandemic: Black People Fight Back WebConference. Sister Elikya Ngoma hosted the first day and was accompanied by Reverend Edward Pinkney on day two. Chairman Omali Yeshitela of the Uhuru Movement, African People's Socialist Party presented the National Black Political Agenda for Self-Determination. Sister Lisa Davis and Dr. Aisha Fields talked about health care for African people in the United States and the disproportionate deadly impact of the Coronavirus. Belinda Parker-Brown spoke specifically about COVID19 in prisons, particularly Louisiana State Penitentiary. Kamm Howard raised the demand of reparations and Diop Olugbala explained the importance of Black community control of the police. Ralph Poynter and Jihad Abdumumit called for the need to support Political Prisoners and that all movement organizations should openly acknowledge Political Prisoners and render their support. Sister Betty Davis tied everything together by stressing the role of education and being accountable for the political literacy and awareness of Black people. On

day two, Chairman Omali Yeshitela gave critical overview of the political condition of Black people and people of color in the United States. He then joined Ajamu Baraka and Lisa Davis in delving into strategies for involvement in the electoral systems and how to demand accountability from politicians and those running for office. Tune in for more from the Black is Back Coalition and give your material and financial support in building this essential network.

- Jihad Abdulmumit

Chair, National Jericho Movement

## **"Rebuilding and Organizing the African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism" by Abdul Jabbar Caliph, Edited by Tomiko Shine**

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. 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.

### **From Sister Tomiko Shine:**

“As these writings were submitted to us from Bro. Jabbar in the spirit of Ubuntu (I am we because we are) we return it back to the community in the same spirit. For the new and youth organizer this book will be a refreshing perspective that leads to understanding individual and collective organizing on behalf of the masses. For the community builders it will bring together the various elements needed for community transformation through his critiques of various social movements and grassroots efforts over the decades. For those in the prison movement on both sides of the wall it will help place them in space and time of justice.' I am excited to announce the arrival of the first shipment of ' Organizing and Rebuilding the African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism'. The above statement remains true; the essays speak to the process of thought to ideas to manifestation/transformation at a communal level. If anyone is interested in the book contact via email; I will ship book/books to those across various states, for those in the Baltimore City, DMV area we can discuss pick up or delivery”.

**'Organizing and Rebuilding the African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism-**  
300 pages, \$20

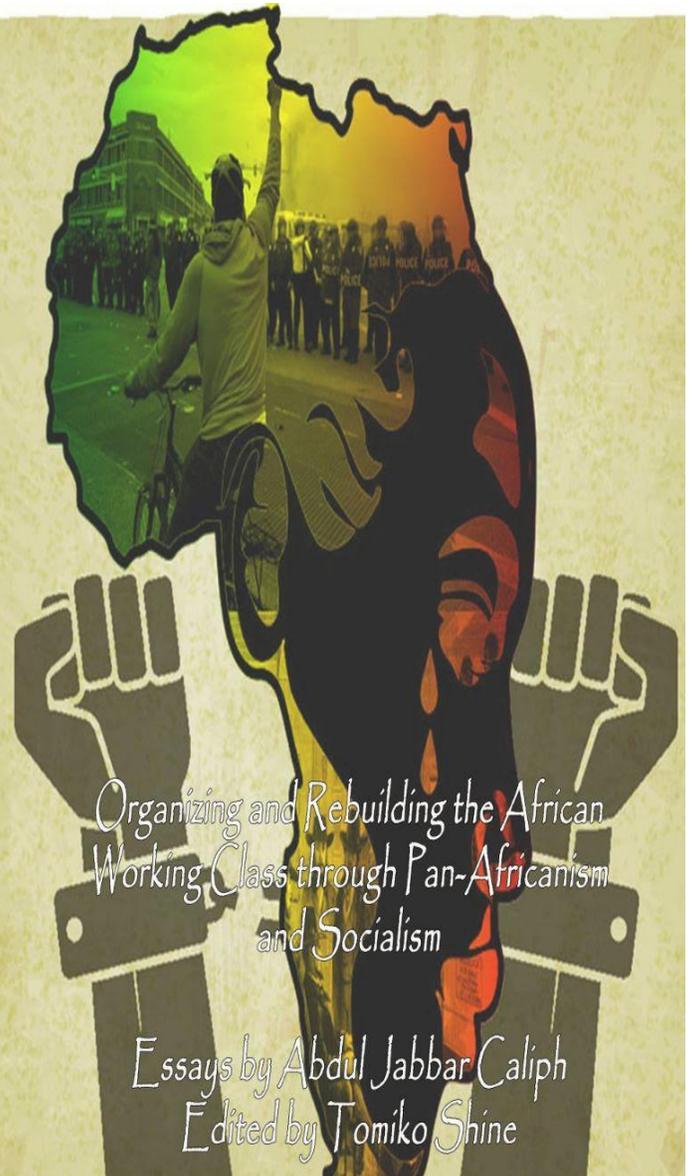
Tomiko Shine, Founding Director, Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign, [www.apphrc.com](http://www.apphrc.com)



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



**"As a Pan-African Internationalist I understand the importance and the need for the development of a Pan-African culture that is reflective of the values and morals of African people...Under colonialism we existed as slaves and under the new society that we are seeking to develop we will live as free men and women who control their own destiny." Abdul Jabbar Caliph 1961-2018**

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/jabbaressays](https://paypal.me/jabbaressays) \$20.00 Book \$5.00 Shipping

## Chairman's Corner

As-salaamu ‘alaykum!

I hope and pray that Allah gives us the protection, guidance, resources, strength, courage, equanimity, solidarity, patience, fortitude, and wisdom to endure the scourge of this Coronavirus, and to be blessed with the resilience to emerge as a people with stronger faith, clarity of purpose and determination to build a society free from the vestiges of racism and imperialism. We see now, perhaps more than

before, the urgency to free our captive warriors – on all fronts. We now see, perhaps more than before, how unprepared and vulnerable we are at the whim and mercy of the State. For years, for decades, for centuries even, the need for self-reliance and independence has always been before us. So, after weathering this vicious storm, we must collect ourselves more than ever, to be forever prepared for all forms of battle – biological, physical, mental, and spiritual.

In spite of the quarantines and necessary separations, many sisters and brothers, have been busy organizing, helping each other, coordinating actions to free people from prisons and jails, demanding adequate protection for those incarcerated from the virus, and strategizing the course for liberation. People are innovating, using Zoom and other social media means to meet, organize and plan. Strangely enough, the dire urgency of the Coronavirus pandemic has presented opportunities to mobilize more people around progressive demands against government powers. Those who weren't listening before are listening now. Seizing the time is the order of the day!

Jericho has reached out to all of the Political Prisoners it represents to assure them that they are still being represented. Campaigns for their liberation continue. Calls for adequate medical care and attention are still being made. Networking with other organizations is still being done. And the call to free all Political Prisoners is still the Jericho mandate.

In our forced seclusion and separations, we must take the lessons of so many warriors confined to segregation units in prisons around the world - train, rest, study, pray, meditate, think, and prepare to emerge a warrior yourself.

Free All Political Prisoners!

Jihad Abdulmumit,  
National Jericho Chair

## Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War

### Medical Updates

**Maumin Khabir:** Maumin has COPD and bad kidneys. He is in MN, where he gets better medical but it is harder to make calls, etc. If there is an emergency, they said they will call-but they don't.

**Jalil Muntaqim:** Jalil had a possible case of bronchitis and sought medical treatment. He is now recovering and does not have Covid19. Please read his report below.

### Legal Updates

#### Imam Jamil Al-Amin

The Supreme Court is declining to take the case of Imam Jamil Al-Amin "Jamil Al-Amin had argued that a prosecutor violated his right not to testify by directly questioning him during closing arguments in a sort of mock cross-examination."

## 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 became parole eligible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

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

author, poet, educator and blogger.

As a human rights advocate, he had the first U.S. prisoners national petition heard and recorded by a Special Committee at the United Nations on U.S. prisons and the existence of U.S. political prisoners. He has litigated several civil rights complaints on behalf of prisoners. In 2000, Essence magazine featured an article on father-daughter relationships. The article, entitled "Daddy Says," quoted Jalil stressing the importance of maintaining these relations even during incarceration. We are requesting that Friends and Supporters call, tweet, email and write NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office and appeal to him to grant Jalil's Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served.

We also request that this initiative be widely posted on social media platforms, encouraging freedom loving people around the world to join in this initiative. Since this will be ongoing, we propose that people tweet and/or email Governor Cuomo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and call and write the Governor every Tuesday and Thursday." Communications to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office must refer to Jalil as: ANTHONY JALIL BOTTOM, 77A4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 116, Fallsburg, New York 12733-0115.

Write the Governor:

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Governor of the State of New York

Executive Chamber, State Capital Building, Albany, New York 12224

Call the Governor: 1-518-474-8390

Tweet the Governor: @NYGovCuomo

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

For more information concerning Jalil's case, check his

website: [www.freejalil.com](http://www.freejalil.com) and <https://thejerichomovement.com/>

**Mutulu Shakur:** Mutulu's court date is postponed due to covid19

**Maumin Khabir:** Compassionate Release-BOP cannot do anything as far as compassionate release - reconsideration needs to be modified-Dr in there recommended it. Will be addressed.

## **Birthdays: Please Send a Card!**



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

## April Birthdays

### Romaine Chip Fitzgerald: Birthday- April 11, 1949



Contact Information/Prison Address

#B-27527 CSP-LAC, P.O. Box 4490 B-4-150

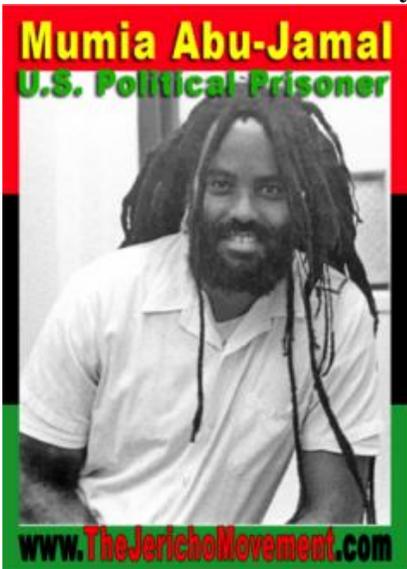
Lancaster,, CA 93539 United States

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

Captured: 1969 - Life

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

### Mumia Abu Jamal: Birthday-April 24



Black Panther Party - Move

Contact Information/Prison Address

Smart Communications/PA DOC

Abu-Jamal, Mumia #AM 8335 SCI-Mahanoy, P.O. Box 33028

St Petersburg, FL 33733, United States

Affiliation: Black Panther Party, MOVE

Captured: 1981-Life without parole

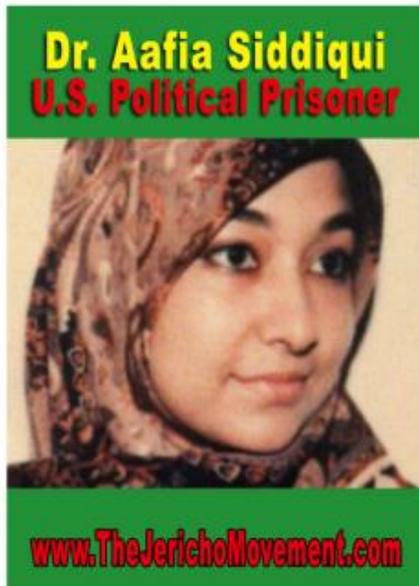
“Very few people in prison have voices that go beyond the wall. It's my job to do the work for them because they have no one.”

FreeMumia.com

Author

## March Birthdays

### Dr. Aafia Siddiqui-Birthday: March 2, 1972



POST 911 MUSLIM POLITICAL PRISONER

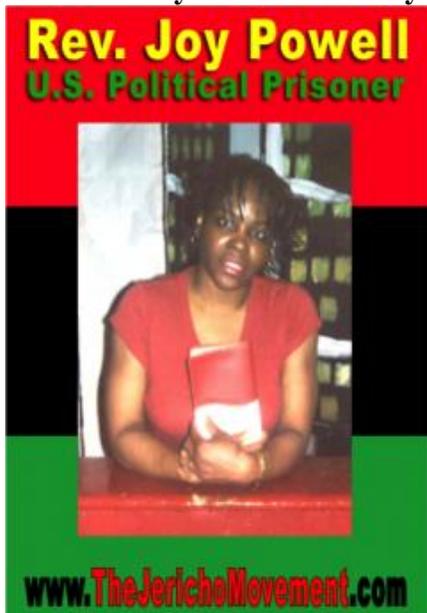
Contact Information/Prison Address

#90279-054--FMC Carswell, Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127

Captured: 2008. Sentence: 86 years.

"Her parents were Pakistani strivers – middle-class folk with strong faith in Islam and education. Her father, Mohammad, was an English-trained doctor; her mother, Ismet, befriended the dictator General Zia ul-Haq. Aafia was a smart teenager, and in 1990 followed her older brother to the U.S. Impressive grades won her admission to the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology and, later, Brandeis University, where she graduated in cognitive neuroscience. In 1995 she married a young Karachi [Pakistan] doctor, Amjad Khan. A year later their first child, Ahmed, was born." <http://FreeAafia.org>

### Reverend Joy Powell-Birthday: March 5, 1962



Community Activist

Contact Information/Prison Address

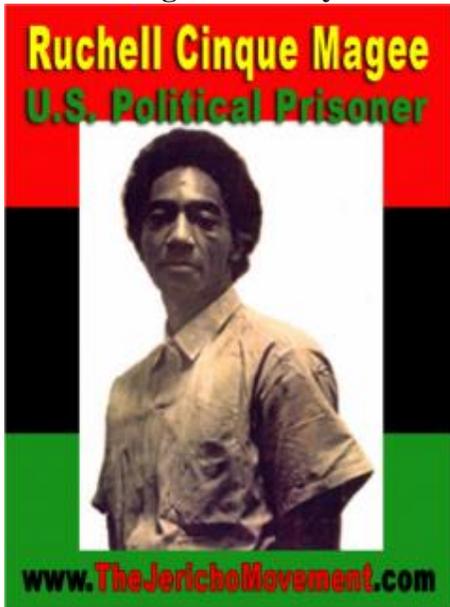
#07G0632--Bedford Hills CF, P.O. Box 1000, Bedford Hills, NY 10507-2499

United States

Captured: 2007 - life plus 16 years.

As a pastor and a consistent activist against police brutality, violence and oppression in her community, Rev. Joy Powell was warned by the Rochester Police department that she was a target because of her speaking out against corruption, the police brutality and “police justifications” in Rochester NY. As a result, Rev. Joy was accused and convicted of 1st Degree Burglary and Assault.”

[FreeJoyPowell.org](http://FreeJoyPowell.org)

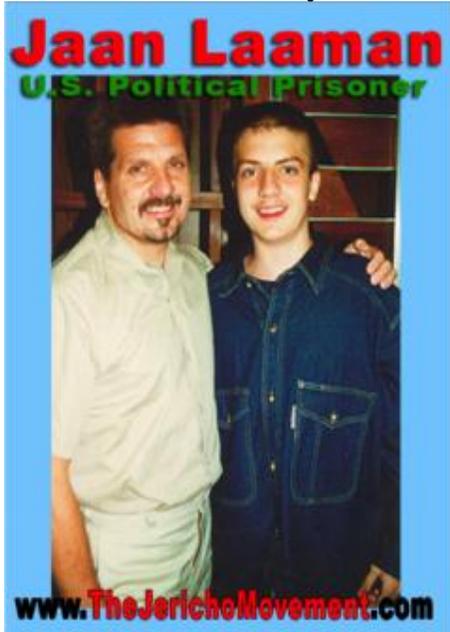
**Ruchell Magee-Birthday: March 17<sup>th</sup>****Contact Information/Prison Address**

#A92051, #T 115 California Medical Facility, P.O. Box 2000, Vacaville, CA 95696-2000, United States

Captured: August 7, 1970

Ruchell is the longest held political prisoners in the U.S. and perhaps the world, having been locked up since 1963. Politicized in prison, he later participated in the Marin County Courthouse Rebellion (Aug 7, 1970) in the attempted liberation of political prisoner George Jackson by his younger brother, Jonathan Jackson. Ruchell has worked tirelessly as a jailhouse lawyer, working on his own case and helping many other prisoners win their freedom....

<http://denverabc.wordpress.com/prisoners-dabc-supports/political-prisoners-database/ruchell-cinque-magee/>

**Jaan Laaman-Birthday: March 21, 1948**

Affiliation: Ohio 7

**Contact Information/Prison Address**

#10372-016--USP McCreary, P.O. Box 3000, Pine Knot, KY 42635

Captured: 1984. Eligible for Parole in 2018.

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

4STRUGGLEMAG.ORG

[https://www.facebook.com/jaan.laaman?fref=ts&ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/jaan.laaman?fref=ts&ref=br_tf)

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

### Report from Jalil Muntaqim

#### REPORT:

“On Monday, 4/6/20, I went to the clinic to pick up blood pressure medication, and told the nurse at the pickup window that I feel congestion in the chest and wanted to use the nebulizer. Over the last year I had been dealing with a nasal infection, having used the nebulizer a couple of times with no problem when asked to do so. However, this time I was rudely told I would not be allowed to use the nebulizer. I explained to the nurse there is a record of me using the nebulizer, but she was not hearing any of that... I returned to the cell and wrote a more demanding sick call slip, stating I want to be scheduled to see the doctor immediately.

Tuesday, 4/7/20, I was called to the clinic and another nurse wanted to talk to me about what I said in the sick call slip, trying to dismiss my concerns. When she understood my medical issues, me using the medical terms explaining what I needed, she went to get the doctor. The doctor also sought to dissuade my need for medical attention. After explaining some of my medical history, the doctor left and sent her PA to exam me. I was then given an EKG; she left and returned stating I will be admitted to the infirmary, and ordered a chest X-ray after listening to my breathing with a stethoscope; she concluded that I am "very congested", I explained my history of bronchitis for the third time, as indicated in my medical record if you just review the record.

I was taken to the infirmary and placed in the quarantine room and given a mask to wear when anyone should come into the room. I was prescribed the antibiotic, that I later learned is "Clarithromycin" (500 mg). I was never told the results of the EKG or the X-ray, and learned the name of the antibiotic after being released from quarantine. I was not told by the doctor or the PA how long I would be quarantine. On Wednesday, 4/8/20, I asked to see the doctor so I could ask the pressing questions about my health and to be allowed to call my attorney. The nurse returned and told me the doctor refuse to see me and I would not be allowed to use the phone or kiosk. I was steaming, pacing the bare room, unable to get any answers and not being allowed to call my attorney.

Thursday, 4/9/20, the doctor came to see me and asked what is the problem, I told her I want out of quarantine, that at no time during the nurses giving my meds and checking my vitals did I have a fever, although at one time my blood pressure had risen to 198/99 after having been cursed out by the nurse administrator for writing her a letter requesting to be permitted to use a mask. She was offended because I addressed her using her full name, what she said was her "full Christian name" - she never answered the substance of the letter. The doctor released me from quarantine, and I returned to the housing block, still having to take the antibiotic for several more days.

This is the report of my medical treatment of which I had to demand attention , and then one may argue in the abundance of caution, after they actually listened to my concerns, I was quarantined for 3 days - held in complete incommunicado. I have since written two grievances, one for not being permitted to call my attorney, and the second for being cursed out by the nurse administrator, and not even given a chance to apologize for offending her for using full name in my letter to her requesting to wear a mask!!!

My attorney, Nora Carroll, is preparing a habeas corpus petition on my behalf to demand my immediate release as it appears NYS DOCCS is becoming overwhelmingly infected with the contagion COVID-19. She also submitted a petition to Gov. Cuomo urging he use his Executive authority to release me

and others who are vulnerable to succumbing to the virus if infected with the coronavirus. I hope this report provides all with some greater understanding of the seriousness of the issues confronting prisoners seeking medical attention. Either there is minimum or no attention or a knee-jerk over-reaction. I am still not permitted to wear a mask, nor been allowed to use the nebulizer. I am doing a lot more cell time, staying away from prison staff since they are the only ones who bring the virus into the prison... and away from other prisoners since they can be infected if they fail to take necessary precautions. Again, this report further indicates the need for friends and supporters to continue the initiative directed at Gov. Cuomo demanding he grants my Application to Commute the Sentence to Time Served!!!

I ask all to give a shout out to Nora for her tenacious selfless pro-bono representation of me in this fight for freedom!!!

Yours in struggle for freedom -  
JALIL”

## **Mondo we Langa**

“Two weeks before his death, Mondo mailed out a copy of what would be his final poem, called “When It Gets To This Point.” It begins:

Michael Brown?  
I had never heard of him  
had never heard of anything he'd done  
before the news of his death came  
whoever he might have become  
whatever he might have achieved  
had he lived longer  
not been riddled lifeless by  
bullets from Darren Wilson's gun  
and crumpled on the pavement of a ferguson street  
for more than four hours in  
the heat of that august day  
and before  
I'd never known of Trayvon Martin  
had known nothing of who he was  
until I learned of his demise  
and cause of death  
a bullet to the chest  
George Zimmerman, the shooter  
a badge-less, pretend police  
with a pistol

and fear of the darkness  
 Trayvon's darkness  
 and after a while  
 the pictures, the names,  
 the circumstances  
 run together  
 like so much colored laundry in the wash  
 that bleeds on whites  
 was it Eric Garner or Tamir Rice  
 who was twelve but seen as twenty  
 Hulk Hogan or The Hulk  
 with demonic eyes it was said  
 who shrank the cop in ferguson  
 into a five-year-old who  
 had to shoot  
 and John Crawford the third  
 in a walmart store aisle  
 an air rifle in his hands he'd picked up  
 from the shelf  
 and held in the open  
 in an open-carry state  
 was it John or someone else  
 killed supposedly by mistake  
 in a dark stairwell  
 I know Akai Gurley fell  
 I hadn't heard of him before  
 nor of Amadou Diallo or Sean Bell  
 prior to their killings  
 which of these two took slugs in the greater number  
 I don't recall  
 my memory is too encumbered  
 with the names  
 of so many before and since

Much of Mondo's poetry critiqued police power within the U.S. But, like the Panthers, his scope was broad. Like the Panthers, he called for the internationalization of black struggle and aligned himself with third world liberation movements. Many of his poems have a Pan-African and anti-imperialist bent.

In "I Don't Step in the Water," the final poem in his 2012 collection, *The Black Panther is an African Cat*, Mondo writes:

There is a place  
 between the building I'm caged in  
 and the one where the slop is served  
 where when it rains  
 two puddles form  
 puddles that form a map  
 of Africa  
 I do not splash through  
 but walk around  
 out of respect.

Mondo's ashes are now in Tanzania, where former Panther Pete O'Neal lives in exile with his wife, Charlotte, also a former Kansas City Panther. One of their students volunteered to carry Mondo's ashes to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro."

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/03/17/remembering-a-panther/>

## **Community Calls for Action**

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

### **The ABCF Warchest Needs Your Support!**

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

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

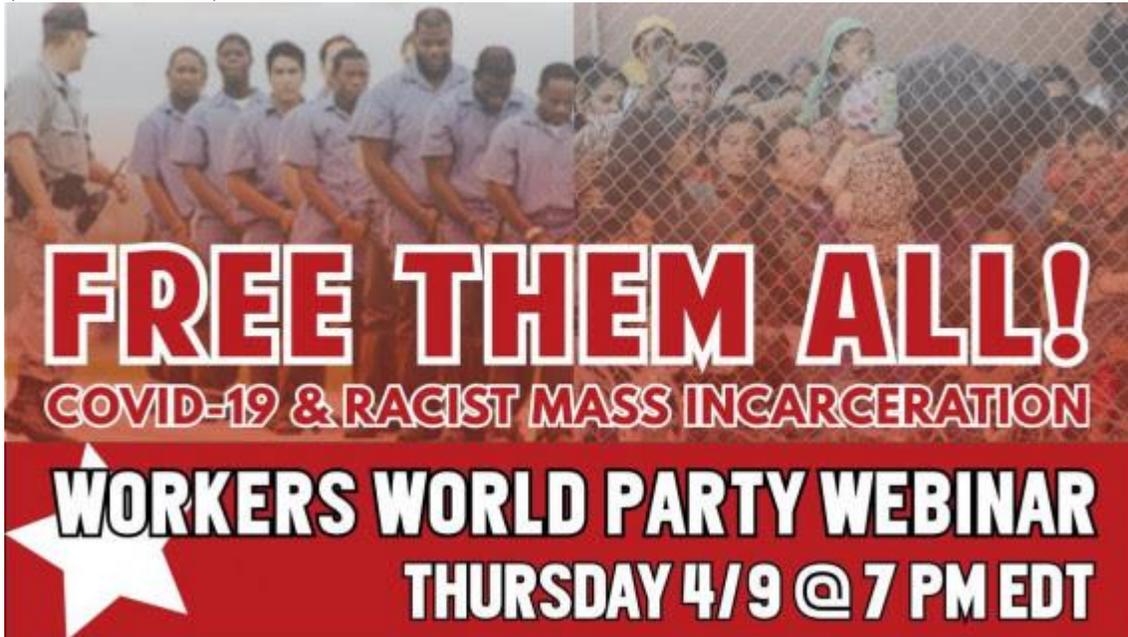
In the last two years, the following released political prisoners have received donations to their release funds: Delbert Africa, Chuck Africa, Janine and Janet Africa, Eddie Africa Connor Stevens, Little Feather, Nina Droz Franco

You can easily donate online at [www.paypal.me/abcfwarchest](http://www.paypal.me/abcfwarchest) You can also make a check or postal money order out to Tim Fasnacht and send to Tim Fasnacht, PO Box 8682, Lancaster, PA 17604. Please

put "Warchest" in the memo line. Any questions can be directed to [la@abcf.net](mailto:la@abcf.net) or La ABCF.”  
Thank you for your solidarity.”

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

**FREE THEM ALL! Covid-19 & Racist Mass Incarceration** Apr 9, 2020 07:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)



**“Description**

The COVID-19 pandemic poses as a death threat to all people who are incarcerated. The system of racist mass incarceration is now poised to commit mass murder of people incarcerated in U.S. prisons and migration detention facilities. Yet there is a growing struggle, inside the walls and in our communities, to free our people now! Workers World Party believes that prisons are concentration camps for the poor and the oppressed. This includes the thousands upon thousands of migrants and refugees who are confined in camps across the country. The system of mass incarceration does not exist to punish crimes or rehabilitate those who commit them; it exists to control excess labor population, to cage workers that capitalists find threatening or unnecessary.<sup>[1]</sup> We must end this system once and for all.

In this Thursday's webinar, Workers World members and allies will discuss this dire threat and report on the struggles to free our people on both sides of the walls.

**Hosted by:**

-Makasi Motema: organizer with Peoples Power Assemblies NYC

Speakers include (more to be added soon!):

-Bryant Arroyo, jailhouse lawyer and writer for Workers World, incarcerated in SCI Frackville, Pennsylvania

-Susan Abulhawa: Author of Mornings in Jenin and Against the Loveless World. She is a Workers World Party comrade and Palestinian activist., -Sophia Williams: Campaign to Bring Mumia Home

-Kevin Caron: Georgia Detention Watch to report on Stewart Detention Center and campaign to shut down Atlanta City Detention Center, -Monica Moorehead: Editor, Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom

Struggle, Managing Editor of Workers World newspaper, -Gloria Rubac: organizer, Texas Death Penalty

Abolition Movement, -Mirinda Crissman: writer for Workers World newspaper's Tear Down the Walls prisoner

page” See [https://us04web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_G\\_mMi2SS3GUJMez9Jvs8g](https://us04web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G_mMi2SS3GUJMez9Jvs8g)

## **#ClemencyCoast2Coast: Join us Tomorrow to Call on Governors in California and New York to #LetThemGo**

“In the wake of COVID-19, CURB, California Coalition for Women Prisoners and The DROP LWOP Coalition join with public health officials, families of incarcerated people, incarcerated people, and community advocates in demanding that Governor Newsom and the state legislature take immediate action to execute their legal responsibility to protect vulnerable people in prisons, especially older and sick people, including those serving Life Without Parole sentences (LWOP), by commuting their sentences and/or expediting their release. We endorse the demands made by the Justice Collaborative Letter to Governor Newsom, especially those highlighting the impact COVID-19 will have on aging prison populations. To learn more about the inhumanity of Life Without Parole sentences, read the DROP LWOP Campaign Fact Sheet.

Take Action Tomorrow: #ClemencyCoast2Coast

Tomorrow, March 27, please join us, California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), The Parole Preparation Project and Releasing Aging People In Prison (RAPP Campaign) as organizers in California and New York call on both Governor Cuomo and Governor Newsom to grant clemencies and other releases IMMEDIATELY for elders in prison and others in prison who are vulnerable to COVID-19.

Below are three tweets and images directed at both governors with actions we will take throughout the day. If your schedule allows, plan to join us for our “twitter power hour” at 12 pm PST/3 pm EST. We will dedicate this time to call and tweet as much as we can. If you cannot join for that time, tweeting and calling whenever you can throughout the day also is great.” See

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WmkjDhS8hyaie4FCiWFMuJVCOTinqkPgHlz\\_dzpXNvA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WmkjDhS8hyaie4FCiWFMuJVCOTinqkPgHlz_dzpXNvA/edit)

### **Call in for David Campbell- Friday April 10th**

#### **“Sample Script for Phone and Email**

Director of Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice Elizabeth Glazer: E-mail: [eglazer@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:eglazer@cityhall.nyc.gov) [mocj@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:mocj@cityhall.nyc.gov) Tweet: @CrimJusticeNYC Call/Text (copy and paste script via text): (917) 913-2253

DOC Commissioner Cythnia Brann E-mail: [cynthia.brann@doc.nyc.gov](mailto:cynthia.brann@doc.nyc.gov) Call: (718) 546-0890 Fax: (718) 278-6022 Tweet: @CorrectionNYC

#### **Sample letter**

Dear [Commissioner Brann/Elizabeth Glazer]:

I am [calling/emailing] to draw your attention to the case of David Campbell, who is currently incarcerated on Rikers Island, *has been authorized to be released by DA Vance’s office* in multiple statements to journalists, but inexplicably remains detained. I implore you to use the unique powers of your office to see that he is released as soon as possible. Not only has he been a model inmate and a beloved fixture of the NYC activist community, but he is also an experienced funeral director who has served low income communities in Brooklyn for years. This skillset is unfortunately in critically high demand during this pandemic, and his former colleagues have called for his release ASAP. As the pandemic spreads, incarcerated folks are testing positive at a horrifying rate. Detained folks and CO’s have already died. Please do the right thing. Follow the DA’s guidance in releasing David Campbell, and heed the numerous public calls to release all those detained in DOC custody immediately. This is not only the most ethical course of action, but it is also the most rational: each day folks remain in DOC custody, the worse this pandemic becomes for everyone in New York.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[ include address and contact info if you are comfortable but it is not required]

### **Further Resources**

NY groups and journalists organizing around COVID-19 and prisons/jails:

[freedavidcampbell.com](http://freedavidcampbell.com)

@nonewjails\_nyc

@FreeThemAll2020

@RAPPcampaign

@IWOC\_NYC

@macc\_nyc

@grimkim

@natashalennard

*On Rikers and Covid-19:*

<https://wfhb.org/news/kite-line-march-20-2020-covid-19-updates-from-the-inside/> (features David)

<https://theintercept.com/2020/03/18/coronavirus-rikers-island-jail/>

<https://twitter.com/RossMacDonaldMD/status/1240455796946800641>

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/a-rikers-island-doctor-speaks-out-to-save-her-elderly-patients-from-the-coronavirus>

<https://theappeal.org/rikers-island-coronavirus-covid-19-interview/>

<https://theappeal.org/rikers-island-coronavirus-covid-19-kim-kelly/>

<https://theappeal.org/new-york-city-jails-coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://indypendent.org/2020/03/inmates-on-rikers-island-are-fighting-for-soap-how-to-show-solidarity-and-prevent-coronas-spread/>”

### **Sign the petition: Prison phone companies must offer free calls home during the pandemic**

“Correctional facilities and detention centers across the country are suspending in-person visits during the coronavirus pandemic to limit contact with the outside world. In-person visits are free. Now, the costs of staying connected with an incarcerated person falls on a loved one who very well could be financially impacted by a stay at home order or laid off of work completely.

During this time it is pivotal that incarcerated folks and their loved ones stay connected. Prison phone companies must do everything possible to ensure this happens.”

<https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/petitions/sign-the-petition-prison-phone-companies-must-offer-free-calls-home-during-the-pandemic>

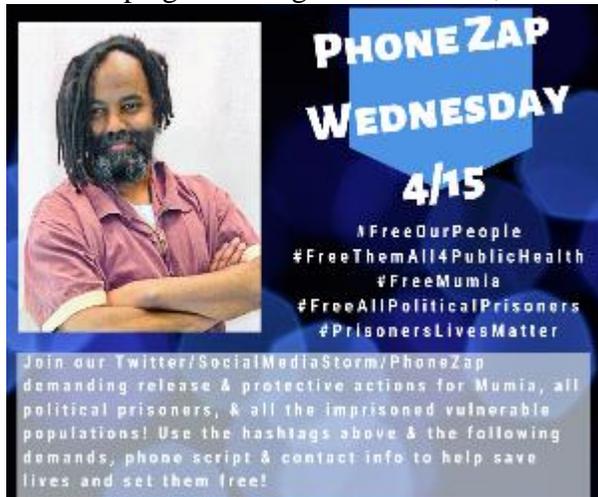
### **Wisconsin DOC Fails to Protect its Vulnerable Prisoners, Advocates Hold Demonstration to Demand Immediate Action from the Governor and DOC Admin**

“Madison/Milwaukee, WI [25 March, 2020] After occupying the neighborhood of Department of Corrections’ Secretary Kevin Carr’s house for the last two days, and now with the order for Wisconsin people to stay at home, prisoner’s rights advocates from Milwaukee will be escalating the occupation by moving their actions to the State Capitol Building in Madison. Carr and Evers’ continued inaction to protect the prison population from exposure to COVID-19 is putting more than 23,000 people in Wisconsin at risk. COVID 19 has already infected two different prisons in Wisconsin—Waupun Correctional Institution (WCI) and Columbia Correctional Institution (CCI). Both prisons were exposed through infected staff members who were allowed to enter the facilities, thus spreading this deadly epidemic to our most vulnerable brothers and sisters locked inside. The DOC continues to report that there are no confirmed cases of their captives testing positive for COVID-19, but public officials with the CDC and WHO advise that the infection is widespread in the community and people should

assume that observed symptoms are indicative of an infection. Additionally, DOC testing protocol, excludes people who test positive from influenza from receiving COVID-19 tests, effectively diluting their test results. It is only a matter of time before it spreads. These individuals are presenting their demands to the state capital, to the Governor himself, to hold the DOC and the state's administration accountable for the thousands of people whose lives they hold in their control. These citizens will be protesting outside the East entrance of the State Capitol Building in Madison today, Wednesday March 25th, 2020, by 11:00 am, and will remain outside through sundown. Press are encouraged to attend. For questions or more information about today's action, please contact Ben Turk (Forum for Understanding Prisons) at 614.704.4699 or by email at [prisonforumwi@gmail.com](mailto:prisonforumwi@gmail.com). More information can be found at" <http://www.prisonforum.org>

### **Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners: Wednesday, 4/15, International Twitter/Media Storm & Phone Zap**

"Now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mumia and countless other aging political prisoners are facing another death sentence, along with all the thousands of other aging, vulnerable and immune-compromised prisoners in Pennsylvania and across the country. We can't let them be murdered in their cells by this inhumane medical neglect. Join with the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFFMAJ), the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC), Mobilization 4 Mumia, The Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition - Bay Area and the many



more organizers and activists in this International action to #FreeThemAll4PublicHealth!

Here's the Plan - 1. NOW: Please share by email immediately to contacts & orgs, but Save Social Media posts and Phone Calls to the Target Contacts until 4/15 for our International Twitter/Media Storm and Phone Zap! 2. On 4/15: Share the four pics below to Twitter and other social media platforms, using the hashtags in the first pic (the one with Mumia's pic) 3. On 4/15: Keep posting all day, with the hashtags in pic one. You can supplement your posts with the sample tweets below, or create your own, using the demands in pic two. 4. On 4/15: Make the calls to the Target Contacts in pic four, using the Phone Script in pic three. Report

the results of your calls on your social media post. 5. On 4/15: Send emails to the Target Contacts, using the phone script and demands for the basis of your email.

Target names & contact info:

PA Governor Tom Wolf - @GovernorTomWolf 717-787-2500

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/#Mail>

PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel - @CorrectionsPA; 717-728-4109

<https://expressforms.pa.gov/apps/pa/cor/contact-us>

SCI Mahanoy Superintendent Bernadette Mason 570-773-2158

Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner; @PhilaDAO; 215-686-8000; [justice@phila.gov](mailto:justice@phila.gov)

Sample Tweets:

1. @GovernorTomWolf 717-787-2500 #FreeMumia #FreeThemAll4PublicHealth Approve immediate reprieves for Mumia & ALL Political Prisoners! Incarceration during a global pandemic SHOULD NOT be a DEATH sentence. ALL #PrisonersLivesMatter !
2. @CorrectionsPA John Wetzel #FreeMumia #FreeAllPoliticalPrisoners We demand the immediate compassionate release for ALL aging, vulnerable and immune-compromised prisoners. Provide all

prisoners with PPE and COVID-19 tests on demand. End the solitary confinement lockdown NOW.

3. @philadao Larry Krasner #FreeMumia #FreeOurPeople Demand immediate reprieves for Mumia & ALL political prisoners! Incarceration during a global pandemic SHOULD NOT be a DEATH sentence. Call 4 IMMEDIATE compassionate release 4 ALL aging, vulnerable & immune-compromised prisoners!

4. Bernadette Mason SCI Mahoney #FreeMumia #PrisonersLivesMatter Incarceration in a pandemic SHOULDN'T be DEATH sentence. End solitary confinement lockdown now! Provide ALL prisoners with PPE & COVID19 tests on demand. Place symptomatic prisoners in off-site medical facilities NOW! Contact mobilization4mumia@gmail.com for further info.”

### **Palestinian Prisoners’ Day 2020: Week of Action for Palestinian Liberation**

“Palestinian Prisoners’ Day 2020 approaches as 5,000 Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli jails face the ongoing threat of settler colonialism, apartheid and occupation, accompanied by the new threat to their health and lives posed by the global pandemic of coronavirus (COVID-19), accentuated by institutionalized Israeli medical negligence. Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network urges all supporters of justice and liberation in Palestine to join us between 10 and 17 April for a week of action to free all Palestinian prisoners!” See <https://www.facebook.com/SamidounPrisonerSolidarity/>

### **Covid-19 Car Parade 2: for Emergency Prisoner Relief! Thursday, April 9, 2020**

“Contact: Ben Turk [insurgent.ben@gmail.com](mailto:insurgent.ben@gmail.com) Phone: 614-704-4699 Website: prisonforum.org  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/317960862513637/>

Covid-19 Car Parade 2: for Emergency Prisoner Relief! MSDF is designed to cycle through criminalized people from Milwaukee’s low income communities of color. The government could not design a better incubator for the racially targeted spread of COVID-19 if they tried. Most people held at MSDF stay for a few days to a week, so they will be coming back out soon. As of Friday March 20, the DOC reported the population to be 964 people. They are held in close quarters where social distancing is impossible. MSDF will act as an incubator, spreading COVID-19 among its population, and then sending them back home with the disease. The DOC must release them before that happens. Governor Evers’ Safer at Home orders includes an exception for people seeking emergency relief for loved ones, we believe this demonstration fits within this exception. Everyone will remain in their cars, protecting themselves from exposure.

WHAT: COVID-19 Emergency Prisoner Relief Car Parade 2 WHEN: Thursday, April 9, 2020

TIME: 1:30pm-3:00pm (car decorating before - more info coming!) WHERE: 1015 N 10th St (Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility)

SAFER AT HOME means PRISONERS, TOO!

Our first social-distancing rally "Car Parade" was a hit, so we're going back for round two! Please join in our second Car Parade on Thursday April 9th, from 1:30-3PM to help amplify the demand that Governor Evers release EVERYONE from MSDF due to the health crisis of COVID-19 building inside its walls!

\*\*\*\*\*THIS ACTIONS MAKES EVERY ATTEMPT TO ABIDE BY THE SAFER AT HOME ORDERS IN PLACE IN MILWAUKEE\*\*\*\*\*

- all passengers in one vehicle from the same households
- social distancing is inherent in this action, and its required!
- traveling for the purpose of essential business
- essential business we are conducting is our collective request for emergency relief services from the state DOC and Governor Evers' Administration in relation to our family members who are held captive.
- we have exhausted all other forms of communicating our request to the DOC and the Governor
- we will take care to ensure the healthcare operations on the west side of the freeway are not impacted

by our presence

Together, we can have a lot of fun, make a lot of noise, and demand action from the state - please keep in mind that we are doing this for our loved ones locked inside MSDF and other prisons across the state with persons who may be infected with COVID-19. We want them to be safe, therefore we in the Free World must also practice safety.

\*\*\*\*\*Driving Tips for Tomorrow's Car Parade\*\*\*\*\*

- travel counter-clockwise around the facility as slow as possible
- wait until you are on 10th st outside MSDF after 1:30pm to begin making any noise
- listen for our "pace cars" to start honking & join with your noise!
- try to stay as close to the vehicle in front of you as possible
- if you are separated from the front group by a traffic light, continue moving slowly & try to keep the remaining cars with you
- the more cars we have, the less "separated" we will become, as we'll end up with groups on each block!

\*\*\*\*\*Safety Note for All Participants\*\*\*\*\*

For the safety of all participants, the medical professionals at Aurora, and the EMT's who may be driving patients in the area, please take extra care to clear a path for Fire and Ambulance Emergency Service Vehicles, even if this means turning off the parade path.

\*\*\*\*\*DECORATING\*\*\*\*\*

WHEN: April 9th (same day as the Car Parade) TIME: 12:30pm to 1:30pm WHERE: ~1015 N 9th St (we'll be on the block somewhere!)-We will have some flags, poster signs, car markers, colorful streamers, and balloons (as long as it's warmer!) to help decorate your vehicles. To better combat the spread of Coronavirus, some decorations will be in unopened packages so we can toss them from our car to yours. For handling of other items, we will have disposable gloves, wipes, and hand sanitizer which you can utilize to disinfect yourself and the materials between handling. If you would like to do this, please meet us on 9th street at 12:30pm between State St and Highland Ave to spiff up your vehicle!"

### **COVID-19 Pandemic: Release our Elders, #LetThemGo**

“CURB’s Elder Parole Memo recommends modifying the existing requirements for Elder Parole consideration, setting the minimum age at 50, down 10 years from existing law (age 60); and to reducing the minimum amount of time served on a sentence from 25 to 15 years. It also calls for the expansion of Elder Parole eligibility to include people serving Life Without Possibility of Parole (LWOP) and people on death row, with no exemptions for types of convictions, widening the opportunity to parole elders to be determined on a case-by-case basis. We know that prisons and jails across California were already in crisis, and COVID-19 is adding fuel to the flame. This week, we're amplifying the campaign to #LetThemGo, a call for Governor Newsom's office for #ClemencyNow as we address this unprecedented national emergency. Join the call to #LetThemGo all by participating in our online action-Sample text to promote on social media with your pic and sign: Governor Newsom: Release Elders & Incarcerated People in California Vulnerable to #COVID19 #ClemencyNow @GavinNewsom #LetThemGo”—see [WWW.CURBPRISONSPENDING.ORG](http://WWW.CURBPRISONSPENDING.ORG)

### **Demand Prison Phone Justice in COVID-19 Relief Efforts -Sign the petition to help us push the FCC Chairman to meet our three demands NOW**

“As incarcerated individuals are deprived of family visitation across the country and the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, Team #MediaJustice is urging Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai to move fast on behalf of the incarcerated and their families, to ensure our people are not left behind as COVID-19 escalates the crisis that is mass incarceration in this country.

Sign the petition to help us push the FCC Chairman to meet our three demands NOW:

Request predatory prison phone companies offer free phone and video calls with no fees to incarcerated and detained individuals immediately for the next 60 days. Commit the prison phone industry to sign onto the Keep Americans Connected Pledge. 1 Deny Securus' emergency request to stop paying into the Universal Service Fund. 2 Our executive director, Steven Renderos, sums up the urgency of these demands" see <https://p2a.co/ZohCHhB> "In the midst of the COVID-19 global health crisis, when justice-involved families are struggling to maintain connection to confirm their health and safety, communication from prisons must be free. For over a decade, companies have raked in billions from families so desperate to keep in contact that they make the choice between phone calls and food. The Federal Communications Commission must step in to provide relief and ensure that all families stay connected during this global pandemic."

### **RAPP: NY statewide virtual forum on COVID-19 and incarceration-- March 25<sup>th</sup>**

"Via RAPP (Releasing Aging People in Prison) Join us next week for a statewide virtual forum on COVID-19 and incarceration. Elders in prisons across New York State are at serious risk. We need all hands on deck to push for #ClemencyNow #FreeOurElders " RSVP here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKHJtIdqVmO1hKegw4\\_3aC6aaQo3o1SjHSgUrPNpC5nsABDg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKHJtIdqVmO1hKegw4_3aC6aaQo3o1SjHSgUrPNpC5nsABDg/viewform)

### **A Month of Action for Bomani Shakur**

"Call to participate in a month of solidarity with political prisoner, Bomani Shakur.

This April, 2020, we invite you to participate in a month of actions and events for comrade Bomani Shakur. Bomani Shakur has been showering our world with beautiful gifts. His words and actions haven't missed a beat in elevating those he knows and even those he has never met. Shakur is best known for the 1993 Lucasville Uprising, a rebellion inside the walls of an Ohio prison against tyranny and harsh conditions. In the aftermath Bomani was falsely accused of having murdered prisoners and having "led a death squad." No physical evidence connects him to the murders that took place when the prison in Lucasville was in uprising. The verdict itself only came about due to a forced testimony by a prisoner turned snitch. In 2004 Bomani wrote a book called Condemned, to highlight his life and the truth about what happened. Prisoners 10 of 16 organizing, confronting their oppressor and the organizers being attacked by the state as retaliation is nothing new. In 1971 prisoners in San Quentin, California revolted, George Jackson was killed and Hugo Pinell would spend the following 44 years in California's harshest prisons only to be stabbed to death in 2015 by white supremacists. It's important to recognize that prisoners stand up, organize and are attacked by the state for it. In response, the prisoner strikes back by persevering, surviving and continuing to build with fellow prisoners and those of us on this side of the wall." See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/updates-10-mar-2020.pdf>

### **Please support these recently released Political Prisoners!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**March 25th Virtual Summit DayofEmpathy #StopCOVID19 #FreeThemAll & #UnShacklePregnancy #OversightNow**

“Greetings from our homes. AFSC's Michigan Criminal Justice Program staff are with you working from our homes and staying connected to people inside Michigan's prisons as we all learn to navigate this unprecedented time. We wish you peace, hope, and calm in these troubling times. For many of us, we are separated from family, friends, and loved ones, and those separations are even more difficult when our loved ones are behind bars and cannot distance themselves from one another, but are inaccessible to us. We are holding all people under state control in the light, and you can find tangible steps we are taking toward their recognition and safeguarding in the update” -see <https://www.safeandjustmi.org/take-action/events/> <https://www.afsc.org/kites>

### **End the Gaza Blockade: #SpreadSolidarity (Zoom Rally & Twitterstorm)**

As COVID-19 enters Gaza – cases are up to 7 as of this writing – we know it’s time for us to “hit the streets” and demand that Congress and international leaders take action. But the coronavirus won’t let us assemble as usual, so we’re trying something different. On Monday, please join us for an online rally and Twitterstorm, where we will learn, plan, share our message of justice, bring media attention to the unfolding crisis in Gaza, #SpreadSolidarity, and be together.” See <https://secure.everyaction.com/9pnBCBhdUyUN6PmeXOljw2?sourceid=1000825&emci=03cf630b-f36e-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=e44eb7c0-616f-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=196414>

### **Leonard Peltier**

“Dear Friends, Supporters, and Family, In light of the provisions of the CARES Act meant to decrease the risk to prisoner health, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Attorney General has delegated to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons the authority to release certain vulnerable prisoners to home confinement. Currently, the process for identifying appropriate candidates for home confinement have not been solidified but we believe it may help to write to the BOP Director and Southeast Regional Director and ask that Leonard be immediately considered and transitioned to his home on the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

Your letters should be addressed to:

**Michael Carvajal**, Director, 320 First Street NW, Washington, DC 20534

**J.A. Keller**, Southeast Regional Director

Federal Bureau of, 3800 Camp Crk Prk SW, Building 2000, Atlanta, GA 30331

We have not drafted a form letter or correspondence. Your pleas should come from your heart as an individual who has supported Leonard for so many years. Say what you would like but we have put together some talking points that will assist you in your letter writing. Below are some helpful guidelines so your letter touches on the requirements of the Attorney General’s criteria for releasing inmates like Leonard to home confinement

#### **OPENING**

- Point out that Leonard is an elder and is at risk for example.” Mr. Peltier is 75 years old and in very poor health; his only desire is to go home to the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation and live out the remainder of his years surrounded by his family.”

#### **MEDICAL**

The AG and CDC guidelines for releasing inmates requires the health concerns cause greater risk of getting the virus. Leonard has the following conditions you can list in your letter

- Diabetes • Spots on lung • Heart Condition (has had triple by-pass surgery)
- Leonard Peltier suffers from a kidney disease that cannot be treated at the Coleman facility and impacts as an underlying condition if contracting the virus.

**RISK TO COMMUNITY:** To qualify for release to home confinement we must show that Leonard poses no risk to the community.

#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT/REENTRY PLAN**

To qualify for release to home confinement we must show that Leonard has a reentry plan. Leonard has support from the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band and has family land on the reservation where he can live.

#### RISK OF COVID 19

To qualify for the release to home confinement must show that Leonard is at reduced risk to exposure of COVID 19 by release than he is at Coleman 1. Currently Rolette County, ND has no cases of COVID 19, Sumter County has at least 33 cases.” See

<https://gem.godaddy.com/p/8813801?pact=1217503-157698117-7790601629-9b91dd92b638c231143896a170db2b4ac53d507c>

#### **Call Wednesday 3/25 all day!!!**

“As prisons, jails, and detention centers around the country begin to see outbreaks of COVID-19, it is clear that administrators are at best ill-equipped to keep people safe and informed. We need to put pressure on public power to act in the interest of public health. The only way Coronavirus is spreading to incarcerated and detained people is from staff bringing it in, and we know that people can carry the virus without being symptomatic. Social distancing is impossible in these facilities, and the availability of testing is so limited that the only way we know about infections is from people on the inside reporting outbreaks. By then it is too late. The only way to prevent illness and death in prisons, jails, and detention centers under these conditions is to release people in large numbers. People are already reporting outbreaks in Virginia facilities. Many jails across the US have implemented large-scale releases. It's past time for ICE and the Virginia Department of Corrections to follow suit.

Numbers to call Office of Governor Ralph Northam: 804-786-2211 VA Commissioner of Health: 804-864-7001 Email Commissioner of Health Questions@vdh.virginia.gov

Email Governor Northam ralph.northam@governor.virginia.gov

#### Suggested Script

Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling to request that your office take steps to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in VADOC and ICE facilities. I am aware that staff at these facilities are not being tested, and that people at ICA Farmville and Coffeewood Correctional are reporting symptoms. Social distance as a preventative measure is impossible in jails, prisons, and detention centers. Given that comprehensive testing is also impossible, the only way to minimize risk is to effect large-scale releases. Coronavirus is an imminent threat to the secure operation of VADOC and ICE facilities, and must be taken seriously. Will Governor Northam demonstrate his commitment to public health by granting clemency and commuting sentences? Or will he release a statement accepting responsibility for inevitable illness and death?

If you reach a voicemail-Ask for a callback. Note the time of call and where you left a message (in the case you were forwarded to another answering machine)-If you reach a person-Note the time and length of the call and who you spoke with. Get the direct number and email of the-person you were transferred to. Push for a formal response. If the person you're speaking with can't speak to the office's response, ask them who can.” Email a report to iwoc.crc@protonmail.com

#### **Demand Los Angeles County officials take immediate and decisive steps now to save lives in LA County Jails**

“Given the urgency of this situation, we are calling on the Los Angeles County Sheriff, the Department of Health Services-Correctional Health Services, the District Attorney, the Los Angeles County Superior Court, and the Board of Supervisors to act immediately to protect the lives of the people impacted by our county’s jail system” see

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/demand-los-angeles-county-officials-take-immediate-and-decisive-steps-now-to-save-lives-in-la-county-jails/>

## **Urgent Action Needed Now for NYC's Homeless! PROTECT HOMELESS FROM COVID - AN OPEN LETTER TO CUOMO & DE BLASIO**

“New Yorkers - and all Americans - from all walks of life are filled with anxiety and confusion as we face, together, the Covid 19 pandemic. Hopefully, you all are in a safe space at the moment and are able to exercise self-care physically and psychologically. Please stay safe! Being able to heed the public call to stay home and isolated for our own safety and the safety of others is a luxury. Those of us who can do that should be filled with gratitude. But not everyone has that luxury. Our homeless brothers and sisters do not have the ability to self-isolate. Those sheltered in New York City's shelter system are congregated, often in dorm-style settings; a setting where just one person contracting the Covid 19 virus can easily and quickly transmit that virus to many others. Those enduring homelessness on the street are openly exposed and at risk. In both cases, access to basic hygiene resources needed to reduce the risk of contracting Covid 19 is minimal to non-existent. Moreover, a higher proportion of the homeless population consists of folks with age or health factors which make them higher-risk of not surviving should they contract the virus. Go to CPR's website to read the letter in full and to sign your organization on.” See <https://www.changethenypd.org/endorse-protect-homeless-covid-open-letter-cuomo-de-blasio>

### **IMPORTANT UPDATE RE: Join our online rally to end the blockade in Gaza**

“With coronavirus spreading in Gaza, there is no time to waste – the blockade must end immediately. Please join our online rally and Twitterstorm tomorrow!

<https://secure.everyaction.com/9pnBCBhldUyUN6PmeXOljw2?sourceid=1000825&emci=298274bd-6b70-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=5d879c9f-0872-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=196414>

IMPORTANT UPDATE: The UK and Palestine times listed in our original email were incorrect. The rally and Twitterstorm will begin at 6pm UK, 8pm Palestine. Help us mobilize support for Palestinians in Gaza! Sign up for our Zoom-based rally (1-2pm ET / 5-6pm UK / 7-8pm Palestine) and Twitterstorm (1-3pm ET / 5-7pm UK / 7-9pm Palestine). Gaza is home to nearly 2 million people yet has access to only 60 respirators and 2,800 hospital beds. After 13 years of embargo, war, and bombings by Israel, Palestinians in Gaza face a severe shortage of resources and medical personnel. Health officials warn that containment and treatment under the Israeli blockade will be nearly impossible. There are now confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Gaza – Israel’s blockade MUST end immediately. If you haven’t signed our petition to Congress, please take a moment to add your name today.” See

<https://secure.everyaction.com/1NdlLeYwf06MdaSCPJthaA2?sourceid=1000818&emci=298274bd-6b70-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=5d879c9f-0872-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=196414>

### **Session May End Any Day Now - Act Now for #HALTsolitary**

“We need the Senate and Assembly leadership to bring the HALT bill to a vote before this legislative session likely ends early any day now due to COVID-19.

Below are three ways that you can take action NOW to urge New York lawmakers to move forward with HALT, stop torture, and save lives. (At the end of this email, please also join in ways to urge mass clemencies and demand no rollbacks to bail). Will you help us reach out to lawmakers to let them know that they have your support to move forward with the HALT Solitary Confinement Act?

Call your representatives! Text HALT to 66539 NOW to be connected to your State Senator and urge them to bring the HALT Solitary Confinement Act to a vote by April 1. Spread the word on social media: Simply click or copy the text below to tweet your support, and download some graphics here to share! Protects human rights ✓ Stops the spread of COVID-19 ✓ Saves valuable resources ✓

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/9e03ff97c935f6b36fb719bd43e0495e20200327214901/c49a17a80c36e5bbaa25cabd52575ece20200327214901/a8da8f>

### **The BOP is doing daily updates on COVID-19 Tested Positive Cases.**

“We must assume there are many more untested cases in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Open COVID-19 Tested Positive Cases

Inmates: 120

(Inmate) 04/04/2020 - USP Atlanta (5); FCI Bennettsville; FCI Butner Low (7); FMC Butner; FCI Butner Medium I (3); USP Canaan; FMC Carswell; FCI Danbury (21); FCI Elkton (7); FCI Forrest City Low (3); USP Lompoc (17); FCI Milan (3); MCC New York (4); FCI Oakdale I (21); FCI Otisville; FCI Yazoo City Medium (5); FCI Yazoo City Low (2); USP Yazoo City (8); RRC Baltimore; RRC Brooklyn, NY (4); RRC Janesville, WI; RRC Phoenix, AZ; RRC St Louis, MO; FLM Guam.

Staff: 54

(Staff) 04/04/2020 - Atlanta, GA (3); Brooklyn, NY (4); Butner, NC; Waymart (Canaan), PA; Chicago, IL (3); Danbury, CT (7); Lisbon (Elkton), OH (2); Forrest City, AR; Fort Dix, NJ; Leavenworth, KS; Lompoc, CA (2); Milan, MI; New York, NY (5); Oakdale, LA (4); Otisville, NY (2); Ray Brook, NY (6); Talladega, AL (3); Tucson, AZ; Yazoo, MS Low (2); Yazoo, MS Medium; Central Office, Washington, DC; Grand Prairie Office Complex, Grand Prairie, TX; Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, GA.” See <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/>

### **RAPP Campaign: FRIDAY, April 10, 2020, ALL DAY #ClemencyCoast2Coast Twitter/Call-In Campaign + Upcoming Events**

“FRIDAY, April 10, 2020, ALL DAY • #ClemencyCoast2Coast Twitter/Call-In Campaign •

@NYGovCuomo and @GavinNewsom must release incarcerated elders and others vulnerable to

COVID-19 • CLICK HERE FOR CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT • We’ll have two Twitter “power hours:”

The first during Governor Cuomo’s daily COVID-19 briefing, around 11:30 am EST/ 8:30 am PST, the second during Newsom’s daily briefing, around 3 pm EST/12 pm PST. WEDNESDAY, April 15, 2020, 5:00-7:00 pm • Clemency Works for COVID-19 • Virtual panel • REGISTER HERE

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WmkjDhS8hyaie4FCiWFMuJVCOTinqkPgHlz\\_dzpXNvA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WmkjDhS8hyaie4FCiWFMuJVCOTinqkPgHlz_dzpXNvA/edit)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 • Virtual Mobilization to Albany to end death by incarceration and promote parole justice in New York State RSVP HERE

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdze3eIEUQZYISix2ZISbeCykBuQWo4JQVZns5CC6VYyd9Snw/viewform>

WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2020, 6:00-8:15 pm, NYC • NY RAPP Open Membership meeting • 168 Canal St., 6th Fl, NY NY 10013 • pizza & discussion • all welcome!

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2020 • BUFFALO/Western NY RAPP open membership meeting • 5:30-7 pm at CAO Rafi Greene Resource Center: 1423 Fillmore Ave, Buffalo. Questions: 716-526-7314. All are welcome.”

### **Mass incarceration in California: Sign the petition: Demand state and federal lawmakers end the use of private prisons and protect incarcerated people from COVID-19.**

“It is no secret that the U.S. has a mass incarceration problem. Over the past 50 years, the U.S. prison population has exploded by 700%, with Black and Brown people overrepresented in prisons. The prison industrial complex depends on local and state police departments and federal law enforcement agencies targeting Black and Brown communities -- then corporations turn a profit from incarcerating our community members. Two of the largest U.S. private prison profiteers, GEO Group and CoreCivic, Inc., are making money exploiting the pain of Black and Brown people -- and our government is using our tax dollars to bankroll them. These private prisons are notorious for overcrowding, medical negligence, inhumane living conditions, and physical and sexual abuse of inmates -- and our lawmakers would rather fund them than invest in our communities. Sign if you agree: Private prisons should not be incarcerating community members, especially during this global pandemic.” Sign here

[https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-demand-federal-and-state-lawmakers-drop-private-prison-contracts-with-geo-group-and-corecivic?source=20200324\\_NoPrivatePrisons\\_](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-demand-federal-and-state-lawmakers-drop-private-prison-contracts-with-geo-group-and-corecivic?source=20200324_NoPrivatePrisons_)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The prison strike demands were drafted as a path to alleviate the dehumanizing process and conditions people are subjected to while going through this nation's judicial system. Following up on these demands communicates to the world that prisoners are heard and that prisoners' human rights are a priority. In the spirit of Attica, will you be in the fight to dismantle the prison industrial slave complex by pushing agendas that will shut down jails and prisons like Rikers Island or Attica? Read the Attica Rebellion demands and read the National Prison Strike 2018 demands. Ask yourself what can you do to see the 2018 National Prison Strike demands through. **SHARE THIS RELEASE FAR AND WIDE WITH ALL YOUR CONTACTS! We rage with George Jackson's "Blood in my eyes" and move in the spirit of the Attica Rebellion!** August 21st - September 9th, 2020 AGITATE, EDUCATE,

ORGANIZE Dare to struggle, Dare to win! We are--"Jailhouse Lawyers Speak" NLG EMAIL CONTACT FOR LAWYERS AND LAW STUDENTS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL LAW PROJECT: micjlsnlg@gmail.com  
 PRISON STRIKE DEMANDS: <https://jailhouselawyerspeak.wordpress.com/2020/02/11/prisoners-national-demands-for-human-rights/> “

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

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

ANTHONY JALIL BOTTOM, 77A4283,

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

Write the Governor: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo,

Governor of the State of New York,

Executive Chamber, State Capital Building,

Albany, New York 12224

Call the Governor: 1-518-474-8390,

Tweet the Governor: @NYGovCuomo

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



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

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

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

#### **WHAT TO KNOW**

1. Gov. Cuomo's program to help more prisoners apply for clemency in NY appears to be stalled, leaving prisoners waiting for a second chance
2. In 2017, Cuomo asked lawyers to volunteer to identify prisoners worthy of mercy, and assist them in making their best case

3. More than two hundred lawyers stepped up, but after two years and 107 clemency applications filed, Cuomo hasn't taken action on any of them. Governor Andrew Cuomo's program to help more prisoners apply for clemency in New York State appears to be stalled and the Governor's office is declining to explain why. See <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Gov-Cuomo-Program-for-More-Clemency-Applications-Appears-to-Stall-Prisoners-Wait-for-Second-Chance-564261291.html?amp=y>  
For more information concerning Jalil's case, check his website: [www.freejalil.com](http://www.freejalil.com) and <https://thejerichomovement.com/>

### **Support the #NoDAPL Political Prisoners**

"Five Indigenous water protectors were targeted for federal charges and prison as a result of their resistance to an illegal pipeline. The NoDAPL political prisoners gave up their freedom to protect the water, land and people. Today, they need our support." See <https://waterprotectorlegal.org/> Donate here: <https://waterprotectorlegal.org/donate/>

### **Help Us Keep Pressure on Cuomo to Grant #ClemencyNow**

"36 incarcerated people and 201 staff in New York State prisons have tested positive for COVID-19. Tragically, 3 people with the virus--2 incarcerated and 1 staff--have died. As we mourn these devastating deaths, we must keep the pressure on Governor Cuomo to release people before many more die behind bars.

### **#ClemencyCoast2Coast Virtual Town Hall**

Building off the collective power of our #ClemencyCoast2Coast and #ClemencyNow selfie campaigns on Twitter, we will be co-hosting a #ClemencyCoast2Coast Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, April 8 at 7 pm EST. We invite you to join us, the Parole Preparation Project, and our partners in California for a discussion on the importance of clemency and releases across the country in the era of COVID-19. Please share the flyer below and register here

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yEpDT2vSRGeXyngoLC2e3Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yEpDT2vSRGeXyngoLC2e3Q)

Our work is more virtual than ever before, so we are harnessing the power and influence of social media to move the governor to action. Please share the below sample tweet and image to hold Governor Cuomo accountable for the recent deaths in NYS prisons due to COVID-19. We will be updating this image frequently to reflect accurate numbers. **Follow us on Twitter** for the most up to date news and graphics. **Sample Tweet:** "To date, 2 incarcerated people with COVID-19 have tragically died in New York State prisons because @NYGovCuomo refuses to grant #ClemencyNow. These deaths are on Cuomo's hands. Every COVID-19 prison death is on his hands. We demand #NoMoreDeaths #LetThemGo" "RAPP Statewide Open Membership Meeting: In place of our regularly scheduled Open Membership Meeting this month, we will be holding a virtual New York statewide RAPP membership meeting via Zoom TOMORROW April 7 at 6 pm. Register here" <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/v5Ukc-GspjwvmeOVaHqT6A7L8loCPateTw>

### **The ABCF Warchest Needs Your Help**

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

Fasnacht and send to Tim Fasnacht, Post Office Box 8682, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604. Please put "Warchest" in the memo line. Any questions can be directed to [la@abcf.net](mailto:la@abcf.net). You can easily donate online at [paypal.me/abcfwarchest](http://paypal.me/abcfwarchest)"

### Join Israeli Apartheid Week - United Against Racism - Mar. 16-21



“In March, Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) 2020 will be held under the theme, United against Racism, advocating for Palestinian rights in the context of global struggles against racial oppression. Palestinians and progressives worldwide are resisting the Trump-Netanyahu “deal of the century” not only because it is designed to entrench Israeli apartheid, but also because it embodies a trend of expanding global racial repression.” See <http://apartheidweek.org/>

### Lakota People’s Law Project requests messages of solidarity



“Send a message of solidarity to Standing Rock after the [Standing Rock Sioux] Tribe’s big court

Dakota Access Pipeline win. Federal permits for DAPL have been revoked! Thank you for all you are doing to aid this struggle. The Tribe will now submit legal briefs in an effort to stop . . ." See Lakota People's Law Project requests messages of solidarity at Workers.org

**Update: Call for Action to Free Our Prisoners** April 15, 2020

"We call on our allies, partners, friends and comrades to join us in an urgent campaign to free all Palestinian prisoners in order to protect them from COVID-19, particularly in light of the increased restrictions on their rights by the Israeli Prison Service. In light of the recent events detailed below and a long-term precedence of torture, physical violence, medical negligence and inhumane prison conditions, we are alarmed and concerned about the safety and well-being of Palestinian prisoners and detainees." See <http://www.addameer.org/news/update-call-action-free-our-prisoners>

**Community News, Articles and Updates**

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

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS\*\*\***

**Taking care of yourself and your team during COVID-19**

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

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

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

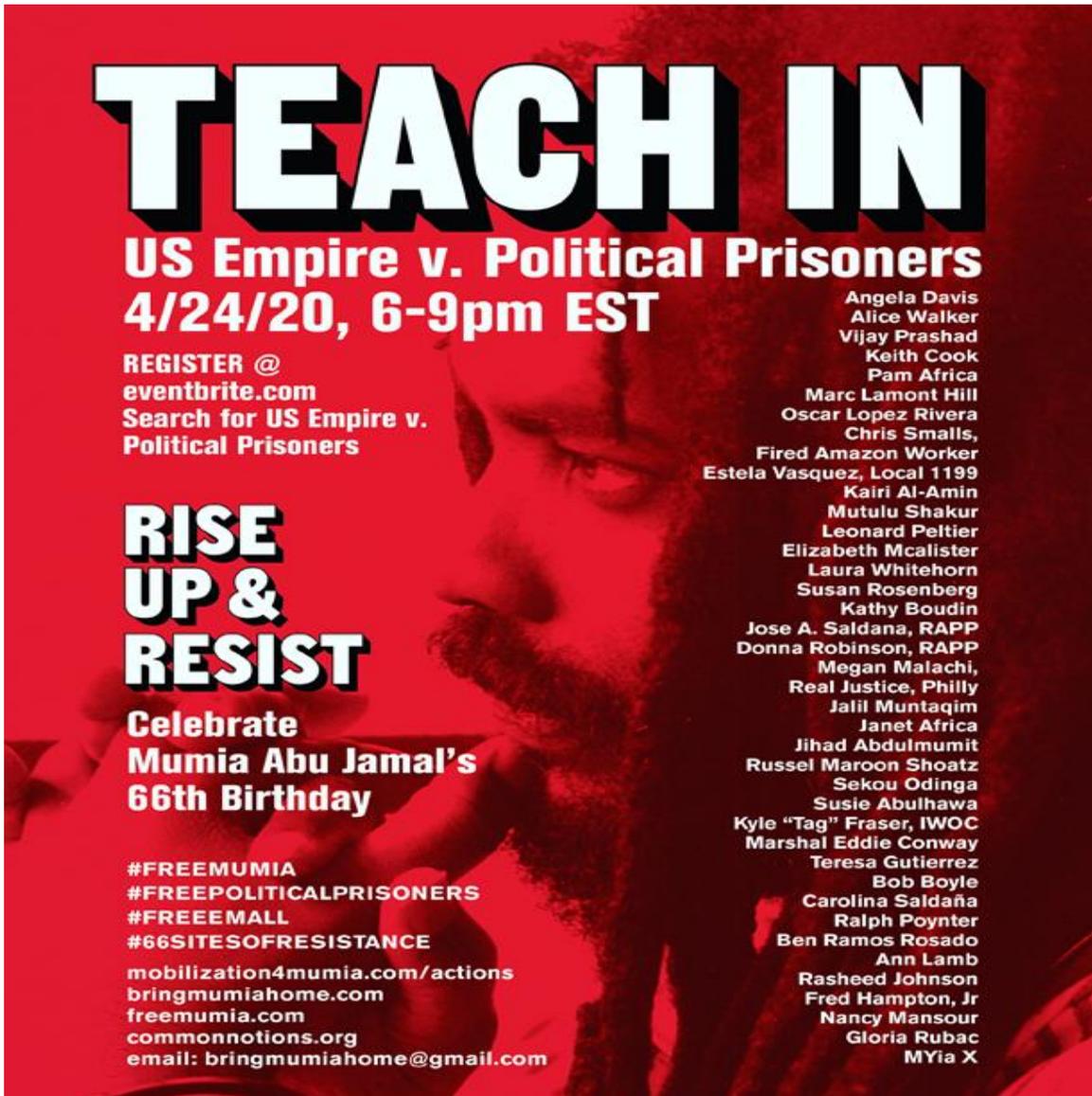
Try to find a few minutes each day to check in with your body and mind in the present moment. Take a step back and notice how you are feeling and ask yourself if there is anything you need in this moment. If you are feeling overwhelmed, try to bring your attention to the sensations you're experiencing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

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

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

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

**TEACH IN: US EMPIRE v. POLITICAL PRISONERS 4/24/2020, 6-9pm EST**



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

REGISTER @  
 eventbrite.com  
 Search for US Empire v.  
 Political Prisoners

**RISE  
 UP &  
 RESIST**

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

#FREEMUMIA  
 #FREEPOLITICALPRISONERS  
 #FREEEMALL  
 #66SITESOFRESISTANCE

mobilization4mumia.com/actions  
 bringmumiahome.com  
 freemumia.com  
 commonnotions.org  
 email: bringmumiahome@gmail.com

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

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

To view the April 23 press conference register at:

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

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

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

<https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/product/djfreeleonard/>

**Book Signing & Discussion March 21st @1-3pm at with Tomiko Shine; Editor of new book authored by Abdul Jabbar Caliph; 'Organizing and Rebuilding the African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism' -1-3pm at Little Africa HQ 741 Dolphin Street Baltimore, MD 21217 Refreshments will be available. For further information call Baba John; 443-531-28**

## Virtual Events for Mumia's 66th birthday



# RISE UP & RESIST

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

**4/23**  
Press Conference  
(speakers tbd)

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

**4/25**  
Mumia Libre: An Instagram Live Dance Party

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

#FREEMUMIA  
#FREEPOLITICALPRISONERS  
#FREEMALL  
#66SITESOFRESISTANCE

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

To register to view the teach-in:

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

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

### What Happens When More Than 300,000 Prisoners Are Locked Down?

“Corrections officials across the country have put hundreds of thousands of prisoners into an indefinite “lockdown” in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 behind bars. The short-term public-health benefit of sending so many people into a form of isolation seems obvious—it imposes some form of “social distancing” in packed prisons and jails. But solitary confinement, even for brief periods, can cause or exacerbate mental illness and heighten suicide risk for prisoners. Then there are the unintended consequences of the policy. Prisoners who don’t want to be sent into isolated detention may hide their symptoms until it’s too late” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/15/what-happens-when-more-than-300-000-prisoners-are-locked-down>

**Leonard Peltier:** “Dear Friends, Supporters and Family, As of February 12th a new lockdown started due to a major fight in the yard at Coleman1. Leonard being in the Elder Unit has limited access to the phone and computer but all visits to the prison have been canceled for the foreseeable future. We will keep you updated as we get more information.

**Zip Up  
Front:**



If you are interested in sponsoring an art show in your area please contact the National Office in Tampa for information. Also, we want to let you know that Leonard’s art will be featured in the May edition of New Observations Magazine. **We now have Hoodies**, (soon to be on our website-store) designed by a young Native supporter in St. Louis, MO. to help continue building Leonard’s legal fund for the trial in Tacoma, WA in early fall regarding the violation of his First Amendment rights to participate in public Art Shows. If you have any questions regarding Leonard’s trial, Bob & Dino’s trial or the documents of extradition from Canada you can use the new tool on our website [Trial-transcripts] and we want to thank Jim in Albuquerque for his wonderful help in putting this together.

The Board and I want to thank the Nowel family from Cleveland for a wonderful visit to the office while they were in Tampa. Please continue your letters to President Trump at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20500 and calls to the White house 202-456-1111 in support of Clemency for Leonard. With respect & thanks Paulette-National Office

(Wording on back of Zip up and front of Pullover)

### **I Was at Rikers While Coronavirus Spread. Getting Out Was Just as Surreal.**

“Around mid-March, the men in my dorm on Rikers Island were starting to get antsy. We were all watching the news, hearing reports about coronavirus spreading in New York City. And the jail was getting more restrictive every day. They stopped letting us go to the law library and the commissary. Instead they’d deliver us the materials we’d ask for and we’d pick up the items we ordered instead of crowding into the waiting room. They’d stopped transfers to upstate prisons. They’d stopped visitation. We couldn’t see our families.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/08/i-was-at-rikers-while-coronavirus-spread-getting-out-was-just-as-surreal>

### **Palestinian Prisoners simply don’t Matter to Israel’s Security Narrative, even in a Pandemic**

April 9, 2020

“Unsurprisingly, Israel has not heeded requests to safeguard the health of Palestinian prisoners in its jails. Besides recommending “precautionary measures”, which are likely to provide no protection in confined spaces, it seems that Israel will persist with its medical neglect strategies, which have resulted in Palestinian prisoners dying. Yet again, there have not been, and nor are there likely to be, any repercussions from the international community.” See <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/palestinian-prisoners-simply-dont-matter-to-israels-security-narrative-even-in-a-pandemic/>

### **LISTEN: We've been here before - How History is Repeating Itself in Government Overreach**

“How has the U.S. government responded to crises, from the AIDS/HIV epidemic to 9/11 and now COVID-19? That’s what our Legal Director Baher Azmy and Executive Director Vince Warren talk about in “We've been here before: How History is Repeating Itself in Government Overreach,” the 25th episode of “The Activist Files.” Baher and Vince discuss how this public health emergency will disproportionately harm the most vulnerable in our society with both over reach, such as allowing judges to close courtrooms, including for criminal procedures and habeas corpus, and under reach, by not allowing those in jails, prisons, ICE detention centers, and Guantanamo Bay to follow the CDC guidelines of social distancing the rest of society can practice.” Listen here:

<https://ccrjustice.org/activist-files>

### **Link to Fresh Air with Chesa Boudin including conditions for David Gilbert and SF Jail**

<https://www.npr.org/programs/fresh-air/2020/04/09/830785872/fresh-air-for-april-9-2020-san-francisco-d-a-on-covid-19-behind-bars>

### **Prison capitalism and the coronavirus-Federal Prison Factories Kept Running as Coronavirus Spread**

“As the coronavirus spread across the country, Patrick Jones kept reporting to his job in the textile factory at the federal prison in Oakdale, Louisiana. He’d worked there for years, sewing tidy buttonholes on government uniforms. Though the highly contagious virus was creeping into prisons by mid-March, Jones and his fellow inmates were working without masks, according to interviews with family and prisoners who knew him. He collapsed on March 19 and was taken to a hospital. About a week later, he died from COVID-19.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/10/federal-prison-factories-kept-running-as-coronavirus-spread>

### **Press Conference condemns PA DOC cruel hoax that claimed Mumia Abu-Jamal was ill with COVID19**

“When a PA Department of Corrections official falsely claimed Mumia Abu-Jamal was being hospitalized with COVID-19 at 5pm on April 15, the news was shared worldwide in minutes. Supporters around the world, who have been misled by DOC statements in the past, immediately called the institution and demanded confirmation from Mumia himself. By 8:45pm, the DOC allowed Mumia to call his supporters and he confirmed that the official report was false. "I am fine, I am not hospitalized," he can be heard on the recorded call saying, part of which was played at the press conference, "...What I need is freedom." The whole incident adds to a long list of lies and misinformation by the PA DOC since Mumia was first unjustly incarcerated in 1982. Why did a person at the SCI Mahanoy Superintendent's Office on an official phone tell a concerned advocate that Mumia was being hospitalized with COVID-19? How would you react if someone in authority falsely told you your elderly relative was sick with COVID-19? As a concerned person, you would be outraged. So were the participants in the April 16 virtual press conference. Santiago Alvarez, the UC Santa Cruz student who called the prison, not only described the recorded conversation he had with the DOC official but played a portion of it. The person clearly said "Mumia was taken to the hospital 30 minutes ago ... suffering from headaches and breathing problems ... to be tested for COVID-19 as a precaution." Johanna Fernandez, Baruch College professor whose uncle died as a result of the pandemic last week, explained US prisons have the highest rates of infection in the world. She demanded that the official's callous misinformation, which was recorded, should lead to disciplinary procedures and his firing.”

“Organizers have planned a series of events marking Mumia's 66th birthday from April 23 to 26, including a press conference on April 23rd, a Teach-In on 4/24, "Mumia Libre, an Instagram Live

Dance Party" on April 25 and "Poetry in Motion, a 24 hour reading of Mumia's works" on April 26. Go to <https://mobilization4mumia.com/new-events> or <https://www.facebook.com/cbmhome/> for more details. A recording of the complete press conference can be heard at: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/tdRuBJbPykJJY6PEq0X1U4oFDKa8aaa81SIf-6dbyk-Z9SZuPjNz-7iZ2C7U0PBk;> (Access Password: W5\*0&6i!) “

### **Infected, Incarcerated—and Coming to an ICU Near You?**

“Without ventilators, prisons lean on local hospitals to care for coronavirus victims. By the time Dr. John Walsh raised the alarm in late March, his hospital in Joliet, Illinois, was almost out of ventilators. Sick prisoners from a nearby state prison kept arriving in the emergency room, requiring nine ventilators and overwhelming the private 480-bed AMITA Health St. Joseph Medical Center. Walsh went on television to plead for help with what he called a COVID-19 disaster. The U.S. Constitution requires prison systems to provide medical care for the people they incarcerate, the Supreme Court has said. And so states and the federal government hire doctors and nurses, or contract with healthcare companies, to treat sick prisoners. But coronavirus outbreaks behind bars have exposed a weakness of this system. Prisons do not have the ventilators some COVID-19 victims need, The Marshall Project’s reporting found. In fact, most prison agencies don’t have hospitals at all. For emergency care, they rely on the same local medical centers that treat their workers and neighbors. The Marshall Project asked every state prison system how many ventilators it had at the ready. Of the 24 states that responded, only Texas said it had any. The state is unusual in that it has a hospital dedicated to its massive network of prisons.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/16/infected-incarcerated-and-coming-to-an-icu-near-you>

### **People detained at the Northwest Detention Center spell out distress signal, SOS, as they begin the third hunger strike**

“Tacoma, Washington — Today, news broke of a hunger strike at the Northwest Detention Center in Washington State with approximately 50 people participating to protest their incarceration at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility. Hunger strikers then spelled out the distress signal, SOS, in the yard of the detention center with their own bodies to reflect the emergency they are facing and demand ICE release them from detention immediately.” See [www.detentionwatchnetwork.org](http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org)

### **The FBI Is Still Hunting For Ways To Call US Activists Terrorists**

“Jacqueline Lugm...: This is Jacqueline Luqman with The Real News Network. Lest we ever forget that the Federal Bureau of Investigation only exists to investigate and nullify threats to the US capitalists and white supremacist hegemony in this country, a new investigation by the Intercept reveals that the Bureau has yet again targeted a group of American peace activists and branded them as terrorists. Here to explain the latest episode in the ongoing saga of the FBI’s program of COINTELPRO that they want you to think is over, but is not, is Chip Gibbons. Chip is a journalist and researcher. His work has appeared in Jacobin, In These Times, and the Nation magazines. He’s also the policy director of Defending Rights & Dissent, where he authored the report Still Spying on Dissent: The Enduring Problem of FBI First Amendment Abuse. And you should follow Chip on Twitter@ChipGibbons89. Chip, thanks so much for joining me.” See <https://therealnews.com/stories/fbi-activists-investigation-terrorism-palestine>

### **Ralph Poynter: What'sHappening – BlogTalkRadio-Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

“Call in 1-347-857-3293- 9-10pm est- SPECIAL SUPER TUESDAY ANALYSIS click on the mp3 LINK below to hear the tribute to LYNNE STEWART & MUTULU SHAKUR

blog talk radio 2020 03 04 L.S..mp3-

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12BQo6KRf1hJawQMfRvY1sky2IJ4TnKb7/view>

1. NEWS ANALYSIS---- An anatomy of oppression requires an anatomy of ism/imperialism i.e. An anatomy of the American Capitalist System: Ralph Poynter, Tom Siracuse, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Paul Gilman

2. Updates from the Political Prisoner Death Camps- Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho), Gil Obler- NYC Free Mumia Coalition --

3. Liberation Poetry –Prof. Louie– (in remembrance of Sister Lynne)”

**Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, March 17, 2020- Call in 1-347-857-3293 9-10pm EST**

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/humanrightsdemand/2020/03/17/ralph-poynter-whats-happening>

**Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, April 14, 2020--Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET**

1. COVID-19 UPDATE---Special guest:- Message from Dr. Aisha Fields

2. LOUISIANA UNITED INTERNATIONAL- Sister Belinda Parker Brown

Special update on WBAI –

1. NEWS ANALYSIS---- An anatomy of oppression requires an anatomy of colonialism/imperialism i.e. An anatomy of the American Capitalist System: Ralph Poynter, Tom Siracuse, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Paul Gilman,

2. Updates from the Political Prisoner Death Camps- Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho), Gil Obler (Free Mumia Coalition-NYC)

3. Prof. Louis -Liberation Poetry--In memory of Sister Lynne-



**His Father's In Prison (David Gilbert). And He's Fighting To Prevent Outbreak In SF Jails**

“San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin has often described walking through steel gates to visit his parents in prison as a kid. Now a correctional officer who works at the prison in New York State where his father is in custody has tested positive for COVID-19. Like a lot of family members of people incarcerated, he's worried about being left in the dark as the virus spreads. As a prosecutor, he's also working to reduce the risks of an outbreak here in San Francisco's jails. He's instructed his staff to examine cases to see who can be released early.” See <https://www.kalw.org/post/his-father-s-prison-and-he-s-fighting-prevent-outbreak-sf-jails#stream/0>

**Write Letters to Elderly Incarcerated People**

“Our members at Aging People in Prisons Human Rights Campaign (APP-HRC) are launching their first Virtual Letter Writing Night this Thursday at 4pm PT / 6pm CT / 7pm ET. The virtual event will take place every Thursday during the month of April. Folks from around the country will gather on

Zoom to write letters of solidarity to elderly people in prisons who are seeking release. If you are interested in joining the event this week, please email [dcapphrc@gmail.com](mailto:dcapphrc@gmail.com) for the conference call-in details. You can use the same email address to submit the name of an elderly person you know who is seeking release to have their name included for this week's letter writing." See

<https://ushrnetwork.org/news/196/100/Write-Letters-to-Elderly-Incarcerated-People?emci=d0c9ba58-d872-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=6aa6d603-5b73-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=7914839>

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

“Are you ready to join in this blessed season and bring joy to our brothers and sisters this Ramadan? Prisoners of many faiths including Muslims have been targeted in the US and imprisoned today because of their beliefs and associations. Write a short note or send a post card to tell someone you care, to tell them that they matter, and that they are not forgotten. Let them know they will always be part of our Community and that they are in our prayers. It's an easy process that takes only a few minutes, but would mean so much to our brothers and sisters in prisons and their loved ones. Sometimes it's just a letter from the community that can make a lot of difference inside the four walls of Prison cells. The letter from someone who cares can be a charity or Sadaqa for our Muslim prisoners, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, requiring only a few minutes. Even just one message and du'aa (prayers) can make all the difference for a brother or a sister isolated from his or her beloved family and community. The month of Ramadan is the month of gaining blessings. The smart trader is the one who makes the most of special occasions to increase his or her rewards. So make the most of this month by writing a simple caring letter or sending a post card to a Muslim brother or sister in Prison. Contact us to receive addresses of prisoners and instruction to send letters to prisoners: [justiceforshifa@gmail.com](mailto:justiceforshifa@gmail.com)” See <https://www.facebook.com/artsistance/> <https://www.facebook.com/events/784222695400638/> ArT Resistance: Artworks of Imprisoned Muslims

### **2nd Appeal in COVID-19 Crisis: PCHR Calls for Immediate Release of Minors, Women, Patients and Elderlies among Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails April 15, 2020**

“At a time where the whole world is combating the coronavirus pandemic and States have adopted precautionary and preventive measures to defy the virus, Israeli authorities maintain the imprisonment of more than 5,000 Palestinians, including 180 children, 43 women and more than 700 patients in harsh and unsanitary conditions that are inhumane to say the least. Imprisonment conditions for Palestinians in Israeli jails do not meet the minimum international standards guaranteed under the international humanitarian law (IHL), as Israeli prisons provide inadequate living conditions, and they are crowded.” See <https://imemc.org/article/2nd-appeal-in-covid-19-crisis-pchr-calls-for-immediate-release-of-minors-women-patients-and-elderlies-among-palestinian-prisoners-in-israeli-jails/>

### **Call for Art and Article Submissions: 2021 edition of the Certain Days calendar**

“The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar collective ([www.certaindays.org](http://www.certaindays.org)) will be releasing our 20th calendar this coming autumn. The 2021 theme is “A Generation of Support Through the Bars,” reflecting on the roles of political prisoners in social justice movements, historically, currently, and as we look to the future. We are looking for 12 pieces of art and 12 short essays to feature in the calendar, which hangs in more than 6,000 homes, workplaces, prison cells, and community spaces around the world. We encourage contributors to submit both new and existing work. We especially seek submissions from people in prison, so please forward to any prison-based artists and writers. Deadline: Sunday, **May 17, 2020**. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Send your submissions by Sunday, May 17, 2020 to [info @ certaindays.org](mailto:info@certaindays.org).

2. **ARTISTS:** You can send a low-res file as a submission, but if your piece is chosen, we will need a high-res version of it for print (600 dpi).

3. You may send as many submissions as you like. Chosen artists and authors will receive a free copy of the calendar and promotional postcards. Because the calendar is a fundraiser, we cannot offer money to contributors.

Prisoner submissions are due Sunday, June 7, 2020 and can be mailed to:

Certain Days c/o Burning Books, 420 Connecticut Street , Buffalo, NY 14213 USA

Certain Days c/o QPIRG Concordia, 1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8, Canada

#### **ABOUT THE CALENDAR**

The Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar is a joint fundraising and educational project between outside organizers in Montreal, Hamilton, New York, and Baltimore, with two political prisoners being held in maximum-security prisons: David Gilbert in New York and Xinachtli (s/n Alvaro Luna Hernandez) in Texas. We were happy to welcome founding members Herman Bell and Robert Seth Hayes (Rest in Power) home from prison in 2018, after serving over forty years each. All of the current members of the outside collective are grounded in day-to-day organizing work other than the calendar, on issues ranging from migrant justice to community media to prisoner solidarity. We work from an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, feminist, queer- and trans-liberationist position.”

#### **AGING PEOPLE IN PRISON HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**

“April 14-18, 2020-RICHAPP Workshop: National Association Black Social Workers-"Interrupting the Cycle of Generational Incarceration through African-Centered Policy and Community Building."

Detroit, Michigan. See <https://www.apphrc.com/our-work.php>

#### **Calls Grow For Older Inmates, At High Risk of Coronavirus, to Be Released**

“Public health experts and prisoner advocacy organizations are calling on Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state legislature to take immediate action in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus within New York State’s prisons. At a press conference held at City Hall in Manhattan Wednesday, they demanded that Cuomo issue emergency clemencies to older people, sick people and others with compromised immune systems who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus. They also urged the legislature to pass the Elder Parole (S.2144/A.9040) and the Fair and Timely Parole (S.497A/A.4346A) Acts, and for officials to ensure that phone calls and visits are possible for people in prison and their families as the virus continues to spread.” See <https://indypendent.org/2020/03/calls-grow-for-older-inmates-at-high-risk-of-coronavirus-to-be-released/>

#### **Justice organizations call on California Gov. Newsom to act now to reduce COVID-19 risks in state prisons**

“A coalition of more than 20 California justice organizations sent this letter to California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday, March 13, imploring him to take immediate steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in state prisons and the surrounding communities.” See <https://sfbayview.com/2020/03/justice-organizations-call-on-california-gov-newsom-to-act-now-to-reduce-covid-19-risks-in-state-prisons/>

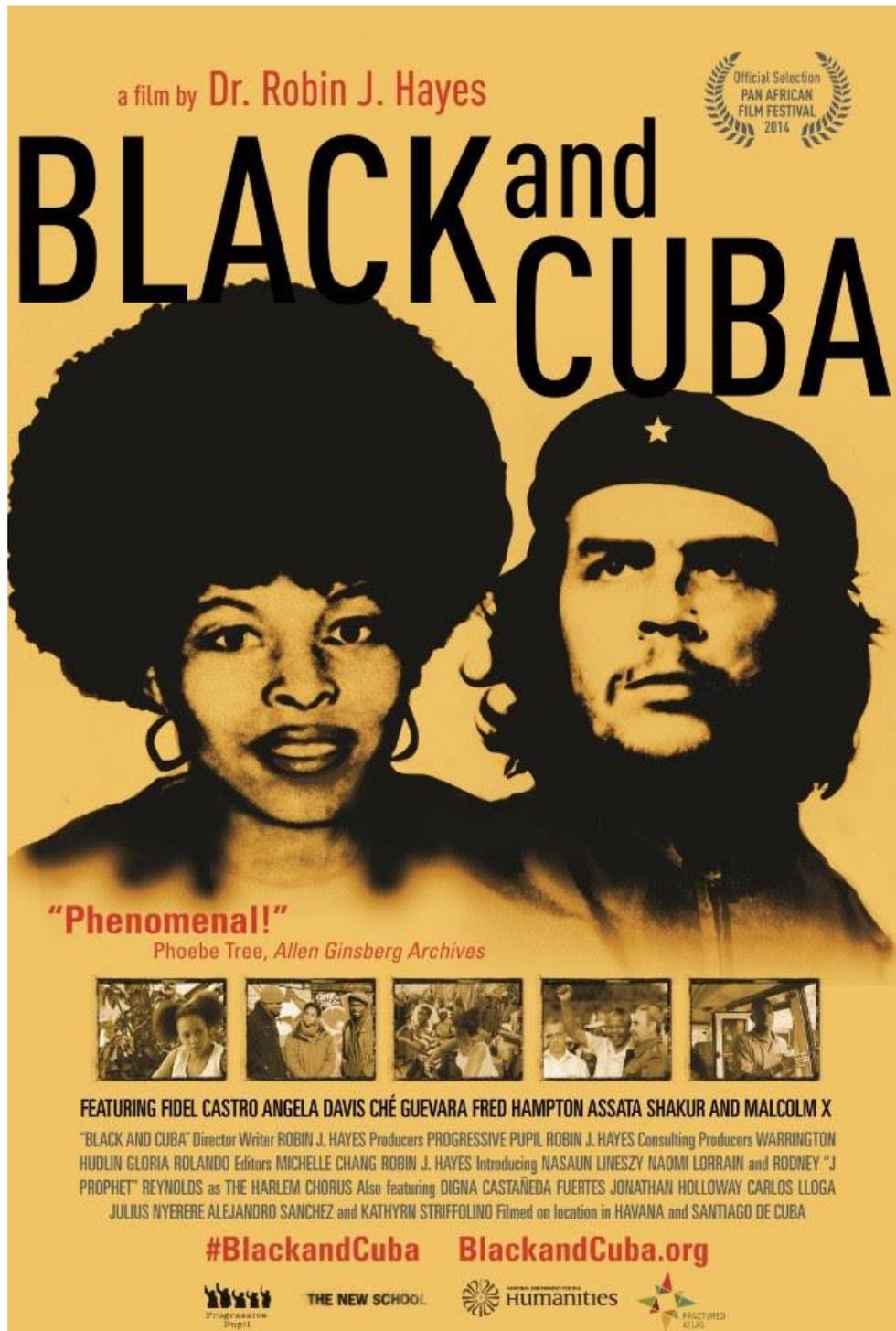
#### **News Elderly Prisoners-Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign**

News, Petitions, Campaigns <https://m.facebook.com/apphrcusa/>

Virtual Letter Writing Night-April

<https://us04web.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5UlcOqgrD4sEXa3kVxDU7UvKiB4fRVtgg>

**Introduction By: Representative of The Cuban Mission To The United Nations Film Description: 'CUBA, AN AFRICAN ODYSSEY' (3 hours)**



“Is the previously untold story of Cuba’s support for African revolutions, one of the Cold War’s most vigorous contests over resources and ideology. From Che Guevara’s military campaign to avenge Lumumba in the Congo up to the fall of the long time U.S. government supported white racist apartheid regime in Southern Africa. 300,000 Cubans fought alongside African revolutionaries and; Over 12,000 Cuban’s gave their lives in support of their Sisters & Brothers African Liberation struggle. Film Descriptions: 'CUBA IN AFRICA' (20 minutes) 'Cuba in Africa' is a work-in-progress documentary by film maker Negash Abdurahman, that explores why 400,000+ Cubans—soldiers, teachers, doctors and nurses —risked their lives in the 1970s and 80s to win freedom for millions of Africans and to help end the apartheid regime in South Africa.

'BLACK & CUBA' (83 minutes) Follows street-smart students, who are outcasts at an elite Ivy League university, as they band together and adventure to Cuba to see if revolution is truly possible. While filming their poignant encounters with AfroCuban youth, breathtaking sites and moving hip-hop performances, the travelers confront realities behind myths of color-blindness and social mobility. This

edgy and artful documentary of their journey uncovers renewed hope for equality and human rights. 'Black and Cuba' is the feature film directorial debut of international human rights advocate and scholar Robin J. Hayes, PhD.

NOTE: THIS (2) DAY FILM FESTIVAL IS IN SOLIDARITY WITH NYC'S (3) DAY MARCH 20th - 22nd "2020 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF U.S. & CUBA RELATIONS" AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY POST SCREENING "TALK BACKS" WITH BOTH THE FILM MAKERS & THE CUBA CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS. FOR CUBA CONFERENCE INFORMATION CLICK THE BELOW LINK AT:" <http://www.us-cubanormalization.org/viva-cuba/>

### **Black Against Empire with author Waldo E. Martin Jr.- Hosted by Burning Books**

“This timely special edition, published on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party, features a new preface by the authors that places the Party in a contemporary political landscape,



especially as it relates to Black Lives Matter and other struggles to fight police brutality against black communities. In Oakland, California, in 1966, community college students Bobby Seale and Huey Newton armed themselves, began patrolling the police, and promised to prevent police brutality. Unlike the Civil Rights Movement that called for full citizenship rights for blacks within the U.S., the Black Panther Party rejected the legitimacy of the U.S. government and positioned itself as part of a global struggle against American imperialism. In the face of intense repression, the Party flourished, becoming the center of a revolutionary movement with offices in 68 U.S. cities and powerful allies around the world. Black Against Empire is the first comprehensive overview and analysis of the history and politics of the Black Panther Party. The authors analyze key political questions, such as why so many young black people across the country risked their lives for the revolution, why the Party grew most rapidly during the height of repression, and why allies abandoned the Party at its peak of influence. Bold, engrossing, and richly detailed, this book cuts through the mythology and obfuscation, revealing the political dynamics that drove the explosive growth of this revolutionary movement, and its disastrous unraveling. Informed by twelve years of meticulous archival research, as well as familiarity with most of the former Party leadership and many rank-and-file members, this book is the

definitive history of one of the greatest challenges ever posed to American state power.”

<https://www.facebook.com/events/515479745838179/>

### **Prison Radio: Prison Pandemic**

“Prisons are a breeding ground for these kinds of diseases and once it hits it will spread like wildfire; we are anticipating a devastating infection rate.

Now is the time for Prison Abolition. People are going to die if we do not decarcerate right now. That means prisoners and guards alike are affected. Abolition has never been more necessary.

We are all connected. Prison walls are an illusion, they create the false impression of separation.

Prisoners and guards are at much greater risk than the general population. Our reaction to the pandemic must be equal to the danger. It must also embody grace, dignity, and humanity. Open the prison gates and bring people home.” See <https://thejusticecollaborative.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/TJCVulnerabilityofPrisonsandJailstoCOVID19Explainer.pdf>

To donate: <https://donate.prisonradio.org/>

### **Remembering a Panther - Mondo we Langa** by Elena Carter - March 17, 2020

“The last time I saw former Black Panther, incarcerated activist and poet, Wopashitwe Mondo Eyan we Langa, he asked me a question I didn’t fully understand. “Here’s a riddle for you,” he began, gap-toothed and grinning from his hospice bed. “If the speed of light is 186,000 miles per second and there are 5,180 feet in a mile and if the speed of sound is 1,100 feet per second, how long would it take you to see that you’ve heard something?”

It was the early afternoon of Super Bowl Sunday 2016, a few hours before Beyonce and her back-up dancers would take the field in Black Panther-inspired berets. I remember shrugging at Mondo’s question, bemused and a little frustrated. He’d posed the question to me before in postscript. “Wasn’t that fun?” he wrote in tight, minuscule cursive at the end of the first letter he sent me, his reply to my letter of introduction. I wasn’t the only one he’d put the question to. Mondo loved riddles and he recycled his repertoire shamelessly.

But what began as a nonsensical combination of stats morphed into a poignant and surprisingly simple sentiment, one that now seems impossible to have missed. How long would it take you to see that you’ve heard something? James Baldwin once wrote: “The poet or the revolutionary is there to articulate the necessity, but until the people themselves apprehend it, nothing can happen.” During the short time I knew Mondo we talked a lot about art and responsibility. He wrote his first poem in high school, at a point in his life when he was becoming interested in social justice, but was still a few years away from becoming a Panther, from being radicalized.

I met Mondo during the final year and a half of his life, visiting him in the Nebraska State Penitentiary. At the time of his death on March 11th, 2016, just over four years ago today, he had served 45 years in prison. I wrote about his case while a graduate student at the University of Iowa. Formerly known as David Rice, Mondo changed his name in the early 80s, an attempt to reclaim his African identity.” See <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/03/17/remembering-a-panther/>

### **March 16, 2020, is the 20th Anniversary of the killing in Atlanta that led to the unconscionable imprisonment of Jamil Al-Amin: About Jamil Al-Amin, the former H. Rap Brown**

“I had first sent out this article below in 2018 about Jamil Al-Amin. Given this is the 20th anniversary of the March 16, 2000 killing of Atlanta Deputy Sheriff Ricky Kinchen, which led to accusations about Al-Amin as the killer, I am sending this out yet again. All of this insane case of accusations against Al-Amin, when Otis Jackson admitted to the killing, is, to me, an indication that the federal government has anxiously wanted to get profound and influential leaders, such as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, assassinated or, in Jamil Al-Amin's case, away from the masses by having him in prison.

This is a partial update of his important history. But, to grasp the importance of his case, this early history is essential. There will be more updates, including about the recent Atlanta hearing in the court on his case and the subsequent legal decisions and considerations. Being involved in the civil rights

movement in the 'South', in the 1960s, means that you would know and/or hear about the great H. Rap Brown (now known as Jamil Al-Amin) in his early organizing work for justice, such as in Alabama. This was prior to his remarkable activism north of the Mason Dixon line. Yes, Brown and others were challenging Alabama's Governor George Wallace and the prevailing white supremacy that denied Blacks virtually everything in terms of what is referred to as democratic rights. The unjust and racist system was entrenched in the South and in the country as a whole, resulting in H. Rap Brown, along with his Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) colleagues, challenging it all. The activism in the Brown family is and remains remarkable. H. Rap Brown's older brother, the late Ed Brown, was also engaged in every conceivable movement for justice across the South. Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Ed was ultimately living in Atlanta where he served as the head of the Voter Education Project and other leadership roles. Throughout his on-going career, wherever there was an issue of injustice to be addressed, Ed Brown was there on the front lines, which included, of course, the South African anti-apartheid movement. He was a very dear friend of mine.” See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/3-16-2020---anniversary-of-betrayal-of-Al-Amin.html?soid=1109359583686&aid=pWjZtJNlqg8>

### **NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF CORRECTION CALLS FOR CITY TO BEGIN RELEASING PEOPLE FROM JAIL AS PART OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

“Emergency release will minimize the number of people in jail and staff needed on-site during public health crisis. Fewer people in the jails will prevent transmission. Release must prioritize people at higher risk from infection.”

**March 17, 2020** “The New York City Board of Correction, the independent oversight Board for the City’s jail system, is calling on the City to work with all its criminal justice partners to: (1) immediately remove from jail all people at higher risk from COVID-19 infection; and (2) rapidly decrease the jail population. While Department of Correction (DOC) and Correctional Health Services (CHS) staff continue to perform heroic work to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the jails and maintain safe and humane operations, the City must drastically reduce the number of people in jail right now and limit new admissions to exceptional circumstances. The City can follow the leads of Los Angeles County and Cuyahoga County (Ohio) which have already begun to release people to minimize a potential outbreak. The City must begin this process now. The City’s jails have particular challenges to preventing disease transmission on a normal day and even more so during a public health crisis. Significantly fewer people in jail will limit the spread of COVID-19 infection among people in custody and those who work in the jails, minimize the number of people in custody who will need medical care, decrease the density of housing areas for people who remain in jail, and allow New Yorkers to maintain connections with and support from their loved ones. DOC and CHS, along with City partners, must work with the Chief Judge of New York State, Governor Cuomo, District Attorneys, and the Defense Bar to begin identifying and releasing people this week, prioritizing: People who are over 50; People who have underlying health conditions, including lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or a weakened immune system, People detained for administrative reasons (including failure to appear and parole violations); and People serving “City Sentences” (sentences of one year or less). Once these people are released from jail, the City must continue to work with District Attorneys, the Defense Bar, and the judiciary to identify all other detained New Yorkers who can be released from jail. DOC and CHS should provide COVID-19 screening, discharge planning, including connection to health and mental health services, for those requiring support upon release. The Board also renews its request that DOC and CHS publish updated agency plans for preventing transmission of COVID-19 in the jails. The San Francisco Sheriff’s Department has published its COVID-19 Response & Action Plan, detailing security and health plans to minimize risk of exposure in the San Francisco jails. Additionally, the Board requests DOC and CHS increase and improve

communication to people in custody, staff, and the public via all available channels and in multiple languages. The Board is grateful for the leadership and staff of the Department of Correction and Correctional Health Services during this public health crisis. These front-line City workers are providing a remarkable public service in challenging times. The Board is also grateful to the New York community of family members, friends, and advocates who have remained committed to supporting their loved ones held in jail. CONTACT: Bennett Stein, Director of Policy and Communications – 929 270 3282 // [bstein@boc.nyc.gov](mailto:bstein@boc.nyc.gov)”

**Coronavirus inside.** “Marshall Project contributing writer Arthur Longworth and Christopher Blackwell are both incarcerated at Washington State Reformatory, where an employee recently tested positive for COVID-19. In this week’s Life Inside they describe a mounting sense of dread inside their facility, and the paltry measures they have seen to protect against contagion: a suggestion that people cover the phone receiver with socks; communal, non-alcohol based sanitizer; a lack of adequate cleaning products. Their primary fear is for the most vulnerable among their community: “When I walk through the unit now,” writes Blackwell, “I cannot help but linger on the faces of the elderly prisoners, some of them who have been like father figures to us younger men, and think about how they are unlikely to survive this.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/18/what-coronavirus-quarantine-looks-like-in-prison>

#### **Politics behind bars.**

“The Marshall Project and Slate recently released the first results of our landmark survey of the political opinions of incarcerated people, as well as stories on what they say are the biggest issues facing the country today and the politicizing effect of spending decades behind bars. Before now, no media organization has ever had this kind of information on the politics of the incarcerated—prisons are a black box. But with circulation in 501 facilities across the country, News Inside gave us the level of access we needed to survey the views of the people inside. You can listen to The Marshall Project’s Nicole Lewis and Lawrence Bartley talk about how we pulled off this first-of-its-kind project, and what we learned, on Slate’s What Next and NPR’s All Things Considered.” See Survey <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/11/what-do-we-really-know-about-the-politics-of-people-behind-bars>

#### **COVID IN COLD BLOOD: Massacre in La Modelo Prison, Colombia - 23 killed, over 90 wounded in indiscriminate attack by Colombian military, police, and prison officials**

“Colombian Armed Forces attacked prisoners on Sunday who were striking against filthy conditions and lack of protections against the COVID-19 coronavirus. Colombian agents killed at least 23 persons and wounded more than 90 at La Modelo prison in the capital city of Bogotá. This attack takes place in the context of a series of protests in 13 different Colombian prisons in addition to La Modelo. The government has not released details about what transpired at other locations, including whether there were casualties. At La Modelo, prison officials, police, and military troops assaulted inmates with live ammunition, claiming the attack was necessary to prevent a mass escape. However, prisoners insist that the purpose of their protests was to demand action to stop the spread of coronavirus and to improve health and sanitation.” See <https://afgj.salsalabs.org/nomoremassacresnomorecoronavirusincolombianprisons/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=3992c9c7-fe03-46de-bfff-a77a185f83ed>

#### **The Marshall Project: Desperate parents can’t see their kids**

“A new kind of “family separation,” this time because of COVID-19. Corrections officials across the country have blocked parents from visiting their children imprisoned in cramped, unhygienic juvenile

detention centers. Some teenagers are still allowed to call home, but there is growing anxiety behind bars. The kids want to know how their parents are feeling and why so many adult staffers in their facility are not at work. Parents worry their kids won't get adequate medical care if they become infected." See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/23/i-want-to-see-my-child-juvenile-lockups-cut-visits-over-covid-19-fears>

### **COVID-19 arrives in prisons and jails.**

"At least 38 people in New York City jails have contracted the virus. ASSOCIATED PRESS First federal prisoner, in Brooklyn, tests positive for COVID-19. ASSOCIATED PRESS First positive test for a California state prisoner. Five prison employees also have COVID-19. LOS ANGELES TIMES Three prisoners in Georgia have contracted the virus. Three others are "under observation." ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION At least 22 prisoners in two Denver jails are under observation after showing symptoms. DENVER POST A medical staffer at the New Orleans jail has the virus" see <https://apnews.com/54dbc9d47f62cf0c0240314310cfe909>  
<https://apnews.com/ec49cc7f4d1b00bc5010dfb6d935e042>  
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-03-22/coronavirus-first-california-prisoner-tests-positive-los-angeles-county>

### **Arab League Demands Israel Release Palestinian Prisoners** Rami Almeghari - March 23, 2020

"The League of Arab States, consisting of 22 Arab countries, addressed international human rights organizations and other relevant bodies, on Monday, what they describe as an imperative release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners, from Israeli jails. A press release, issued by the Deputy-Secretary General of the Arab States' League for the Israel-occupied Arab and Palestinian Territories' Affairs, Said Abu Ali, was in response to a worldwide Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis" See <https://imemc.org/article/arab-league-demand-israel-release-palestinian-prisoners/>

### **Updates with Regard to the Rapidly Deteriorating Conditions of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Light of the Continuing Spread of the Disease (COVID-19) March 23, 2020**

"According to information received by Addameer from the Israeli Prison Services (IPS), three detainees under interrogations and Addameer legally represents were transferred to al-Ramleh Prison Clinic. Those prisoners are Ahmad Nassar, Qais Daraghmeh, and Ibrahim Awad. Also, the information received did not contain but the detainees whereabouts, with any details about their detention conditions or wellbeing." See <http://www.addameer.org/news/updates-regard-rapidly-deteriorating-conditions-palestinian-prisoners-and-detainees-light>

### **If Coronavirus Deaths Start Piling Up in Rikers Island Jails, We'll Know Who To Blame** **Nick Pinto - March 23, 2020**

"On Wednesday, the first positive coronavirus test came in from a person in New York City's custody at its Rikers Island jail complex, following weeks of warnings from doctors and advocates about the devastation the disease could wreak in the filthy, crumbling jails. The ensuing days would be marked by a stark dichotomy: the thing that did not happen, and the thing that did. What did not happen was any kind of urgent official response; the people with the power to significantly reduce the number of sick and elderly people packed into unhygienic jail dorms didn't do it. What did happen was equally predictable: The virus began infecting jailed people at a furious rate. What had been one case on Thursday had by Sunday evening ballooned to at least 29." See <https://theintercept.com/2020/03/23/coronavirus-rikers-jail-de-blasio-cuomo/>

**PHROC Calls the International Community & ICRC for an Urgent Intervention to Protect Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees Amid COVID-19 Exposure Concerns** March 24, 2020

Today, 23 March 2020, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) sent two letters, one to the International Committee of the Red Cross and another to the diplomatic community in Palestine. The letters were urgent appeals address to them with regard to the rapidly deteriorating conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails in light of the continuing spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Palestinian human rights organizations urgently requested their intervention in pursuing the needed communication to ensure the health and safety of Palestinian prisoners held captive, particularly as many are minors, chronically ill, vulnerable populations, or held under administrative detention, in contravention of international law.” See <http://www.addameer.org/news/phroc-calls-international-community-icrc-urgent-intervention-protect-palestinian-prisoners-and>

**DOJ seeks new emergency powers during coronavirus pandemic, including the right to detain people indefinitely without trial – "One of the requests to Congress would allow the department to petition a judge to indefinitely detain someone during an emergency.** | 21 March 2020 |

“The Justice Department has quietly asked Congress for the ability to ask chief judges to detain people indefinitely without trial during emergencies -- part of a push for new powers that comes as the coronavirus spreads through the United States. Documents reviewed by POLITICO detail the department's requests to lawmakers on a host of topics, including the statute of limitations, asylum and the way court hearings are conducted. POLITICO also reviewed and previously reported on documents seeking the authority to extend deadlines on merger reviews and prosecutions... In one of the documents, the department proposed that Congress grant the attorney general power to ask the chief judge of any district court to pause court proceedings "whenever the district court is fully or partially closed by virtue of any natural disaster, civil disobedience, or other emergency situation.” See <https://www.legitgov.org/>

**ProPublica: ICE detainee says migrants are going on a hunger strike for soap**

“In audio obtained by ProPublica, an ICE detainee described harrowing conditions as fears over coronavirus spread. The ICE detention center in New Jersey gives detainees one bar of soap per week. If they want more, they have to buy it.” See <https://www.propublica.org/article/ice-detainee-says-migrants-are-going-on-a-hunger-strike-for-soap>

**Prison Radio: Dakota Heroes**

“Prison Radio is a project of the Redwood Justice Fund (RJF) which was founded by Earth First! organizer Judi Bari. Judi brought timber workers and environmentalists together to defend the old growth Redwood Forests in Northern California. Redwood Justice Fund was founded to pursue Bari v. USA a successful civil rights lawsuit against the FBI and the Oakland CA police department for targeting and violating the civil rights of environmentalists. In May 1990, federal officers arrested Bari after a car bomb, wrapped in nails and placed under the driver's seat of her car, severely injured her and fellow Earth First! organizer Darryl Cherney. The FBI then tried, but failed, to frame Earth First! for what was clearly an assassination attempt.” See <https://waterprotectorlegal.org/>

**Join us Tomorrow for a Statewide Virtual Forum on COVID-19 and Incarceration**

“Thank you for joining us in the fight to free our elders and other vulnerable incarcerated people during this public health crisis. While we wish we could all be together in person, we hope you will continue to join our online efforts to push Governor Cuomo to take action now to protect incarcerated people

from COVID-19. Please plan to join us tomorrow, 7-9 pm, for a statewide virtual forum that will feature a conversation amongst formerly incarcerated people, a former New York State Parole Board Commissioner, and others on how COVID-19 makes clemency and parole release imperative. The conversation will take place via Zoom. Please register here to receive the Zoom login information and spread the word!" See

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKHJtIdqVmO1hKegw4\\_3aC6aaQo3o1SjHSgUrPNpC5nsABDg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKHJtIdqVmO1hKegw4_3aC6aaQo3o1SjHSgUrPNpC5nsABDg/viewform)

### **BAP: Coronavirus, Militarism and the End of an Illusion**

“The nation that considers itself to be the apex of capitalist achievement on planet Earth turns out to have no health care system worthy of the name – a testament to the sucking moral vacuum at America’s imperial, white settler colony core. A lowly virus – a form of being that exists at the very border between “life” and “not-life” – has revealed the world’s superpower as butt-naked and very much afraid. (Glen Ford) Coronavirus and second economic collapse in just ten years should finally put to rest the fairy-tale of U.S. Exceptionalism. Trump’s “Make America Great” and Obama’s “U.S. Exceptionalism” are slogans that reflect an ongoing commitment to the normalized assumption of white racial and civilizational superiority. The idea that the territory that became the United States, and its settler population, were specially anointed by a god who gave them providence over the land and the Indigenous people is so ingrained in the national imagination that its extension to rationalize and justify U.S. imperialist policies was seamless. The U.S. over the years shamelessly boasted of its “greatness” and being number one in all things, including having the best healthcare system in the world. And even though Bernie Sanders and healthcare movements in the U.S. consistently revealed the devastating reality of a system that generated billions of dollars for the healthcare industry while simultaneously generating unnecessary deaths, bankruptcies and millions without coverage - the mythology that the U.S. had a workable system remained in place, until now.” See <http://uniondelbarrio.org/main/?p=4375> And <https://blackallianceforpeace.com/donate>

### **DJ Free Leonard**

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

### **Use socks as face masks to avoid virus: Israel to Palestinians** March 22, 2020

“Israel has asked Palestinian prisoners to use their socks as masks to avoid the deadly coronavirus, which has killed thousands of people across the world. Hamas leader Wasfi Qabba said Saturday that Israel rejected the request of the detainees' representatives at Megiddo prison to provide them with protective masks and asked them to use their socks instead. Qabba, a former Palestinian minister of prisoner affairs, warned that depriving the detainees of face masks reflects the Tel Aviv regime's intention to infect prisoners with the virus.” See

<https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/22/621368/Israel-Palestine-prisoners-coronavirus>

### **Amid the outbreak, prison workers at North Carolina chicken plants are still at their posts.**

“Several other states have canceled prisoner work release programs and all states have banned or strictly limited prison visitation. But North Carolina corrections officials have continued to allow hundreds of prisoners to cycle in and out of confinement to work at private construction sites and factories. “The Division of Prisons is sensitive to the business needs of participating employers while balancing the medical issues at hand,” said a state spokesman.” See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/19/north-carolina-prisoners-still-working-in-chicken-plants-despite-coronavirus-fears>

### **Four Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prison infected by coronavirus**

By QudsN - March 20, 2020

“Occupied Palestine (QNN) – Four Palestinian prisoners have been diagnosed with coronavirus today, according to the Palestinian Prisoners’ Information Office. The office confirmed that the Israeli Prison Service informed that four Palestinian prisoners at the Israeli prison of Magiddo, three of whom are imprisoned in the same section, are infected by coronavirus. The infection was transmitted from an Israeli officer who investigated prisoners at the “Petah Tikva” Investigation Center, stated by the Palestinian Prisoners’ Club stated that In the light of the shocking news, the Palestinian prisoners appeal all related human rights organizations to intervene to prevent the outbreak of this epidemic among the prisoners who already suffer from bad health conditions and Israeli medical negligence.”

See <http://qudsnen.co/2020/03/19/four-palestinian-prisoners-in-israeli-prison-infected-by-coronavirus/>

### **If Social Distancing Is Impossible in Prisons, People Should Be Freed** Victoria Law - March 19, 2020

“In early March, Michelle Tran drove 1,500 miles from her home in Wichita, Kansas, to visit her husband Thai at California’s Avenal State Prison. It’s a trek that Tran makes every 45 to 60 days. She typically spends a week in California so that she can visit her husband for two weekends. During the week, she visits family in Fresno and drives to Los Angeles to check on Thai’s mother, who is battling Stage IV cancer.” See <https://truthout.org/articles/if-social-distancing-is-impossible-in-prisons-people-should-be-freed/>

### **The Marshall Project: How jails are responding to coronavirus**

“Jail officials, prosecutors, sheriffs and defense attorneys across the country are scrambling to reduce jail populations and find other ways to protect the millions of people who cycle in and out of local jails each year. In Washington state, some at-risk prisoners have been transferred to housing meant for homeless people. In Houston, the sheriff is leading the effort to get elderly people, and those accused of nonviolent crimes, out of detention. And some jails, in Washington, D.C. and Silicon Valley, have quarantined prisoners amid fears that some may be ill.” See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/21/coronavirus-transforming-jails-across-the-country>

### **Israel stops providing cleaning products to Palestine detainees** March 18, 2020 at 12:10 pm

“Palestinian prisoners have today rejected their meals in protest against the Israeli Prison Service’s plans to stop supplying 140 products, including cleaning products, from the canteen and halt medical visits for detainees. There are approximately 1,200 prisoners in need of treatment who suffer from medical negligence. Some 700 urgently need surgery and 24 suffer with cancer. According to the Palestinian Prisoner’s Club, 90 per cent of prisoners have become ill while in prison due to poor conditions and negligence which may have exacerbated their health.” See

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200318-israel-stops-providing-cleaning-products-to-palestine-detainees/>

### **The Marshall Project: What Coronavirus Quarantine Looks Like in Prison**

“Editor’s note: Last week, the Washington State Department of Corrections announced that a prison employee tested positive for COVID-19. Two men who are incarcerated in different parts of that facility separately wrote to The Marshall Project to provide their accounts of what has happened since.

A few weeks ago, I found myself watching the TV news from here in a Washington state prison, while drinking my morning coffee. This was my normal routine. Apparently, there had been some sort of an outbreak in China that officials were starting to call the coronavirus. At the time, I didn't pay much attention. Like most things, I figured it was far away—everything can feel especially far away when you're in prison—and would hardly have an effect on me or those around me.

In fact, my fellow prisoners and I were essentially joking about how the world was coming to an end. A good friend of mine and I are huge fans of apocalyptic movies and shows, so we started to shoot the breeze about how a zombie virus had taken hold in China and would soon spread across the globe. I remember telling him in jest, "This is it, my friend. We better stock up on food and be ready with a plan of defense." He laughed. We discussed how we could make body armor out of magazines and where we would steal the tape to do so. But before long, we learned from TV not only that the virus had spread throughout the world, but also that the state of Washington had become the United States's ground zero. As each day passed, the numbers continued to get worse. The nursing home where the national news was saying that so many people were infected was less than 20 miles away from us. Like everyone in the free world, those of us on the inside began to worry about our families, especially our older folks, and their safety in the face of an unknown predator. Even in the best of times, it's hard to know how our families are doing." See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/18/what-coronavirus-quarantine-looks-like-in-prison>

### **Coronavirus Has Arrived at Rikers Island: Inside New York City Jails, Where the Pandemic Is Set to Explode**

"As New York City, like the rest of the United States, plunges into a public health crisis expected to be worse than anything in living memory, city residents have finally begun to heed the advice of medical professionals on how to limit exposure: Wash your hands often, disinfect surfaces, practice social distancing. For the New Yorkers held in city jails on Rikers Island, though, these basic prescriptions — if they've even been made aware of them — are not within their power to follow.

They are locked in filthy intake rooms with dozens of other people for days on end, confined to housing units or dorm-style sleeping areas with scores of other people, dependent on staff for soap and on correction officers for permission and an escort to visit a medical clinic. The roughly 5,400 men and women detained in city jails on Rikers Island don't have the agency to protect themselves from the disease, even as they are constantly exposed to the contagions of the outside world through the constant churn of three daily shifts of corrections officers and staff.

A New York City Department of Corrections employee died on Tuesday after being diagnosed with the coronavirus. A departmental press release cautioned that the dead man had only "limited contact" with people in custody. Officials said that, as of Tuesday, there had been no confirmed cases of Covid-19 inside city jails. On Wednesday, a news report said the first cases of coronavirus at the jail had been confirmed: one incarcerated person and a prison guard who worked at the jail complex's gate." See <https://theintercept.com/2020/03/18/coronavirus-rikers-island-jail/>

### **Tuesday, March 24th – Letter Writing for Sherrie Andre**

"WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinner WHEN: 7pm sharp, Tuesday, March 24th, 2020  
WHERE: YOUR HOME COST: Free

Well, folks, this is a rarity and, for now, the new reality. Every other Tuesday, for well over a decade, NYC ABC has organized letter and card writing nights for political prisoners. We've hosted events in four of the five boroughs and, by best guess, have served over 300 meals. That's not to congratulate ourselves, but to illustrate our commitment to keeping our imprisoned comrades at the forefront of our efforts as anarchists. To maintain that commitment while also making sure to keep ourselves and our

communities as safe as possible in the midst of a pandemic, we will suspend in-person letter-writing events for the immediate future. What we will not do is abandon folks who are at this second being denied visits and enduring the added stress of facing a virus outbreak in a place where they have no ability to “self-quarantine.” We are encouraging folks to take the same time they would normally use to come to one of our letter-writing dinners and write a letter to the focus of this week’s event—Sherrie Andre. Please send us a photo of your addressed envelope (with your return address blurred out, which we can also do for you) and we will share this via social media, building digital community while our analog community stays indoors and washes its hands.” See <https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2020/03/19/sherriandre>

### **At Least 19 Children at a Chicago Shelter for Immigrant Detainees Have Tested Positive for COVID-19**

“A coronavirus outbreak at a Heartland Alliance facility on Chicago’s South Side may be the largest outbreak of the virus in any shelter for immigrant youth in the country. At least 19 children and two staff have tested positive” See <https://www.propublica.org/article/at-least-19-children-at-a-chicago-shelter-for-immigrant-detainees-have-tested-positive-for-covid-19>

### **Death penalty states urged to release stockpiled drugs for Covid-19 patients**

“Death penalty states in the US are stockpiling medicines for lethal injections that could save the lives of hundreds of coronavirus patients were they released for medical use. A group of prominent medical practitioners and experts has issued an appeal to capital punishment states to release their stocks of essential sedatives and paralytics that they hoard for executions. The drugs are among the most sought after in hospital intensive care units around the country where shortages of the key medicines are putting lives of Covid-19 patients at risk.” See <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/potential-coronavirus-shortages-focus-ventilator-operators-critical-drugs/story?id=69907976>

### **We Call for the Immediate Release of the Political Prisoner and AfroBolivian Leader, Irene Elena Flores Torrez April 14, 2020**

“We call for all the de facto government's charges against Elena Flores to be dropped immediately and for Flores, Choque, Hermosa, and all political prisoners to be released. Elena Flores, the elected union president of Adepcoca (the Departmental Association of Coca Producers) and the beloved eldest sibling in her family, has been harassed and jailed without cause by the racist, misogynist and anti-labor coup regime of Jeanine Añez. She has been imprisoned for more than a month under deplorable conditions. The regime has subjected her to a smear campaign with continued threats of violence.” See <https://www.telesurenglish.net/opinion/Call-For-Immediate-Release-of-Political-Prisoner-Irene-Flores-20200413-0016.html>

### **It’s Time to Start Releasing Some Prisoners With Violent Records J.J. Prescott, Benjamin Pyle, Sonja Starr - April 13, 2020**

Prisons and jails are fast becoming an epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, for instance, the New York Times reported that Cook County jail was “now the nation’s largest-known source of coronavirus infections.” After far too much lost time, some governors and criminal justice officials are finally trying to mitigate the damage by releasing inmates or transferring them to home confinement. To succeed, these steps must extend to prisoners with violent records. This should be obvious based on sheer numbers. People with violent convictions make up a majority of the total state prison population. Because sentences for violent crimes are longer, they make up an even larger percentage of the older detainees most vulnerable to COVID-19: about two out of every three prisoners over age 55.” See <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2020/04/combat-covid-release-prisoners-violent-cook.html>

**BOP COVID-19 Daily Report 04-14-20**

	<u>Inmates</u> <u>Positive</u> ▾	<u>Staff</u> <u>Positive</u>	<u>Inmate</u> <u>Deaths</u>	<u>Staff</u> <u>Deaths</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
5	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">CORE Services Group, Inc. (RRC)</a>	brooklyn	NY
5	18	0	0	0	<a href="#">New York MCC</a>	new york	NY
4	16	0	0	0	<a href="#">Brooklyn MDC</a>	brooklyn	NY
4	2	0	0	0	<a href="#">Cumberland FCI</a>	cumberland	MD
4	2	0	0	0	<a href="#">Forrest City Medium FCI</a>	forrest city	AR
4	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Fort Worth FMC</a>	fort worth	TX
3	8	0	0	0	<a href="#">Ray Brook FCI</a>	ray brook	NY
3	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Volunteers of America (RRC)</a>	metairie	LA
2	2	0	0	0	<a href="#">Aliceville FCI</a>	aliceville	AL
2	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Carswell FMC</a>	fort worth	TX
2	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Dismas House of St. Louis (RRC)</a>	saint louis	MO
2	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Kintock Group, The (RRC)</a>	newark	NJ
2	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Oakdale II FCI</a>	oakdale	LA
2	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Oklahoma City FTC</a>	oklahoma city	OK
2	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Pioneer Human Services; DBA: Pioneer Industries (RRC)</a>	seattle	WA
1	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Behavioral Systems Southwest, Inc. (RRC)</a>	phoenix	AZ
1	1	0	0	0	<a href="#">Bennettsville FCI</a>	bennettsville	SC
1	1	0	0	0	<a href="#">Butner FMC</a>	butner	NC
1	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Central Territorial of the Salvation Army; DBA Salvation Army Correctional Ser (RRC)</a>	chicago	IL
1	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Cherry Street Services, Inc. (RRC)</a>	grand rapids	MI
1	7	0	0	0	<a href="#">Chicago MCC</a>	chicago	IL
1	2	0	0	0	<a href="#">Coleman Low FCI</a>	sumterville	FL
1	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Community Education Centers; DBA: CEC (RRC)</a>	philadelphia	PA
1	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Community Solutions, Inc. (RRC)</a>	wilmington	DE
1	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">GEO Reentry of Alaska, Inc. (RRC)</a>	oakland	CA
1	1	0	0	0	<a href="#">McCreary USP</a>	pine knot	KY
1	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">Seagoville FCI</a>	seagoville	TX
0	1	0	0	0	<a href="#">Allenwood Medium FCI</a>	white deer	PA
0	1	0	0	0	<a href="#">Allenwood USP</a>	allenwood	PA

**Update from Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition NYC**

I have created a web page based upon the planned action: <http://www.freemumia.com/2020/04/twitter-storm-for-mumia/>

I have also posted on Mumia's Twitter account a reference to the web page:

<https://twitter.com/MumiaAbuJamal>

Please LIKE, FOLLOW, RETWEET, etc. ASAP.

I have also posted on Mumia's Facebook account a reference to the web page:

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

Please LIKE, FOLLOW, and SHARE, etc. ASAP.

In solidarity and struggle, Gil Obler

**Leonard Peltier**

“Dear Friends and supporters of Leonard Peltier: March 18, 2020

We received this information from Leonard’s latest e-mail to us on written on March 14th.

Leonard said “We were notified this afternoon, that we are going on a lockdown, the whole institution, and the lockdown will be for at least 30 days. We were told we would be given 500 minutes for the

phone, which is 200 minutes more than usual, so it doesn't sound like we will be in our cells. I don't know if we will be able to write letters or receive mail. I will not be visiting anyone if I survive that is for at least 30 days and the virus doesn't get into Coleman I. As far as I know no one has the virus in USP Coleman complex. I keep getting conflicting info. but we were allowed to go outside for the evening, and we are now on the inside flats. Maybe it is just visiting that have been cancelled. and there is no contact with outside peoples we or most of us anyway agree this needs to be done, because no one it seems knows if they have contacted the virus or not. So as long as I can, I will send you updates as long as I can, I want to tell all of you to be safe out there as this virus is not racist and anyone can get it. If all possible please look out for the people in the Native Nations, if you know our history in these sorts of pandemics, Native people are the last to get help. and I have babies (grandchildren) out there." Doksha, Leonard Peltier"

"You should keep a lookout on our @PeltierHQ twitter account for an upcoming great deal on Leonard's lithograph "I WAS ONCE A YOUNG WARRIOR TOO"



We thank you for your continued support during this time of crisis, for Leonard and those inside and his committee and board working to continue his struggle for freedom outside.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, Paulette-National Office and the ILPDC Board The board and I want you to know that we will be working as usual and filling all orders of merchandise and art as Leonard's struggle for freedom cannot be isolated. He is in the most vulnerable

population for this virus: an elder, poor immune system and in a contained environment with less the 3 feet from other prisoners. In fact, Leonard's legal team, family and friends have been lockout from visiting him. In order to maintain Leonard's defense fund, we have a new raffle item, a beautiful large beige satchel with hand painted flower design surrounding a Native youth by Leonard. The raffle tickets are \$25.00 each or 5 for \$100.00 dollars. The raffle starts when you receive this newsletter and we will draw the winner on May Day."

**RAPP: National Clemency Event-April 15<sup>th</sup> 2020**

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INCARCERATED & FORMERLY INCARCERATED WOMEN & GIRLS

# CLEMENCY WORKS

FOR COVID-19

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH**

5-7PM EST  
 #ClemencyNow  
 #FreeOurElders  
 #DropLWOP  
 #ReimaginingCommunities

Bringing the voices of  
 our incarcerated loved  
 ones to the table.

**PANELISTS**

Stacey Borden  
 Thomasina Baker  
 Shanita Jefferson  
 Amber-Rose Howard  
 Fox and Rob Rich  
 Jose Saldana  
 Sharon White  
 Judy Henderson

Moderated by  
 Joneisha Sashi James,  
 The National Council

**REGISTER HERE**  
**FOR ZOOM INFO**  
[TINYURL.COM/CLEMENCYWORKS2020](https://tinyurl.com/clemencyworks2020)

“I want to flag for you the National Clemency event that will be happening TOMORROW Wednesday, April 14 at 5pm EST. RSVP page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clemency-works-panel-tickets-102374569092> Also, here is a Color of Change petition that goes along with the event, calling on governors across the country to grant clemency in the wake of COVID-19 Here: <https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/clemencyworks-for-covid-19/>

### **Prison Radio: Update from the frontline of COVID-19**

“They need to be really emptying the jail out, and determining who needs to be there ... who do they have reason to believe, if released, would pose a threat to life and health,” said Bret Grote, co-founder and legal director of the Abolitionist Law Center. The ACLU of Pennsylvania and Abolitionist Law Center has sent a letter to Governor Tom Wolf outlining precisely what needs to happen to mitigate the damage of COVID-19 on the prison population and consequently the public at large, demanding the Board of Pardons must act where it can act.

The Department of Corrections currently detains 47,000 people and as of 2018, there are 1,900 individuals over the age of 60, and many more under the age of 60 with compromised health. This is a dangerous situation because state prisons force thousands of people into close daily contact effectively turning each facility in a hotbed for spreading the virus. The only current treatment for those who contract a life threatening case of the virus is support care through a ventilator. The DOC only has four ventilators at SCI-Laurel which currently detains 1,521 inmates. This could very well be a death sentence for guards and prisoners alike. Infection just does not discriminate.” See

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmkAnJSzjny9zz0G87jH02A7MVWRMPTFBN50fZMTpmir8g/viewform>

### **DJ FREE LEONARD**

“Greetings Loved One, Here are a few simple ways you can support:

Donate \$1 per month to my Patreon family: <https://www.patreon.com/DJFreeLeonard>

Subscribe to my You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FreePeltier510>

Download Music on Bandcamp: [www.bandcamp.com/DJFreeLeonard](http://www.bandcamp.com/DJFreeLeonard)

We are hoping this is the year for FREEDOM!!!

In Solidarity, DJ Free Leonard 510-737-9806”

### **Remembering a Panther by ELENA CARTER**

The last time I saw former Black Panther, incarcerated activist and poet, Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, he asked me a question I didn’t fully understand. “Here’s a riddle for you,” he began, gap-toothed and grinning from his hospice bed. “If the speed of light is 186,000 miles per second and there are 5,180 feet in a mile and if the speed of sound is 1,100 feet per second, how long would it take you to see that you’ve heard something?” It was the early afternoon of Super Bowl Sunday 2016, a few hours before Beyonce and her back-up dancers would take the field in Black Panther-inspired berets. I remember shrugging at Mondo’s question, bemused and a little frustrated. He’d posed the question to me before in postscript. “Wasn’t that fun?” he wrote in tight, minuscule cursive at the end of the first letter he sent me, his reply to my letter of introduction. I wasn’t the only one he’d put the question to. Mondo loved riddles and he recycled his repertoire shamelessly.

But what began as a nonsensical combination of stats morphed into a poignant and surprisingly simple sentiment, one that now seems impossible to have missed. How long would it take you to see that you’ve heard something? James Baldwin once wrote: “The poet or the revolutionary is there to articulate the necessity, but until the people themselves apprehend it, nothing can happen.” During the short time I knew Mondo we talked a lot about art and responsibility. He wrote his first poem in high school, at a point in his life when he was becoming interested in social justice, but was still a few years away from becoming a Panther, from being radicalized. I met Mondo during the final year and a half of his life, visiting him in the Nebraska State Penitentiary. At the time of his death on March 11th, 2016, just over four years ago today, he had served 45 years in prison. I wrote about his case while a graduate student at the University of Iowa. Formerly known as David Rice, Mondo changed his name in the early 80s, an attempt to reclaim his African identity.

In 1971, he and his co-defendant Edward Poindexter were sentenced to life in prison for the murder of an Omaha policeman. The officer, Larry Minard, died when a suitcase bomb exploded in a North Omaha home on August 17, 1970. Minard was responding to a phony report that a woman was being assaulted inside a vacant home. At the time, Ed and Mondo were leaders in the Omaha chapter of the Black Panther Party. The two were arrested after a 15-year-old former member implicated Ed and Mondo as the brains behind the bomb plot, though he initially confessed to planting the bomb and placing the phony 911 call alone.

Eight years after the trial, an FBI memo surfaced showing cooperation between police and FBI in suppressing the audio of the phony 911 call as evidence that might have demonstrated Mondo and Ed's innocence. Court documents also reveal that Omaha police had been monitoring Mondo and Ed for two years prior to the murder.

Though Amnesty International called for Mondo and Ed to have a new trial or be released, their case received little national attention. Omaha, too, has mostly forgotten them, forgotten that the Panther story extends beyond Oakland and Chicago. And yet the issue that prompted the formation of the Omaha Chapter of the Black Panther Party – police brutality – is very much alive and in the national consciousness. At the same time, the Panthers called for much more than an end to police brutality. They advocated for quality education, quality medical care, decent housing, exemption from military service, and a general anti-capitalist restructuring of society.

To borrow from Steve Wasserman, if we focus on the stories of the “supernovas” of the party, if we repeat the Oakland-centered narrative, we risk overshadowing the lesser-known stories of Panthers like Mondo and Ed. We forget that the BPP grew from an Oakland-based organization to a national party with chapters in almost every major city in the U.S. Like many others, the Omaha chapter addressed poverty and inequality at the local level, going beyond activism for self-defense. Mondo and Ed started a free breakfast program for schoolchildren and ran the Vivian Strong Liberation School, named after one of four unarmed Omaha teenagers killed by police in 1969.

How long would it take you to see that you heard something?

As I left the prison that afternoon, I realized that Mondo's words could be read as a commentary on his own political trajectory, both a validation of and a condemnation of his own movement from apprehension to articulation. I say condemnation because, in Mondo's eyes, he too long lived the straight and narrow. Mondo laughed, for instance, about his first foray into activism. As an eighteen-year-old — and still very much the good Catholic boy— he was part of a delegation of Omaha teenagers who met with Nebraska Governor Frank Morrison seeking his support for a bill prohibiting the sale of obscene literature to minors....” See <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/03/17/remembering-a-panther/>

### **What a coronavirus quarantine looks like in prison.**

“When an employee at the Washington State Reformatory tested positive last week, officials reportedly locked down part of the prison to stop the disease from spreading. Among the new “preventive” measures two prisoners have shared with us? They have been told to put a sock on the communal phone they are allowed to use. Their biggest concern? The health of the many elderly inside, who are now in grave danger. In collaboration with BuzzFeed News, here is the latest in our “Life Inside” series”

See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/18/what-coronavirus-quarantine-looks-like-in-prison>

### **San Quentin X [Official Music Video]**

“Min. King X aka Pyeface, Delegate and advocate for the organizers of California's monumental Prison Hunger Strikes of 2011 and 2013 and creators of the historical Agreement to End All Hostilities, and voice for all political prisoners locked up in U.S. prisons and other casualties of mass incarceration.

San Quentin X is the first of a political/historical series, written in Pelican Bay State Prison, from the not yet released soundtrack of the CPF K.A.G.E. musical production: From the K.A.G.E. to the Stage: Agreement to End Hostilities, correlated to the 2011 and 2013 California Prisoner Hunger Strikes, instrumental in placing limits on the otherwise unfettered use of solitary confinement torture in California prisons.

This song was gifted to California Prison Focus (Prison Focus newspaper) and San Francisco Bay View who supported Min. King X during his years in solitary confinement.

Support SF Bay View at <https://sfbayview.com/donate>

or California Prison Focus at <http://newest.prisons.org/donate>

To learn more about Min. King X visit <http://newest.prisons.org/speakers/37> “

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3eSooAxzSU&feature=youtu.be>

### **Cuba’s Coronavirus Response Is Putting Other Countries to Shame**

“Cuba's response to the coronavirus pandemic — from sending doctors to other countries to pioneering anti-viral treatments to converting factories into mask-making machines — is putting other countries, even rich countries, to shame. Last week, the MS Braemar, a transatlantic cruise ship carrying 682 passengers from the United Kingdom, found itself momentarily stranded. Five of the cruise’s passengers had tested positive for the coronavirus. Several dozen more passengers and crew members were in isolation after exhibiting flu-like symptoms. The ship had been rebuffed from several ports of entry throughout the Caribbean. According to sources in the British government who spoke to CNN, the UK then reached out to both the United States and Cuba “to find a suitable port for the Braemar.” See <https://portside.org/2020-03-24/cubas-coronavirus-response-putting-other-countries-shame>

### **Bureau of Prisons and NYS DOCCS Suspend Visitation**

The messaging is straight up state propaganda, but we are including the New York State Department of Corrections’ and federal Bureau of Prisons’ releases on suspending visits below.

In December 2019, a new respiratory disease called Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected in China. COVID-19 is caused by a virus (SARS-CoV-2) that is part of a large family of viruses called coronaviruses. Recently, community-wide transmission of COVID-19 has occurred in the United States, including New York where the number of both persons under investigation and confirmed cases are rapidly increasing. The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) is responsible for the safety, health, rehabilitation, and supervision of nearly 44,000 incarcerated individuals and over 35,000 individuals on community supervision through the tireless efforts of nearly 30,000 employees. The Department's greatest concern is the safety and well-being of our employees and individuals within our care, custody, and supervision, particularly during this developing public health emergency. To that end, the Department must swiftly impose restrictions and precautions to prevent additional spread of infectious viral transmission of COVID-19 in both correctional facilities and the community writ large. As this public health emergency rapidly develops, the Department will closely monitor the situation and extend these restrictions as necessary. See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/updates-24-mar-2020.pdf>

### **18 Mar - The Latest From Leonard Peltier**

We are passing on the following from the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

We were notified this afternoon, that we are going on a lockdown, the whole institution, and the lockdown will be for at least 30 days. We were told we would be given 500 minutes for the phone, which is 200 minutes more than usual, so it doesn't sound like we will be in our cells. I don't know if we will be able to write letters or receive mail. I will not be visiting anyone if I survive that is for at

least 30 days and the virus doesn't get into Coleman I. As far as I know no one has the virus in USP Coleman complex. I keep getting conflicting info. but we were allowed to go outside for the evening, and we are now on the inside flats. Maybe it is just visiting that have been cancelled. and there is no contact with outside peoples we or most of us anyway agree this needs to be done, because no one it seems knows if they have contacted the virus or not. So as long as I can, I will send you updates as long as I can, I want to tell all of you to be safe out there as this virus is not racist and anyone can get it. If all possible please look out for the people in the Native Nations, if you know our history in these sorts of pandemics, Native people are the last to get help. and I have babies (grandchildren) out there.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/updates-24-mar-2020.pdf>

### **Webinar on Human Rights Implications of COVID-19**

“We would like to share information with you about a webinar taking place tomorrow, Wednesday, March 25, at 10am PT / 12pm CT / 1pm ET on the following topic:

The Human Rights and Public Policy Implications of COVID-19.

The webinar is presented by The Roosevelt House Human Rights and Public Policy Programs at Hunter College, and will feature multiple panelists including US Human Rights Network ICCPR Task Force Co-Chair and UPR Task Force Member Jamil Dakwar.”

Register: [bit.ly/RH-COVID19](https://bit.ly/RH-COVID19)

Join the webinar: [www.zoom.us/j/856010082](https://www.zoom.us/j/856010082)

### **Migrants on Hunger Strike at the Laval Immigration Detention Centre: Act Now in Solidarity Solidarity Across Borders, March 25, 2020**

“– Stay in touch! Look here for updates and renewed calls for support

Migrants detained at the Laval Immigration Detention Centre have launched an indefinite hunger strike to demand their release in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Around 30 men are currently being held on the men’s side of the detention centre. The ten hunger-strikers are refusing all meals, despite pressure from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to desist. Like other prisoners across Canada and around the world, they are demanding to be released for their own safety. Read their statement here.” See

<https://www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/communique-from-prisoners-in-the-laval-immigration-holding-centre-hunger-strike-until-we-are-free>

### **Stop complaining about your quarantine**

“No, your coronavirus quarantine isn’t like being in prison. Jerry Metcalf is about halfway through a 40- to 60-year prison sentence in Michigan and wants you to know that your new life “social distancing” in your home isn’t like being behind bars. You have your own bathroom and kitchen. You have access to cleaning products. You have your belongings with you and you can actually keep to yourself. Metcalf? “I now live in a death trap,” he writes, facing “a virus that is airborne and most affects people in confined, overcrowded spaces” like a prison.” See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/25/no-your-coronavirus-quarantine-is-not-just-like-being-in-prison>

### **Cuba uses 'WONDER DRUG' to fight Coronavirus around world despite U.S. Sanctions**

“Newsweek, March 24, 2020- Cuba has mobilized its medical corps around the world to distribute a new "wonder drug" that officials there say is capable of treating the new coronavirus despite the United States' strict sanctions that continue to pressure the communist-run island. The drug, called Interferon Alpha-2B Recombinant (IFNrec), is jointly developed by scientists from Cuba and China, where the coronavirus COVID-19 disease outbreak first emerged late last year. Already active in China since

January, the Cuban Medical Brigades began deploying to dozens of nations, providing personnel and products such as its new anti-viral drug to battle the disease that has exceeded 400,000 confirmed cases across the globe. As of Tuesday, over 100,000 people have recovered from the infection and more than 18,000 have died.” See <https://www.newsweek.com/cuba-drug-fight-coronavirus-us-sanctions-1493872>

### **'It Spreads Like Wildfire': Coronavirus Comes to New York Prisons**

“Last week, Adam Roberts, who has been incarcerated in New York State since 1999, began to prepare for the arrival of covid-19, the respiratory infection caused by the novel coronavirus, at Fishkill Correctional Facility, in Beacon. He began washing his hands more often and keeping his distance from men in the mess hall; he noticed someone in a common area using a TV remote through a plastic bag. Roberts has an intolerance to dairy and worries about losing access to foods he can eat, so he planned to buy as much instant ramen, tuna, mayonnaise, peanut butter, and tea from the commissary as he could. “It seems like things are slowly shutting down,” he told me on Thursday. “Funny that prison may be safer than the outside—until, that is, covid inevitably finds its way in here. At which point it spreads like wildfire.” See <https://portside.org/2020-03-25/it-spreads-wildfire-coronavirus-comes-new-york-prisons>

### **Humanity Not Cages: Demanding a Just and Humane Response to Outbreak -Human Outbreak Response**

“With 2.3 million people in the United States in prison or jail on any given day, an outbreak in these facilities poses a threat to the entire country. “At no point should any facility be on lockdown.“ It is not a matter of if but when the coronavirus will enter prisons and jails, according to health experts. The consequences of that eventuality will be devastating. COVID-19 outbreaks in prisons and jails will spread “like wildfire ” due to close quarters, unsanitary conditions, a population that is more vulnerable to COVID-19, and the large number of people that cycle through the criminal justice system.” See <https://www.blackagendareport.com/humanity-not-cages-demanding-just-and-humane-response-outbreak>

### **DJ Free Leonard-All In Together” by The Lineage**

“Baby Eazy E & DJ Free Leonard team up during this time of crisis to form “The Lineage”! Here is a New Lyric Video for their new single “All In Together”! Only a stubborn hard headed person would be unable to recognize the impact both Baby Eazy E’s father Eazy E and DJ Free Leonard’s cousin Leonard Peltier have had on society, so surely watching this clip is worth your 2 to 3 minutes. Bet” <https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-K2IADFh0Z/?igshid=2u6ki98jrjsjf>

### **The Gaza Strip Has Been Under Siege for Years. Covid-19 Could Be Catastrophic.**

“Israel, which continues to control Gaza’s borders, has for decades intentionally weakened the economy and health of the world’s largest open-air prison.

“When people began posting the following note on their Facebook wall,

**DEAR WORLD,**

**HOW IS THE LOCKDOWN?**

**GAZA**

I immediately felt an intense sense of unease. Although those who circulated the message wanted to elicit empathy toward close to 2 million imprisoned Palestinians, the attempt to compare the lockdown many Westerners are currently experiencing with the 13-year siege on the Gaza Strip is farcical. Indeed, now that the coronavirus has managed to cross the military checkpoints into that coastal enclave, with two people testing positive, the fallacy of this comparison is likely to become tragically apparent. The intensity of their suffering will not be due to natural causes, but because the military

siege has put the people of Gaza at an immense disadvantage in all three categories that are considered vital for combating the virus's dissemination: health services, social determinants of health, and physical distancing.”

“The Hamas government is well aware of the looming dangers, but its options are severely limited. It has begun converting schools into quarantine quarters, with eight people per classroom and about 200 men and women sharing a bathroom. It's like confining a group of prisoners within an isolated cell in the hope that they will not spread the disease.

All experts know that prisons are breeding grounds for the virus. In the wake of the outbreak, Iran immediately released 70,000 prisoners, while other countries are following suit. The problem for Gaza, of course, is that Gaza itself is a prison, and, after years of siege, it is an extremely dilapidated one at that.” See <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/coronavirus-gaza-strip-disaster/>

### **JUDGE ORDERS REVIEW OF DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE**

“A federal judge ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a full environmental review of the Dakota Access pipeline, nearly three years after it began carrying oil despite protests by people who gathered in North Dakota for more than a year. Standing Rock Chairman Mike Faith called it a “significant legal win” and said it's humbling that the protests continue to “inspire national conversations” about the environment.” See [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/environmental-review-dakota-access-pipeline\\_n\\_5e7c3287c5b6cb9dc19a4ded?ncid=newsltushpnews](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/environmental-review-dakota-access-pipeline_n_5e7c3287c5b6cb9dc19a4ded?ncid=newsltushpnews)

### **Panic among families of the incarcerated**

“I just have to keep faith.” We've heard from hundreds of families over the past week who are worried, even panicking, over how their loved ones are being treated behind bars during the pandemic. Some are concerned about failing medical treatment. Others about unhygienic conditions in cells and common areas. But their most consistent complaint is the failure of prison officials to adequately communicate how new policies to combat the coronavirus are affecting prisoners.” See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/26/they-don-t-care-families-of-the-incarcerated-fear-the-worst-as-coronavirus-spreads>

### **Write political prisoners always but definitely at this time in which so many will not have visits or will be locked down-Via Los Angeles ABCF**

“Write political prisoners always but definitely at this time in which so many will not have visits or will be locked down. Check out our list at <http://www.abcf.net/prisoner-info/>

Also, be sure to donate to the ABCF Warchest which sends subsistence checks to 17 different Political Prisoners every month at <http://www.abcf.net/warchest-program/>

### **People with intellectual disabilities may be denied lifesaving care under these plans as coronavirus spreads**

“Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities are concerned that those with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism and other such conditions will be denied access to lifesaving medical treatment as the COVID-19 outbreak spreads across the country. Several disability advocacy organizations filed complaints this week with the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, asking the federal government to clarify provisions of the disaster preparedness plans for the states of Washington and Alabama. The advocates say the plans discriminate against people with intellectual disabilities by deprioritizing this group in the event of rationing of medical care — specifically, access to ventilators, which are in high demand in treating COVID-19 cases. More than 7 million people in the U.S. have some form of cognitive disability.”

<https://www.propublica.org/article/people-with-intellectual-disabilities-may-be-denied-lifesaving-care->

[under-these-plans-as-coronavirus-spreads?utm\\_source=pardot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dailynewsletter](https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/27/photos-show-some-prison-beds-are-only-three-feet-apart)

### **No such Thing as Social Distancing in Prison**

“You’ve heard for weeks how dangerous U.S. prisons and jails are for men and women who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, about how crowded and unhygienic are the conditions of confinement. Here are some rare photos from behind bars that show precisely why prisoner advocates and others talk about the need to release elderly or ailing prisoners before they become infected. As Abbie VanSickle reports, these photos are part of an emergency motion filed in federal court Wednesday seeking help for prisoners in two California facilities, one in Los Angeles and one in San Francisco.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/27/photos-show-some-prison-beds-are-only-three-feet-apart>

**‘Jails Are Petri Dishes’: Inmates Freed as the Virus Spreads Behind Bars ‘We’re Left for Dead’:** Fears of Virus Catastrophe at Rikers Jail. Already, 167 inmates and 137 staff members have tested positive at the jail complex, which is described as tense, crowded and unsanitary. Some jails are releasing people to stem outbreaks, but critics say it is not happening quickly enough to save lives and resources. The coronavirus is spreading quickly in America’s jails and prisons, where social distancing is impossible and sanitizer is widely banned, prompting authorities across the country to release thousands of inmates in recent weeks to try to slow the infection, save lives and preserve medical resources.” See <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/30/us/coronavirus-prisons-jails.html>

### **Children Political Prisoners Face Hell in Egypt**

“Egypt waterboards children aged 12 to 17 years for allegedly participating in protests against President Abdelfattah Al Sisi oppressive regime. The Egyptian military is "detaining children, disappearing and torturing them," said a joint report released this week by Human Rights Watch and Belady: An Island for Humanity. The report includes testimonies of 20 children describing the horrors they underwent. They were "waterboarded and electrocuted on their tongues and genitals," Associate Children’s Rights director at HRW Bill Van Esveld said. The abuse is "systematic, widespread and likely constitutes crimes against humanity," the report added. Waterboarding — the outlawed and dreaded torture technique which bounds and gags prisoners, and in which, water is poured over them to make them think they are about to drown, has been mostly used by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in operations to get the prisoners to speak. Meanwhile, Egypt waterboards children aged 12 to 17 years for allegedly participating in protests against President Abdelfattah Al Sisi oppressive regime.” See [https://www.telesureenglish.net/opinion/Children-Political-Prisoners-Face-Hell-in-Egypt-20200330-0013.html?utm\\_source=planisys&utm\\_medium=NewsletterIngles&utm\\_campaign=NewsletterIngles&utm\\_content=34](https://www.telesureenglish.net/opinion/Children-Political-Prisoners-Face-Hell-in-Egypt-20200330-0013.html?utm_source=planisys&utm_medium=NewsletterIngles&utm_campaign=NewsletterIngles&utm_content=34)

### **COVID-19 tensions rise, for prisoners and staff**

“I do not want to die somewhere like this.” Approximately 40,000 people now are being held in federal detention while they await immigration hearings, and some at-risk detainees have joined new lawsuits seeking their release as COVID-19 bears down on them. Federal judges already have ordered some prisoners released. But some advocates believe it may already be too late for others.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/01/i-do-not-want-to-die-somewhere-like-this>

**No COVID-19 tests available for prisoners at center of New York outbreak, court documents show “Please help me before I die,”** one inmate said via his attorney. By James Hill and Luke Barr

April 4, 2020, 6:00 AM “A federal detention center at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in New York City has no in-house ability to test sick or high-risk inmates for COVID-19, according to a letter from the jail’s top official in court documents reviewed by ABC News. “MCC New York does not have COVID-19 tests,” M. Licon-Vitale, the recently installed warden of the Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Manhattan, wrote in a letter to a federal judge this week. The warden’s letter came in response to an order from U.S. District Court Judge Paul Engelmayer to test an MCC inmate in his 20s who claimed to be experiencing novel coronavirus symptoms and believed he might have contracted it.” See <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/covid-19-tests-prisoners-center-york-outbreak-court/story?id=69969077>

### **Letter-writing to Ramsey Orta**

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

WHERE: YOUR HOME COST: Free

For well over a decade, NYC ABC has organized around the idea of keeping anarchists involved in political prisoner organizing and political prisoner support communities working with anarchists. We are one part of a movement to free our folks and see the end of prisons. Until those days come, we provide every other week support via political prisoner letter-writing events. Due to where we are in history, and the importance of keeping everyone safe, those events will be organized here, but you will have to take on the work of writing letters from home. Please send us a photo of your addressed envelope (with your return address blurred out, which we can also do for you) and we will share this via social media, building digital community while our analog community stays indoors and washes its hands. This week, we focus on Ramsey Orta, currently locked in solitary confinement without basic safety measures in place to curb coronavirus, as it enters New York state prisons.” See <https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/tuesday-april-7th-letter-writing-for-ramsey-ortaramsey2020>

### **Opinion | A Health Crisis, as Seen From Inside a Prison March 30, 2020**

“A Health Crisis, as Seen From Inside a Prison letters An inmate talks about the AIDS experience, and a leader in prison education stresses the value of in-person teaching.

“We can’t escort an inmate with a six-foot rule,” said Yamira Richardson, a correctional officer at the federal prison complex in Tallahassee, Fla.

To the Editor: As a person living inside a New York State prison, I lived through the last major health crisis, the AIDS epidemic. There are similarities and differences between AIDS and the Covid-19 pandemic. We lost many people, but we found a way to slow the spread of AIDS through inmate-to-inmate communication and education. Then, we created PEPA, the Prisoner Education Project on AIDS, which was eventually replicated across the country and along with advocacy groups saved many lives. Something similar is needed now.” See

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/opinion/letters/coronavirus-prison.html>

**Ralph Poynter: What'sHappening – BlogTalkRadio-** Tuesday, April 7,2020 Call in 1-347-857-3293-9-10pm est <https://www.blogtalkradio.com/humanrightsdemand/2020/04/01/ralph-poynter-whats-happening>

“Ralph Poynter: What's Happening – BlogTalkRadio-Tuesday, April 7, 2020 Call in 1-347-857-3293-9-10pm est-<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/humanrightsdemand/2020/04/01/ralph-poynter-whats-happening>. Was it April fool’s day or can you believe this? – Trump’s continued program for war on illicit drugs.

1. COVID-19 UPDATE---Special guest: 1.MARY ADAMS-RN-Public health -
2. LOUISIANA UNITED IN TERNATIONAL- Sister Belinda Parker Brown-

3.Special update on WBAI – Cerene Roberts---1. NEWS ANALYSIS---- An anatomy of oppression requires an anatomy of colonialism/imperialism i.e. An anatomy of the American Capitalist System: Ralph Poynter, Tom Siracuse, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Paul Gilman, 2. Updates from the Political Prisoner Death Camps- Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho), Gil Obler (Free Mumia Coalition-NYC)”

### **IFCO/Pastors for Peace US-Cuba Friendshipment Caravan**

“UPDATE: THE 31th US-CUBA FRIENDSHIPMENT CARAVAN IS COMING TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOU CAN PARTICIPATE, AT HOME!

As part of the national ‘lowering the curve’, IFCO is substituting webinars and virtual gatherings for this spring’s Friendshipment Caravan. Events were planned in 50 cities, and we know that activists and people of faith are disappointed – and relieved – at this news. We share the relief – and urge you to keep safe, keep social distancing and wash your hands. But we also share the frustration. We spent the fall and winter organizing the 31st US-Cuba Friendshipment Caravan. IFCO works with activists and people of faith all over the US (and internationally) to lead the organizing against the Blockade. It's important, Why? Because the Blockade Kills – Cubans, but also people here in the US. That's why we continue our action/education project, Pastors for Peace and the US-Cuba Friendshipment Caravans. But the Caravan is changed -- we’re creating webinars and virtual meetings. Now you can participate – wherever you are located and as you stay at home. We want you to know just how this Blockade affects you and your community. For example, right now, we’re being ‘blockaded’ from Cuba’s interferon alpha-2b, a medication used for treating coronavirus in Cuba, Italy and more countries every day. As these webinars become available, we’ll keep you posted about how you can connect, on-line, with IFCO staff and with other activists.” See <https://ifconews.org/>

### **Early Data Shows African Americans Have Contracted and Died of Coronavirus at an Alarming Rate**

“To my African American brothers and sisters I have been raising a question that perhaps we should consider. Consider this. Since we were kidnapped and brought to this country our experience, our safety and the quality of our lives have been a daily concern. Primarily because we have had to confront injustice and set up strategies to address those injustices. Since the beginning of our enslavement we fought back with dozens, perhaps hundreds of slave revolts. The history books don't reflect the high level of resistance. Every leader of a slave revolt was characterized as crazy. Gabriel Prosser and Nat Turner for example. It's obvious that they witnessed and experience atrocities until they arrived at the point where enough was too much. The history books don't record what caused the revolts or how brutally they were suppressed. There were other well meaning people whose conscience compelled them to join in the action but we provided the thrust based on our experience. U.S, un-history books also demonizes well known abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison, Elizabeth Heyrick, Frances Wright, and Elizabeth Margaret Chandler.” See <https://www.propublica.org/article/early-data-shows-african-americans-have-contracted-and-died-of-coronavirus-at-an-alarming-rate>

### **COVID-19 Is Turning Prisons Into "Kill-Boxes" James Kilgore - April 5, 2020**

“Our prisons are about to be utterly transformed by tragedy on a grand scale.” So concludes “COVID-19 And Indiana Prisons,” a 13-page blueprint to save the lives of thousands of people locked up in the cages of the Indiana Department of Corrections. Written through a collective process involving more than 600 formerly incarcerated women, the report calls for the release of 5,662 people — 21 percent of the state prison population — and lays out a process to use funds from the state’s share of the federal stimulus package to house those people in the state’s underutilized motels and hotels. “Prisons are kill-boxes,” said Michelle Jones, who spent 20 years inside Indiana prisons and is one of the report’s key

researchers. "Incarcerated people are going to suffer. They have no way to get away from it." See <https://truthout.org/articles/covid-19-is-turning-prisons-into-kill-boxes-activists-say/>

### **Israel keeps 200 Palestinian children in prisons in inhumane conditions: Palestinian commission**

The Palestinian Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission says nearly 200 Palestinian children are kept behind bars in Israeli prisons in inhumane conditions, undergoing "very rough interrogation process and torture." The commission announced the news in a statement on the eve of the Palestinian Child's Day on April 5, saying that these minors, who are from the occupied West Bank and eastern sector of Jerusalem al-Quds, are kept in three Israeli prisons, namely Damon, Megiddo and Ofer. The three prisons lack the basic requirements for human life, said Qadri Abu Baker, the head of the commission, warning that these desperate children prisoners "are subjected to torture and degrading treatment which contradict the international principles of human rights." He lambasted the United Nations for failing to "provide the minimum protection for the Palestinian children" against the physical and psychological abuse in Israeli jails." See <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/04/05/622382/Palestinian-children-Israeli-prisons-inhumane-conditions>

### **How Bureau of Prisons' policy contributed to a coronavirus outbreak.**

"Federal officials countermanded public health guidance last month by requiring corrections officers to return to work in penitentiaries without any protection for themselves or prisoners after being exposed to COVID-19. There are now nearly 100 federal prisoners who have become infected, and at least 50 BOP employees, and at least one lawsuit for hazard pay brought by prison staff. In Oakdale, Louisiana, the scene of the deadliest federal prison outbreak, local officials are angry and frustrated that BOP officials didn't do more, sooner, to limit the damage." See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/03/federal-prisons-agency-put-staff-in-harm-s-way-of-coronavirus>

### **From jail to a hotel room in the name of public safety.**

"Officials in a handful of California cities are in the midst of a remarkable experiment in which homeless people released from jails to protect them from COVID-19 are being temporarily housed in hotel rooms left empty in cities under "shelter" orders. In Oakland, hundreds of people with no homes to return to are living in government-paid rooms in at least two local hotels. "We're doing things we've never done before," says an Alameda County spokesman. A similar program also now is in place in New York City, where officials offered hotel rooms to some of those released from the Rikers Island jail." See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/06/a-new-tactic-to-fight-coronavirus-send-the-homeless-from-jails-to-hotels>

### **No longer asking. Now telling.**

"State and local officials around the country started off by urging residents to "shelter in place" and perform other acts of social distancing. Now those requests are becoming more urgent and bringing with them the threat of criminal sanctions. USA TODAY The NYPD has started arresting people for violating social distancing rules. This means packing more people into crowded jails." See <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/04/02/coronavirus-police-fines-jail-breaking-stay-home-orders>

"The NYPD has started arresting people for violating social distancing rules. This means packing more people into crowded jails. [THE INTERCEPT](#) Curfews are spreading in North Carolina after residents shun voluntarily "shelter" orders. [RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER](#) **Related:** Americans are snitching

on one another over violations of “shelter” orders and other lockdown tactics. [COURTHOUSE NEWS](#) Neighbor against neighbor vigilantism. [BOSTON GLOBE](#) “

**Urgent Action: Free Our Prisoners** March 31, 2020

“We call on our allies, partners, friends and comrades to join us in an urgent campaign to free all Palestinian prisoners in order to protect them from COVID-19, particularly in light of the increased restrictions on their rights by the Israeli Prison Service. In light of the recent events detailed below and a long-term precedence of torture, physical violence, medical negligence and inhumane prison conditions, we are alarmed and concerned about the safety and well-being of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.” See <http://www.addameer.org/news/urgent-action-free-our-prisoners>

**Women in ICE Detention, Fearing Coronavirus, Make Video to Protest Unsafe Conditions**

Debbie Nathan - March 30, 2020

“Women locked in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Louisiana are terrified that they have been exposed to a person ill with the coronavirus, and they fear that they, too, will get sick. The women have been trying to communicate with the world about their plight, and they’ve been punished for trying. Immigrants in ICE detention nationwide are intensely afraid of contracting Covid-19. More than 37,000 people are detained in facilities described by government inspectors, nongovernmental organizations, and the prisoners themselves as crowded and dirty. As two Department of Homeland Security doctors warned Congress, the facilities pose “an imminent risk to the health and safety of immigrant detainees” and to the public as well.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/03/30/coronavirus-ice-detention/>

**Freedom Rider: COVID-19 and Black Workers** Margaret Kimberley, BAR senior columnist

“The gross inequalities and declining standards of life in the US are magnified by the corona crisis, pushing already marginalized populations to the brink.” See <https://www.blackagendareport.com/freedom-rider-covid-19-and-black-workers>

**Mumia: Things Fall Apart** Black Agenda Radio with Margaret Kimberley and Glen Ford

“Citing the novel by Chinua Achebe, political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal notes: “We see outside our doors, our windows, a world we did not know, that now exists. A silent, unseen disease gives vent to massive unease and unleashes unprecedented fear... A pandemic came to visit the world’s richest country – and things fall apart.” See <https://www.blackagendareport.com/mumia-things-fall-apart>

**The Roots of Organizing: The Young Lords’ Revolution** Ed Morales

“Historian Johanna Fernández makes the case for the Young Lords as profound thinkers as well as highly capable street activists.” See <https://www.blackagendareport.com/roots-organizing-young-lords-revolution>

**Coronavirus risk looms large for America’s elderly and sick prison population**

“The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) this week sent a letter to the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Prisons calling on the agencies to immediately release incarcerated individuals, who are either elderly or have chronic health conditions, to reduce the risk posed by Covid-19. The request came as jails around the country grapple with how to respond to the growing threat of widespread infection among a vulnerable prison population” See <https://qz.com/1821911/coronavirus-risk-looms-large-for-us-elderly-and-sick-prisoners/>

**Beyond the Death Penalty, Activists Are Fighting to End Death by Incarceration**

‘With 2.3 million people behind bars, the United States is the world’s largest jailer. Yet after decades of holding this dubious honor, many Americans have begun to question what Fordham law professor John Plaff calls “this massive experiment in punitive social control.” Decarceration is being discussed in states across the country. In the debate over decarceration, advocates have realized that it is not enough to merely push for “low-level nonviolent drug offenders” to be let out. Decarceration defies such “easy fixes,” Plaff said. Rather, in order to reduce our prison population, we must change how we respond to violent crimes. As a recent article in Slate argued, “replacing the death penalty with death in prison is not true progress.” See <https://truthout.org/articles/beyond-the-death-penalty-activists-are-fighting-to-end-death-by-incarceration/>

### **No ‘social distancing’ for sick and elderly political prisoners By MENCHANI TILENDO Bulatlat.com**

“The government should decongest the prisons by releasing all political prisoners who were falsely accused of crimes just because they were fighting for this country. Those spaces should be taken up by the real criminals, murderers and corrupt government officials. That is social distancing with justice.” MANILA — Ofel Beltran-Balleta, 58, has spent years visiting jails and challenging the country’s justice system. She is the daughter of the late Crispin Beltran, also known as “Ka Bel”, a labor leader and a staunch critic of the Arroyo administration. Ka Bel was imprisoned in 2006 and 2007 on trumped-up charges of rebellion and sedition. Ofel is also the mother of Jane Balleta, one of the so-called Morong 43 or a group of health workers who were arrested while they were having a training in Morong, Rizal in 2010. She is also the wife of Santiago Balleta, who was also detained on trumped-up charges. Fully-aware of the country’s frail justice system, Nanay Ofel knows the tormenting feeling of waiting for loved ones to come home. While she no longer has relatives in prison, her work as a Karapatan volunteer providing services to political prisoners has exposed her to the miserable conditions of inmates.’ <https://www.bulatlat.com/2020/03/21/no-social-distancing-for-sick-and-elderly-political-prisoners/>

### **1st federal inmate to die of coronavirus wrote heartbreaking letter to judge**

“Patrick Jones "spent the last 12 years contesting a sentence that ultimately killed him," one of his former lawyers said. In the months before the coronavirus infiltrated the U.S., a 49-year-old inmate began drafting a letter inside the walls of a federal prison in Louisiana. The man, Patrick Jones, had been locked up for nearly 13 years on a nonviolent drug charge. He hadn't seen his youngest son, then 16, since the boy was a toddler. "I feel that my conviction and sentence was also a punishment that my child has had to endure also and there are no words for how remorseful I am," Jones wrote to U.S. District Judge Alan Albright in a letter dated Oct. 15. "Years of 'I am sorry' don't seem to justify the absence of a father or the chance of having purpose in life by raising my child." See <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/1st-federal-inmate-die-coronavirus-wrote-heartbreaking-letter-judge-n1176961>

### **Inmates to face quarantines as they transfer**

“SARASOTA, Fla. (News Service of Florida) - Florida prison officials said Friday county inmates who are transferring to state prisons are expected to be quarantined for 28-day periods to try to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. Corrections officials said they have asked county jails to quarantine inmates who are scheduled to be moved to state prisons for 14 days before the transfers. Once the inmates arrive at the prisons, they will be placed on another 14-day quarantine before they mix with the general inmate population officials said. “We appreciate Florida’s law enforcement community working with us as we took this preventative measure and move forward with a new protocol during this evolving health emergency,” state Department of Corrections Secretary Mark Inch

said in a statement Friday. The move is a new precaution by the department as prison workers, inmates and their loved ones grow more fearful of a potential coronavirus outbreak behind bars.

As of Thursday, 16 prison workers had tested positive for COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus.” See <https://www.mysuncoast.com/2020/04/03/inmates-face-quarantines-they-transfer/>

### **How Bureau of Prisons’ policy contributed to a coronavirus outbreak.**

“Federal officials countermanded public health guidance last month by requiring corrections officers to return to work in penitentiaries without any protection for themselves or prisoners after being exposed to COVID-19. There are now nearly 100 federal prisoners who have become infected, and at least 50 BOP employees, and at least one lawsuit for hazard pay brought by prison staff. In Oakdale, Louisiana, the scene of the deadliest federal prison outbreak, local officials are angry and frustrated that BOP officials didn’t do more, sooner, to limit the damage.” See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/03/federal-prisons-agency-put-staff-in-harm-s-way-of-coronavirus>

### **As Coronavirus Looms in Federal Detention, People Inside Are Being Denied Constitutional Right to Speak With Lawyers** Nick Pinto - April 5, 2020

“As much of the New York City’s media focused on the brewing coronavirus disaster in the city’s jails on Rikers Island, a parallel crisis is looming at the federal jails located in the city: the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Lower Manhattan and the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

Nationwide, according to Bureau of Prison statistics, the number of positive cases of coronavirus in federal jails and prisons exploded by 8,600 percent in the two weeks since March 20 — an increase that’s especially concerning given the vulnerability of the people locked in conditions they can’t control. By Bureau of Prison estimates, roughly a third of the people incarcerated in MDC and MCC are at elevated risk of severe illness by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s standards.”

See <https://theintercept.com/2020/04/05/coronavirus-federal-prison-mdc-mcc-new-york/>

### **Desperation in Detention: The number of hunger strikes grow, as people protest their incarceration amid the rapidly spreading coronavirus**

“Washington, DC — Today, news broke of a hunger strike at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Rhode Island that began on Saturday with approximately 60 people participating, while across the country there are over 60 immigrant women who are on hunger strike at the Northwest Detention Center in Washington state. Two weeks since the first person in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody tested positive for coronavirus, hunger strikes are growing across the country as people are refusing food amidst the fear of exposure.

“We are trapped,” said a person on hunger strike at the Wyatt detention center via a telephone conversation with Rev. Annie Gonzalez Milliken on April 5th. “You don’t know which way to turn around, who to speak to. God forbid, sooner or later, the corona[virus] is going to hit here.”

Full audio of the recorded telephone conversation with the Wyatt hunger striker on April 5th available here <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11BnT5z0C8unjpIuPbUM7gOAVsTA6WbMP/view?usp=sharing>

For full article see <https://t.e2ma.net/message/nr8lpq/nv30oq>

### **First Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Women's Prisons — Advocates Demand Action**

“California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) joins with Young Women's Freedom Center and the Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition to demand immediate action in response to the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff in California's two largest women's prisons: California Institution for Women (CIW) & Central California Women's Facility (CCWF). After weeks of community pressure and outcry, including direct requests for action from the wardens of both prisons, no significant efforts

have been made to provide life-saving supplies or to accelerate releases for those at highest risk of deadly infection. In the absence of response, staff recently tested positive for COVID-19 at CCWF and CIW. Conditions in prisons prevent social distancing, preventable deaths are already commonplace, and overcrowding in dormitory-based cells disproportionately impacts people in California's women's prisons." See: Young Women's Freedom Center

### Coronavirus Puts a Prison Under Siege

"FCI Oakdale, "a prison under siege" from COVID-19. Feverish, coughing prisoners weren't separated from the cellmates who tried to fashion masks from their own clothing. Then federal officials belatedly arrived and handed out paper masks before running out of coronavirus tests. Union officials representing corrections workers are furious, and residents of the nearby Louisiana town are worried the virus has come into their homes and businesses." See <https://www.wsj.com/articles/inside-oakdale-prison-our-sentences-have-turned-into-death-sentences-11586191030>

### California Activists March To End Life Without Parole

"Joanne Scheer, founder of the Felony Murder Elimination Project, and Kelly Savage, recently released after 23 years of incarceration, speak about how racial, gender and age disparities relate to life without parole (LWOP)." See <https://therealnews.com/stories/california-activists-march-end-life-without-parole-sentence>

### Coronavirus Puts a Prison Under Siege

"As virus spread at Oakdale prison, healthy inmates weren't always separated from sick ones; coughing echoed through the hallways." See <https://www.wsj.com/articles/inside-oakdale-prison-our-sentences-have-turned-into-death-sentences>

## BLACK IS BACK COALITION TO HOST 2 - DAY WEBINAR ON COVID-19-The Black is Back Coalition for Social Justice, Peace and Reparations to Host 2-Day Webinar on US Elections and COVID-19

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: BLACK PEOPLE FIGHT BACK! WEBCONFERENCE**

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**Black is Back**

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Sat April 11 | 10am-2pm EST |  
Sun April 12 | 10am-1pm EST |

“What: Black People Fight Back: COVID-19 When: April 11 and 12, 2020 Where: Zoom Web Conference. Contact: Black is Back Coalition for Social Justice, Peace, and Reparations by emailing us at [info@blackisbackcoalition.org](mailto:info@blackisbackcoalition.org) or you can reach Black is Back’s Media Coordinator, David Lance by phone: 727-768-5920, or Black is Back Coalition’s Vice Chair Lisa Davis at 973-517-140 The Coalition will host a special online event to address the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on April 11 and 12, 2020.

The Black is Back Coalition condemns the US government's use of COVID-19 as a weapon to exact sanctions to further cripple other countries as well as the domestically colonized population of African and other peoples inside of US borders. The Coalition recognizes this pandemic as part of the ongoing aggression being made by US imperialism in the form of Donald Trump which most recently has included attacks on the government and peoples of Iran, Bolivia, Venezuela and China - to name a few. The Coalition also recognizes the pandemic as another symptom of colonialism as it has disproportionately affected the black community at home and abroad and it is also evidence of the deepening crisis of US imperialism that we must organize to fight back!

Panelists include Chairman Omali Yeshitela, Chair of the African People’s Socialist Party and the Black is Back Coalition, Vice Chair Lisa Davis, Glen Ford, Zaki Baruti, Kamm Howard, and Diop Olugbala. Visit [www.blackisbackcoalition.org](http://www.blackisbackcoalition.org) for more info!”

**Oscar Lopez Rivera, Puerto Rican former Political Prisoner -Thurs., April 9 from 9:00-10:00 PM EDT** (WBAI, 99.5 FM (NY/NJ/CT) or [wbai.org](http://wbai.org) (A noncommercial, listener-sponsored Pacifica station, dedicated to peace and justice) Available on audio archive after the show at <https://www.wbai.org/archive/> (scroll down to Where We Live, Thurs., 9 PM)

“Sally O’Brien will be airing an interview with Oscar López Rivera, on “Where We Live”, WBAI, from UC Davis by Tiana Williams, KDVS on Feb. 20th NorthWest Coast Tour, “Oscar López Rivera - Two Years Later: Resistance and Resilience”

Two years after his release as a political prisoner for 36 years, Oscar López Rivera is returning to share his current work in Puerto Rico post hurricanes and earthquakes.

Since his release he founded the “Oscar López Rivera Foundation, Libertá”, through which he has been leading efforts to strengthen grassroots community organizing, demanding the auditing and cancellation of the island’s imposed debt and advocating for Puerto Rico’s sovereignty.”

### **Genocide in the Making: Mass Incarceration and the Coronavirus... Death Sentences Waiting to Happen**

“We could be about to witness the death penalty being given to thousands of people in America’s prisons. The 2.3 million people locked down in America’s prisons (about 60 percent Black or Latino) are being forced to face the deadly corona virus without consistent access to soap and water, without masks, with no ability to do “social distancing.” Many whose crimes were as petty as drug use or stealing a bicycle, and many who haven’t been convicted but just can’t pay bail. And all of whom are human beings now facing mass death if things continue as they are.” See <https://revcom.us/a/642/mass-incarceration-and-the-coronavirus-en.html>

### **Palestinian women prisoners: The continuing struggle for freedom** April 11, 2020

“Today, there are 43 imprisoned Palestinian women and girls in Israeli jails. Many of them suffer from health issues, and the global pandemic of COVID-19 poses a significant threat, especially as they are held under harsh condition at Damon prison, previously a stable for animals. Palestinian women behind Israeli bars represent all facets of Palestinian society: parliamentarians, leaders, journalists, social workers, activists, students, mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, caregivers, health workers and many more. Throughout the history of the Palestinian cause, Palestinian women have been at the center of the

liberation movement in all aspects of struggle and have played a particularly meaningful role in the prisoners' movement behind bars historically, leading hunger strikes and continuing the struggle for freedom. Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Movement salutes the leading role of Palestinian women in the struggle and urges the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails." See <https://samidoun.net/2020/04/palestinian-women-prisoners-the-continuing-struggle-for-freedom/>

### **“Covid Breached the Wall and Killed A Man Yesterday” Trying to stay alive in Sing Sing.**

“It’s late March, and I am at my table on Sing Sing’s A-block yard. I want to call my wife, but I am wary of being in a caged area, shoulder to shoulder with 23 other guys on the phone. I have my bleach and water concoction in a little earwax remover bottle and stack of paper towels in my pocket, ready to wipe the receiver. A paper towel covers my mouth. A big rubber band wraps around my ears, keeping it in place. Rubber gloves are on my hands. My buddy, a porter back in the cell block, provided me with the PPE.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/14/covid-breached-the-wall-and-killed-a-man-yesterday>

### **The Judge Will See You On Zoom, But The Public Is Mostly Left Out**

**Volunteers who monitor courts across the country say they are getting little access to online-only proceedings.**

“When Spencer Clauson, a student at Tulane University in New Orleans, signed up to be a volunteer court watcher earlier this year, he expected to sit in courtrooms to help track things like the bonds set or the race of defendants. It’s how the nonprofit group Court Watch NOLA gathers data on the decisions judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys make. But Clauson recently found himself on a speakerphone call, struggling to follow along as a judge on the other end of the call ran court using a separate video conference platform—a new reality in courts across the country as they have shut their doors and moved online in response to the coronavirus pandemic.” See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/13/the-judge-will-see-you-on-zoom-but-the-public-is-mostly-left-out>

### **Update on the coronavirus in Gaza- Thursday, April 9 at 10am EST**



“Mondoweiss' Palestine correspondent, Yumna Patel, will speak with Dr. Medhat Abbas, the Director General of Primary Care for the Ministry of Health in Gaza about the public health situation in Gaza. They will be joined by Dr. Alice Rothchild, member of the Jewish Voice for Peace Health Advisory Council.” See [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9615862749760/WN\\_crCFKtNGRA-yVgTcfdE0ig](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9615862749760/WN_crCFKtNGRA-yVgTcfdE0ig)

### **Ways to Use The Freedom Archives and Stay Connected**

“Dear Friends, Family, Comrades and Supporters,

We hope this finds you physically, mentally and spiritually well. During this trying time we're particularly thinking about our loved ones most affected by covid-19 and send strength and solidarity to those collaborating across borders and bars; advocating for our societies' most vulnerable and continuing the struggle for self-determination and a better tomorrow. As we all continue to adjust to life during a pandemic, we wanted to reach out and let you know about ways to stay connected to the stories of struggle and resistance. **Ways to Use Our Archives and Stay Connected:**

Explore our 3000+ digitized documents. Recently added collections include California Prison Struggles; Prison Newspapers and The MLN-M (The Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional-Mexicano) Watch the over 80 videos. From Cointelpro Extra Features to The Looters in Concert to Interviews with Political Prisoners; there's so much so see. Use our curricula to learn, teach and facilitate online education! Check out the Symbols of Resistance curriculum to pair with the documentary or use as a stand-alone resource. We're still sending out unique and important social movement news and information on our email lists. You can also follow us on Facebook and check back to our website for updates, new materials and resources.

Nathaniel and Claude”

### **COVID-19 Cases- 31 BOP facilities and 6 RRCs affected nationwide**

“As of 04/07/2020, there are 241 federal inmates and 73 BOP staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 nationwide. There have been 8 federal inmate deaths and 0 BOP staff member deaths attributed to COVID-19 disease.” See <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/>

### **How prison prepared them for a pandemic-Keeplocked” in a pandemic.**

“Keri Blakinger and Lawrence Bartley, formerly incarcerated people now on staff at The Marshall Project, each have a special perspective on “shelter-in-place” orders, quarantines and the other ways in which we’ve self-isolated as COVID-19 bears down. “I find myself doing all the things I did in prison, like rocking back and forth when I go to sleep,” Blakinger writes. Bartley, on the other hand, says he’s taking things largely in stride now because the conditions of his confinement in New York were far worse. “I gladly take the full 20 seconds to wash my hands with the warm water I was deprived of for 27 years,” he writes. In collaboration with The Root, Bartley shares his story.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/07/how-27-years-in-prison-prepared-me-for-coronavirus>

### **Prevention plan to protect prison population in Cuba**

“Havana, Apr 6 (Prensa Latina) The Department of Penitentiary of the Ministry of the Interior (MININT) is currently applying a plan to prevent and confront the new coronavirus, as part of the combat against Covid-19 in Cuba. This plan is being applied in all penitentiary centers and includes a protocol for inmates, security guards and workers. It involves preventive actions, timely medical care, systematic screenings and the establishment of isolation areas, according to MININT. Regarding the admission areas to the prisons, health specialists medically check inmates before entering, where they have substances required for controlling hand-washing. The plan includes actions for training all personnel and the implementation of preventive hygienic-epidemiological measures for these institutions.” See <https://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=54285&SEO=prevention-plan-to-protect-prison-population-in-cuba>

### **COVID-19 Ravages Communities Marginalized By White Supremacy**

‘America’s legacy of white supremacy has marginalized Black communities with redlining, segregation, poverty, and lack of access. Combating the history of abuse and mistrust is key to surviving the COVID-19 pandemic.’ See <https://therealnews.com/stories/coronavirus-risk-black-communities-legacy-white-supremacy>

### **DOJ seeks new emergency powers amid coronavirus pandemic-One of the requests to Congress would allow the department to petition a judge to indefinitely detain someone during an emergency.**

‘The Justice Department has quietly asked Congress for the ability to ask chief judges to detain people indefinitely without trial during emergencies — part of a push for new powers that comes as the novel coronavirus spreads throughout the United States. Documents reviewed by POLITICO detail the department’s requests to lawmakers on a host of topics, including the statute of limitations, asylum and the way court hearings are conducted. POLITICO also reviewed and previously reported on documents seeking the authority to extend deadlines on merger reviews and prosecutions.’ See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-7-apr-2020.pdf>

### **Ramsey Orta denied basic safety measures in Solitary Confinement as COVID-19 virus spreads**

‘Ramsey Orta and other inmates in the New York State Prison system are extremely vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. If Governor Cuomo does not act now, it will be blood on his hands. by Jacob Crawford (Indybay). Our lives changed on July 17, 2014 as images were broadcast across the globe of Staten Island plain clothes officers choking Eric Garner to death. For Ramsey Ora, the young man who filmed the killing, it would start a cycle of state sponsored repression that continues to this very day. After the release of the Eric Garner video, Ramsey was targeted and arrested by NYPD officers on trumped up gun charges and only a few months later was also indicted on multiple drug charges. It didn’t stop there. While locked up on Rikers Island, Ramsey, along with other inmates, was able to document that yes, rat poison had intentionally been put in their food.’ See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-7-apr-2020.pdf>

### **New York City Jails Have an Alarmingly High Infection Rate, According to an Analysis by the Legal Aid Society**

‘The novel coronavirus is spreading through New York City jails much faster than through the city as a whole, according to an analysis released yesterday by the Legal Aid Society. by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg (The Appeal)-The infection rate at city jails is 14.51 per 1,000 people, according to the analysis. That’s more than seven times higher than the rate in New York City, which has become a national epicenter of the pandemic, and where about 2 of every 1,000 people are infected.’ See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-7-apr-2020.pdf>

### **Eric King: Incarcerated Anti-Fascists Report Targeted Beatings by Guards**

‘The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is targeting Eric King, an unapologetically vocal anti-fascist, yogi and poet who has been incarcerated since September 2014, for his political beliefs. On March 10, 2020, Sandra Freeman, King’s lawyer, filed a motion requesting a hearing related to ongoing abuse against her client and interference with the attorney-client relationship. ‘The institutional interference with my relationship with my client and our ability to prepare for trial is ongoing and unlike anything I have previously experienced during my time as an attorney in multiple jurisdictions,’ Freeman wrote in the filing. Lt. Donald Wilcox ordered King to attend a private ‘interview’ in a prison storage room at FCI Florence in Colorado on August 17, 2018, according to a statement written by

King. Lieutenant Wilcox works in the Special Investigative Services (SIS) unit, a shadowy nationwide department that investigates and surveils people who are deemed threats within the BOP system. The lieutenant yelled about his hatred for terrorists and screamed bizarre, false statements, including that King had killed Wilcox's daughters. King wrote that the lieutenant threatened "all sorts of vigilante justice to have me raped and killed.... He made this gurgling noise and spit on me and shoved me and began to attack me." King allegedly punched Wilcox back in self-defense. Four more guards reportedly dragged King into the hallway and repeatedly kicked him in the head, face, stomach and ribs while yelling death threats. He was tied to a four-point restraint for eight hours in a pool of his own blood and urine, and was repeatedly denied medical care, mail and lawyer visits (long before visits were restricted due to COVID-19). He has experienced "tingling in his limbs, headaches, blurred vision and nausea daily" since this incident, his legal defense fundraiser states."

<https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/updates-7-apr-2020.pdf>

### **US Could Safely Release Three Out of Four Prisoners-Black Agenda Radio**

"Although Illinois has responded to the Covid-19 epidemic by releasing about 500 state prison inmates, "the scope of the releases is way too small and way too slow, said Alan Mills, executive director of Chicago's Uptown Peoples Law Center, which has called for letting 13,000 prisoners ride out the epidemic at home. "You could safely release 75 percent" of the two million incarcerated people in the US, said Mills." See <https://www.blackagendareport.com/us-could-safely-release-three-out-four-prisoners>

### **San Francisco Sends 40 Percent of Jail Inmates Home** 13 Apr 2020

"Chesa Boudine, the leftish district attorney for San Francisco, claims to have reduced the jail population by nearly 40 percent since the onslaught of the epidemic. "That has created the conditions for the jail medical team to implement some level of social distancing, to isolate people who show symptoms, and to find ways to meet the medical needs of folks who have other medical conditions besides Covid-19," said Boudine, whose 75 year-old father, David Gilbert, is serving time for the 1981 Brinks armored car robbery in New York: See <https://www.blackagendareport.com/san-francisco-sends-40-percent-jail-inmates-home>

### **Prison uprising put down as US inmates demand protection from coronavirus**

"Prison officials thwarted an uprising of dozens of inmates at the Lansing correctional facility in Kansas on Friday, the latest example of unrest in US prisons amid concern about rising numbers of coronavirus infections among inmates. The prisoners ransacked offices, broke windows and set small fires for several hours before the facility was secured. Randy Bowman, spokesman for the Kansas department of corrections, confirmed to the Associated Press that the incident began on Thursday afternoon in a medium-security cell house. By late evening, some inmates had given up or gone back to their cells. The Lansing corrections department recently reported more than a dozen staff and 12 inmates had tested positive for Covid-19 at the facility." See <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/10/us-prisons-coronavirus-uprising-riot#maincontent>

## **In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Campaign**

Jericho is spearheading the "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela" IT (International Tribunal) 2021 campaign proposed by political prisoner and co-founder of the National Jericho Movement Jalil Abdul

Muntaqim. This initiative appeals to the international community, including the International Commission of Jurists, to call for special hearings within the United Nations to review the cases of Political Prisoners. Several meetings have already occurred in collaboration with interested others, and much headway is being made regarding organizing efforts. The campaign "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela" is busy framing ideas about how to proceed with the charges for a tribunal and then bring that to main committee and start getting professionals involved nationally.

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

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

**Get Ready for I.T. 2021!**



# I.T. 2021

(International Tribunal October 2021)

Dear Friend,

Please begin to prepare for the “International Tribunal” organized by the *In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Coalition*. At this early date we solicit your assistance in the brainstorming, planning, and donating. We value your input and what you do and have done for the movement and championing real issues impacting communities across America, prisons, and people of color. In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Initiative is the brainchild of Freedom Fighter and Political Prisoner Jalil Abdulmuntaqim (Anthony Bottom). Hopefully you will agree to assist, and if you do, please feel free to engage at your own level of comfort and capacity.

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

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

**Outcomes**

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

**Contact your local Representative or:**

**Jihad Abdulmumit**

**Outreach Committee Representative**

[jihadabdulmumit@gmail.com](mailto:jihadabdulmumit@gmail.com)

<https://spiritofmandela.org/>

**804-304-8595**

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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.”

NYC Jericho met on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, noon to 3pm to work on the campaign "In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela/I.T. 2021". Due to Covid19, we are restructuring our meetings to online. For future meeting contact [\*\*nycjericho@gmail.com\*\*](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\*\*](http://spiritofmandela.org)

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

Racial Discrimination and the International Jurists. Please see links and Docs at:

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

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

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

### “Greetings of Peace!

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

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

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

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

- Build political and legal pressure to call for the release of Political Prisoners

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

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

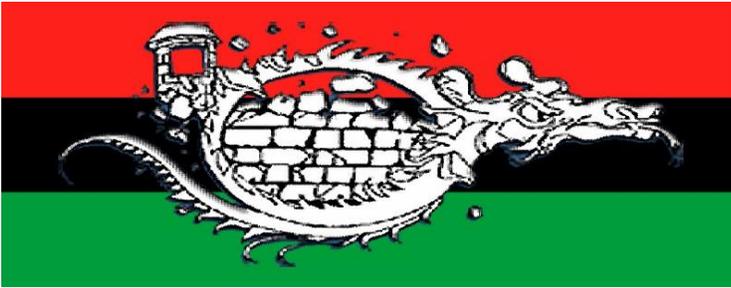
Your input is valued at any level.

In solidarity,

The National Jericho Movement

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela Coalition”

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



## Moving Forward

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

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

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

## Gratitude and Appreciation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Free all Political Prisoners!

In Struggle and Gratitude, The National Jericho Movement

**Please consider signing up to be a being a Monthly Sustainer!  
Your Generous Contributions**

## **Help Us Provide Real Support to our Political Prisoners!**

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

There are two ways to donate:

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

**National Jericho Treasury**

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

**Ashanti Alston**

[162 Miller Ave](#)

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

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

**Alliance for Global Justice**

**Please make the check out to:**

**Alliance for Global Justice/The National**

**Jericho Movement**

**Subject Line: Jericho**

**Mail to:**

**David Archuleta**

**Alliance for Global Justice**

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

[Tucson, Arizona 85713](#)

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