

## The Dragons Fire



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

**Ho Chi Minh**

### **THE NATIONAL JERICHO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER**

**in Fierce Determination Since 1996**

**Dec 15, 2020-Jan 15, 2021, Vol. 34**

<http://www.thejerichomovement.com>

**P.O. Box 2164 Chesterfield, Virginia 23832**

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## **Revolutionary Greetings,**

Welcome to our National Jericho Movement Newsletter. Thank you to all of our members and affiliates 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.

**“Nations neglect no people more shamefully than the heroes of their wars.”**

**“Each of generations has to evolve a strong base  
to win freedom of our Exiles, Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War.”**

**Dr. Mutulu Shakur**

## 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 with and assist their families. We monitor health & legal status and provide support and intervention. We hold political education classes, table at events, travel to give presentations, interviews and speak on radio shows.

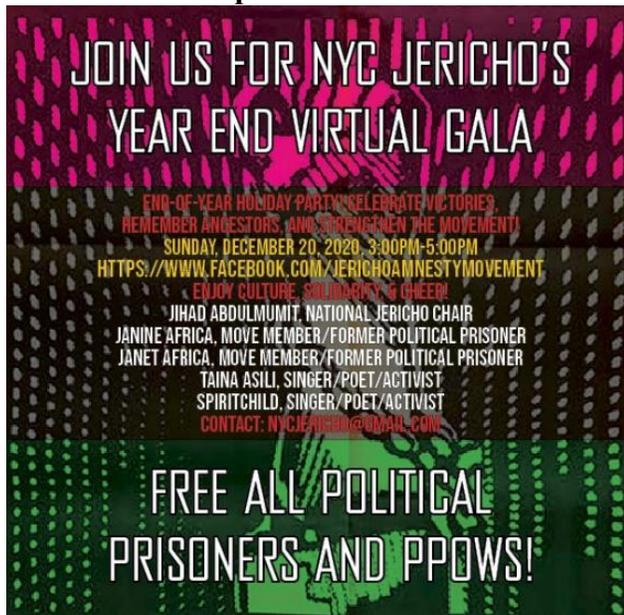
We are actively involved in collaborating with and supporting other organizations and events which are in alignment with our missions and values to break down walls of injustice, racism, oppression, and Free our Political Prisoners. Jericho meetings and teleconferences occur during the month nationwide.

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

Jericho welcomes our newly elected Vice-Chair, Frank Velgara. For over 10 years Frank has been an active member of our NYC Jericho Chapter. Frank has been active in the Puerto Rican Liberation Movement since the early 70's. He is currently Co-Chair of The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, a member of Call to Action on Puerto Rico and a leading activist in the Cuba and Latin America Solidarity Movements. He is a member of National Agent Orange Campaign Board and is an active member of Ministry of Solidarity with the Peoples of Holyrood Episcopal Church in NYC.

## Jericho Highlights and Tributes

**Join Jericho NYC for an afternoon of Culture, Celebration, and SOLIDARITY! Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020 from 3 to 5 p.m.**



**See post event video here!!!**

<https://fb.watch/2wNvS8PpRB/> Streaming live on FB

‘Celebrate the release of political prisoners in 2020! Enjoy our incredible cultural presentations! HELP FUND OUR WORK! Your donations will help our work grow! With: Jihad Abdulmumit, Jericho National Chair, former Political Prisoner, Janine and Janet Africa, former MOVE Political Prisoners, SpiritChild, Singer/Poet/Activist Taina Asili, Singer/Poet /Activist, More to be Announced.’



## Political Prisoners/ Prisoners of War

### Medical Updates

**Kojo Grailing Brown (Bomani Sabubu) :** Kojo is still under quarantine for infection from the virus. He states he is currently “fine and feeling much better, the virus is criminal to your body and causes much discomfort. They only gave Gatorade, I suppose due to the dehydration you go through. I am currently okay except for breathing. Give solidarity to all. Kojo”

**Russell Maroon Shoats:** Maroon had surgery to remove a tumor from his colon around Dec 26-details to follow.

**Jaan Laaman:** We were recently informed that Jaan also has Covid. Update to follow.

**Kamau Sidiki-** Kamau has a bad infection in his leg. It is not being addressed. His daughter reached out on his behalf to put pressure on the wounds not being dealt with. (See call to action below).

**Bill Dunne:** Bill has COVID. At this point it is not a major case, but he has been sicker than they expected.

**Ed Poindexter:** Ed is currently undergoing kidney dialysis but not tolerating it well. His priority is to get a kidney transplant.

### Legal Updates

**Mumia Abu Jamal:** “Today, the PA Supreme Court issued an Order dismissing Maureen Faulkner's King's Bench Petition. Here is an excerpt from the Order: "AND NOW, this 16th day of December, 2020, the King's Bench petition is hereby DISMISSED in accordance with the special master's recommendation. The special master is directed to unseal the record in this matter. This Court's February 24, 2020 order staying all matters related to the underlying criminal case, Commonwealth v . Wesley Cook, a/k/a Mumia Abu-Jamal, No. 290 EDA 2019; CP-51-CR-0113571-1982, is hereby lifted." There was one dissenting PA Supreme Court Justice: Sally Updyke Mundy. What this means is that now, all pending appeals and motions in the PA Superior Court will move forward from where things were left off in February 2020 when the Supreme Court stayed all proceedings until it decided the King's Bench Petition. What had already happened, as of February 2020?

1. Mumia's attorneys submitted briefs re-arguing issues that were unconstitutionally dismissed by the PA Supreme Court over the course of almost two decades— on account of a conflict of interest on the part of PA Supreme Court Justice, Ronald Castille.

2. Mumia's attorneys asked the Superior Court to send the case back to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for review of the compelling new evidence of bribery and discrimination in jury selection discovered in the case.

What comes next? 1. The DA's Office will submit its briefs to the Superior Court. Hasta la Victoria, Johanna Fernández”

**Alvaro Luna Hernandez (Xinachtli):** Xinachtli is preparing for his (1st) upcoming 'Parole Review Hearing,' on July 18, 2021. Please see call to action below.

**Sundiata Acoli:** Jericho met with attorneys and a few other folks from the Jersey area to focus on

Sundiata turning 84 next month in relationship to his appeal. Appeal was filed Jan 11-2021.

**Ed Poindexter:** Please continue to do the Ten Day Action Call for Ed Poindexter (see call to Action below). The Unitarian church committed to make calls. It will be another ten-day period. Ed is now responding more and seems like he is getting back in touch, encouraged by the support he is receiving. Release plan is being developed with a new attorney.

**Leonard Peltier:** Coleman just opened back up for visitation. Leonard has had his first visit since the lockdown there lifted. Social distancing visits are in effect. However, at this point there are no legal rooms big enough to accommodate visits from lawyers.

**Michael Markus "Rattler":** "Water Protector political prisoner Rattler released from prison. Despite Rattler's compassionate release being denied by the federal courts, and the prison as well as federal probation offices refusing to look into Rattler's legal change of address to be housed with family during the pandemic, Rattler was made to get on a public plane (regular commercial airliner, not Bureau of Prisons personal airlines) despite his attorney being physically present to pick him up to have safe travel and limiting exposure during the pandemic. We are unsure if he was tested again for COVID before being put on the plane, but he has reported having no more symptoms since his contraction of COVID at Sandstone federal prison last month. He is now in ND heading for the halfway house for the next 6 months. We will update his mailing address for support mail. Any donations can be added to his Support Committee- PayPal [www.paypal.me/siouxic](http://www.paypal.me/siouxic) and messages for him can be sent to this Facebook page. See <http://www.abcf.net/blog/water-protector-political-prisoner-rattler-released-from-prison/> More via <https://www.facebook.com/FreeRattler> <https://www.freerattlernodapl.com>

**Mumia Abu Jamal:** "Mumia Gets a New Chance to Challenge His Murder Conviction." "State Supreme Court rejects Faulkner Widow's 'Evidence-Free' Effort to Block Mumia Appeal Abu-Jamal, the prison journalist long known as the "voice of the voiceless" for his compelling writings and short audio tapes about life behind bars, moved a step closer to getting a chance for a reconsideration of his earliest appeal of his conviction —an allegedly flawed Post-Conviction Relief Act hearing in 1995, as well as three other later PCRA appeals of aspects his case, all ignored and their findings rejected by Pennsylvania's appellate courts under spurious conditions." See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/updates-12-jan-2020.pdf>

## Other Political Prisoner Updates

**Veronza Bowers:** Veronza sends everyone greetings. He is very upset with other prisoners not social distancing, not wearing masks, and then becoming very sick. He is trying to quarantine.

**Sundiata Acoli:** Update from Sundiata: "Just a little bit late HAPPY Kwanzaa, Solstice, New Year etc to all with much love and struggle always. Sundiata"

**Maroon Shoatz** "It's 2021! We bring you news of Maroon's health, upcoming events surrounding his freedom and Maroon's recent essay expressing solidarity with the Cuban people and support for the [Henry Reeve Medical Brigade](#). The best news is that Maroon finally had his long awaited cancer surgery a couple weeks ago and is recovering well. He is in high spirits and back at SCI-Dallas. He sends his love, solidarity and gratitude for everything - all the wishes, money, community organizing, etc - everything that so many of you have extended on his behalf. After Maroon was diagnosed with Covid in December a new coalition sprang into action. Members from NYC, Philly, Pittsburgh, Texas and beyond have been meeting weekly to plan cultural events, online



workshops, social media actions and in person events! To join our weekly meetings or organizing email list serve - contact [marroonconnect@gmail.com](mailto:marroonconnect@gmail.com)"

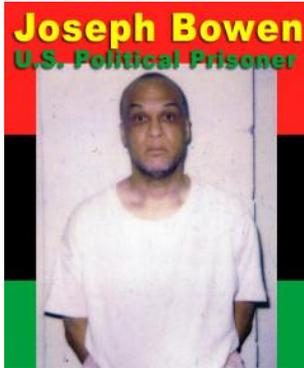
**Reminder:** USP Canaan is now using Smart Communications like the PA DOC. That means mail for someone in a federal prison needs to be sent to Florida so this company can scan and email back to the prison in PA. This will likely spread in the Bureau of Prisons.

<https://www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/caa/>

## Birthdays: Please Send a Card!

### *January Birthdays!*

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



Contact Information/Prison Address

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

Affiliation: Black Liberation Army

Captured: 1973: Life Without Parole

"Unless I do something to get myself out of this hole, these people will keep me in this hole until I am dead."

- JoJo Bowen, who has been in solitary confinement for 26 years.

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



Affiliation: Anarchist and Earth First!

Contact Information/Prison Address

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

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

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marius\\_Mason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marius_Mason)

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



Contact Information/Prison Address

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

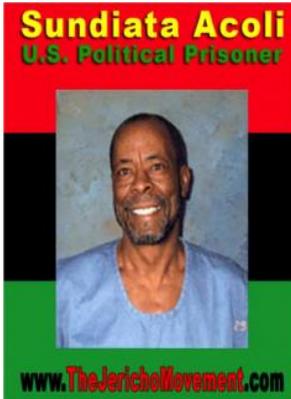
Captured 1972--8 Life Sentences

A history of the "Virgin Island Five", a group of activists accused of murdering eight people in the U.S. 15 Virgin Islands. The murders took place during a turbulent period of rebellion on the Islands. The island was put under virtual martial law, and eventually five men: Ismail Ali, Warren (Aziz) Ballantine, Meral (Malik) Smith, Raphael (Kwesi) Joseph, and Hanif Shabazz Bey were apprehended and then charged with the attack. All the men were known supporters of the Virgin Island independence movement. The five were charged

after being subjected to vicious torture, in order to extract confessions. They were beaten, hung from their feet and necks from trees, subject to electric shocks with "cattle prods", had plastic bags tied over their heads and had water forced up their noses by the "defenders of the law."

The judge (Warren Young) overlooking the case prior to being placed on the federal bench worked as Rockefeller's private attorney and even handled legal matters for the Fountain Valley Golf Course. Eventually, the five went to trial in what became known as the "Fountain Valley" murder trial. This was an obvious Kangaroo Court and a mockery of any sense of a fair trial." <http://abcf.net/abc/pdfs/vi5.pdf>

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



Affiliation: Black Panther Party-New African

Contact Information/Prison Address

#39794-066 (\*Address envelope to Clark Squire), FCI Cumberland, P.O. Box 1000, Cumberland, MD 21501

Captured: 1973- Life Sentence

"The Parole Board's stated reason for the 20-year hit was Sundiata's membership in the Black Panther

Party and the Black Liberation Army prior to his arrest and the receipt of hundreds of "Free Sundiata"

form letters that characterized him as a New Afrikan Prisoner of War."

<http://SundiataAcoli.org> For complete article see:

<https://www.thejerichomovement.com/profile/acoli-sundiata-clark-squire>

## ***December Birthdays!***

### **Fred "Muhammad" Burton-Birthday: December 15, 1946**



Affiliation: Black Unity Council

AF 3896, Smart Communications/PA DOC, SCI Somerset, Post Office Box 33028, St Petersburg, FL 33733

Captured: 1972: Life without Parole

Perhaps even more relevant is the joining of your intention to see Mr. Burton free with the same collective intention that we have been fostering and growing through Mr. Burton's family and through our greater communities. Your simple thought can change reality for Mr. Burton. We believe that. Thank you for your support.

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



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

## Chairman's Corner

JANUARY 2021

As-salaamu 'alaykum. I pray to Allah that this year will be full of good health, progress for yourself personally and for the Movement as a whole, better mutual understanding and working relationships between various organizations and formations, happiness, peace within our souls as we do the work we do, increase in our faith and commitments, and freedom for all Freedom Fighters. The bum-rush on the Capital has affected us in different ways, but at the end of the day, regardless of how we analyze it, we are left with the reality of the need to focus on "self-determination." Self-determination may mean different things to different people, but for us here at Jericho it means to be able to build, develop, protect, and sustain our own communities; and to create viable means of healthy and wholesome self-sufficiency within a society where the poor and working-class people do not control the means of production and of which we are very dependent upon the institutions and mechanisms of this capitalist society. To be self-determined and self-reliant means to provide for all the means of life and livelihood for yourself and community to live and thrive. Let us do better in working with each other in 2021!  
Love and Respect,

Jihad Abdulmumit

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

### From Kojo Grailing Brown (Bomani Sabubu) to NYC Jericho on 12/21/20

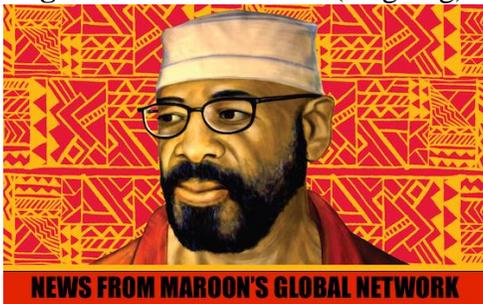
"Greetings, since 23 November I have been under quarantine for infection from the virus. This is my first day I been able to use the computer. That virus spread though this place at rapid speed. You feel like flu invaded your body and your breathing becomes intense. Chills and other related problems come with the virus. All these people did was give us gatoraid and temperature checks. Currently I am fine and trying to get out of this unit they put us in. Say hello the to c'rades and spread regards. Kojo"

### From Kojo on 12/23/20

"Currently fine and feeling much better, the virus is criminal to your body and causes much discomfort. They only gave gatoraid I suppose due to the dehydration you go through. I am currently okay except for breathing. Give solidarity to all. Kojo"

## Community Calls for Action

### Urgent action needed!!! (Ongoing)



"Our beloved elder Russell Maroon Shoatz, suffering stage 4 cancer for the last year and a half, has now been diagnosed with COVID-19. This infection is no doubt a result of the "full-blown resurgence" of the virus in Pennsylvania state prisons, and the callous disregard shown by prison authorities to elderly and infirm incarcerated people, including withheld testing and unhygienic isolation of those who report symptoms. Maroon is

asking that all supporters call the office of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and demand his immediate, unconditional release, as well as that of ALL elderly prisoners infected with COVID-19. Please call (717) 787-2500 beginning the morning of Monday, November 16, and keep the pressure on!

Russell Maroon Shoatz #AF-3855

All PA-based organizations, please sign a community letter demanding the immediate release of Russell Maroon Shoatz <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScx2SeLR-Z1f3XLp0F9Bop-PRDZyVKbldUwh7wker97yr7D-Mw/viewform>

New Go-Fund Me to support the Shoatz Family <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-shoatz-family-fighting-injustice>

For sample tweets and graphics, check out the #FreeMaroon Social media kit

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MAFFFcapISjN2MdoL0eYSQomEaKoW30PezJHNIVkSf8/edit>

Continue to Call Governor Tom Wolfe Contact: (717) 787-2500

Russell Shoatz's health is rapidly deteriorating. DOC#AF3855 and demand Immediate Release of Russell Maroon Shoatz. They track the calls from different phones and how many times the same number calls so please keep calling and activate your networks.

Our sincere gratitude for all of your support. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CHI851FhiAm/>

ABOVE ALL ELSE KNOWTHYSELF

Russell Shoatz III"

## Demand Freedom for Ed Poindexter (ongoing)

"Ed Poindexter finally filed his application for commutation of sentence on August 17. At the August Pardons Board meeting, Dr. Topolski, a new supporter, asked the governor to expedite Ed's application because of the risk of covid19. The governor said he wasn't inclined to let anybody "jump in line" (there are 49 other applications for sentence commutations) but he also said that didn't mean that Ed



### Ed's Story

In April of 1971, Edward Poindexter and Mondo we Langa, formerly David Rice, were sentenced to life in prison for the death of an Omaha police officer- a crime they did not commit. The two were targeted by law enforcement and wrongfully convicted due to their affiliation with the Black Panther Party, a civil rights and anti-fascist political group.

Nearly 50 years later, Ed is still in prison and maintains his innocence. He has earned several college degrees, taught anti-violence classes to youth, authored screenplays, and more. His last chance for freedom is to receive a commutation of sentence from the Nebraska Board of Pardons. At age 75, he is at high risk for COVID related health complications. He must receive an immediate and expedited commutation hearing from the Board.

### Take Action Now

Write, email and call the Nebraska Board of Pardons. Request that they expedite Ed's application, schedule his hearing for the October 2020 meeting and commute his sentence.

**WRITE:**  
Nebraska Board of Pardons  
P.O. Box 95007  
Lincoln, NE 68509

**EMAIL:**  
ne.pardonsboard@  
nebraska.gov

**CALL:**  
Governor Pete Ricketts  
402-471-2244  
SoS Robert B. Evnen  
402-471-2554  
AG Doug Peterson  
402-471-2683

\*please email a copy of your letter  
to [freedomfored@gmail.com](mailto:freedomfored@gmail.com)

### Sample Letter

Dear Pardons Board:

I am writing in regards to Edward Poindexter, #27767, who has served nearly 50 years in prison with exemplary behavior and many accomplishments. He is 75 years old and at high risk for COVID-19 related medical complications, which have been amplified by the increased COVID transmission rate among prisoners. I am therefore requesting that the Board expedite Ed's application, schedule his hearing for the October 2020 Board meeting, and commute his sentence to length of time served.

EMAIL: [freedomfored@gmail.com](mailto:freedomfored@gmail.com)

[f@freedom4ed](https://www.facebook.com/freedom4ed)

would not be on the agenda in October. (It turns out Ed will not be on the agenda in October. His case will probably be heard early next year.) Please share this campaign, write a letter to the Pardons Board and sign the online petition: <http://chng.it/vctskKv49k> Ed would be very grateful. We would also appreciate if you could send us a copy of your letter to: [freedomfored@gmail.com](mailto:freedomfored@gmail.com) Thank you so much for your decades of support for Ed, and for Mondo we Langa! You can read more about Ed here:

<https://prisonersolidarity.com/prisoner/edward-poindexter> PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION FOR ED: Here is the link to the Petition for Ed Poindexter. Please sign-- and also write to the Nebraska Pardons Board demanding commutation of Ed's life sentence to---Time Served! <http://chng.it/vctskKv49k> Please write a letter to the Pardons Board (and forward this), Ed would be very grateful. We would also appreciate if you could send us a copy of your letter to: [freedomfored@gmail.com](mailto:freedomfored@gmail.com) Thank you so much for your decades of support for Ed, and for Mondo we Langa!

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**WRITE:** Nebraska Board of Pardons, P.O. Box 95007, Lincoln, NE 68509

\*please email a copy of your letter to [freedomfored@gmail.com](mailto:freedomfored@gmail.com) EMAIL:

[ne.pardonsboard@nebraska.gov](mailto:ne.pardonsboard@nebraska.gov) CALL: Governor Pete Ricketts 402-471-2244 SoS Robert B. Evnen 402-471-2554 AG Doug Peterson 402-471-2683

**Sample Letter:** Dear Pardons Board: I am writing in regards to Edward Poindexter, #27767, who has served nearly 50 years in prison with exemplary behavior and many accomplishments. He is 75 years old and at high risk for COVID-19 related medical complications, which have been amplified by the increased COVID transmission rate among prisoners. I am therefore requesting that the Board expedite Ed's application, schedule his hearing for the October 2020 Board meeting, and commute his sentence to length of time served."

### Bring Imam Jamil Home In The Next 6-12 Months! organized by Kairi Al-Amin (Ongoing)



"As-Salaamu Alaikum, For 20+ years we've been fighting not just for the freedom of my father, H. Rap Brown/Imam Jamil, but also to prove his innocence. We are excited not only to have been able to accomplish one of these goals, but to be the closest we've ever been to accomplishing both! We believe we can bring the Imam home within the next 6-12 months but we need your help so please, give what you can as we make this last push for Freedom. My Name is Kairi Al-Amin, son of Imam Jamil Al-Amin and before we go any further, on behalf of myself, my father and my family I would

just like to say shukran/thank you . We have launched numerous campaigns over the last 20 years but the response to this one has been truly overwhelming and we would be remiss if we didn't show our appreciation so again, shukran/thank you and insha Allah our efforts will not be in vain this time. For 20 years we've pointed out all of the discrepancies and poked all of the holes in this case to no avail but Allah is the best of planners and He provided us with the circumstances that can free the Imam within the next 6-12 months. These circumstances include: A video of the actual perpetrator confessing under oath to the murder my father is currently serving life in prison for." (Watch The Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWXNr1BaI88&feature=youtu.be>

For rest of petition see; <https://www.change.org/p/fulton-county-district-attorney-paul-howard-new-trial-for-imam-jamil-al-amin-fka-h-rap-brown/u/27297316>

## Online Fundraiser for Joy Powell (ongoing)



“Joy's family recently covered some legal expenses in order to proceed to the next step in appealing her wrongful conviction. The online fundraiser is to cover these costs as well as any future costs for her support. We are still seeking options for pro bono counsel to keep these costs as low as possible, but even with pro bono representation there will be filing fees, legal visit costs, etc. Every dollar truly counts,

and Joy is very appreciative of everyone's support. The direct link for the fundraising page is <https://fundrazr.com/freejoypowell>, and we have added a link to her website at <https://www.freejoypowell.org/support/>. We also posted a link on the Facebook page for her (Free Joy Powell). Please share these with your social networks! Don't hesitate to let us know if there are any questions and THANK YOU for helping spread the word about this important step to secure Joy's freedom. -Philly ABC and NYC Jericho”

## Mutulu Shakur: Compassionate Release Efforts Renewed Due to COVID (ongoing)



“We are renewing the push to petition for compassionate release now that we have resubmitted an application for compassionate release due to the COVID diagnosis.

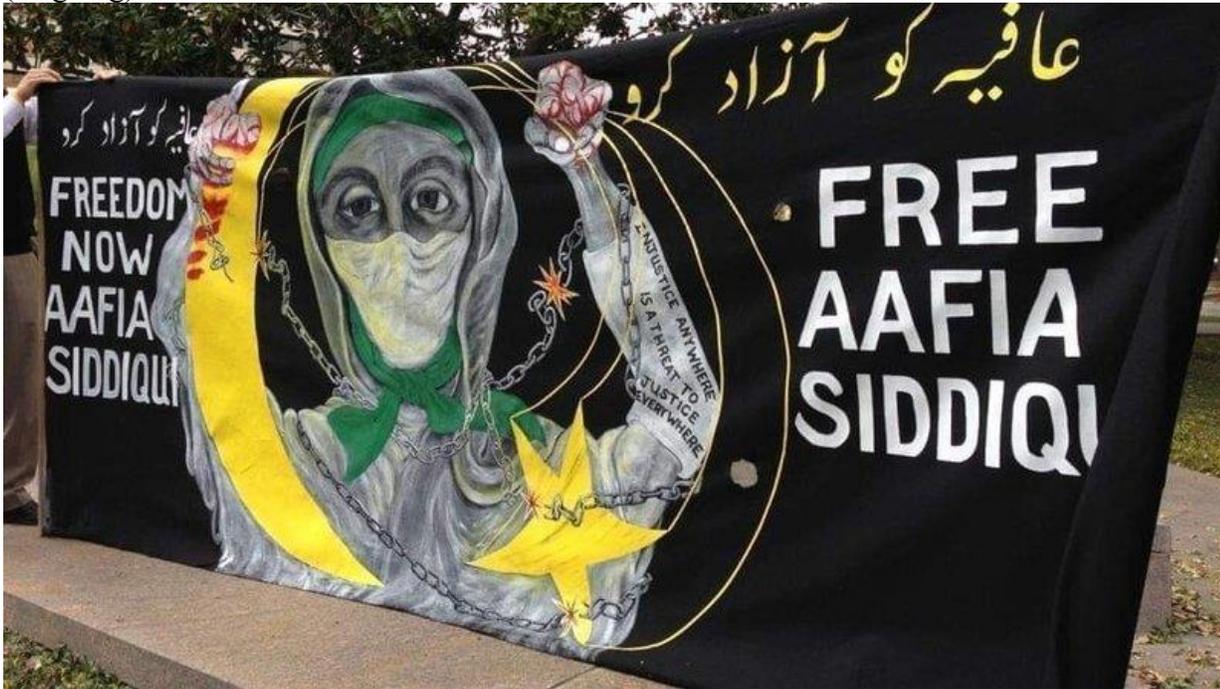
Please sign the online petition using the link if you haven't yet and continue to share it: Sign the Petition: [bit.ly/cr-petition](https://bit.ly/cr-petition)

We ask that you continue to keep him in your prayers.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please use the PayPal link for our fiscal sponsor by clicking here <https://cadnational.org/>. Then click on the very top donate button in the right sidebar of the CAD website (please indicate that donation is for Dr. Mutulu Shakur).

If you do not require your donation to be tax deductible, you can donate at [mutulushakur.com](https://mutulushakur.com). Just click on the donate button on the righthand side.

## Release or Home Confinement for Dr. Aafia Siddiqui from Coronavirus Infected Prison (Ongoing)



(Photo from <https://www.change.org/p/donald-j-trump-release-or-home-confinement-for-dr-aafia-siddiqui-from-coronavirus-infected-prison>)

“Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist, is serving an 86-year term at FMC Carswell. Carswell is a prison-cum-medical facility for female prisoners in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas. Other than Seagoville Prison, which is also located in Dallas-Fort Worth and has 1,359 cases, Carswell has the largest COVID-19 outbreak of any U.S. prison. According to the Bureau of Prisons own website, the number of reported cases there is 542. (Other sources place it even higher, at 571.) Carswell’s inmate population totals 1,357. That translates to an infection rate of 40% at the facility. Three female prisoners, Andrea Circle Bear, Sandra Kincaid, and Teresa Ely, have died from the virus at the facility. The deceased women were 30, 69, and 51-years of age, respectively. The 48-year old Dr. Siddiqui has been imprisoned since she was 31. She has been in very poor health for much of this time, including appearing in a wheel chair at her New York trial, due to the extremely harsh--some would say unlawful-- conditions of her capture as well as her incarceration. She is clearly at grave risk from COVID-19.” See <https://www.change.org/p/donald-j-trump-release-or-home-confinement-for-dr-aafia-siddiqui-from-coronavirus-infected-prison>

### Support SF Bay View -PLEASE DONATE NOW (ongoing)

“While the country’s mainstream press is slowly catching up to the issues and concerns of the Black community, the Bay View has long given a voice to Black San Franciscans since its inception in 1976. Please donate to keep the Bay View growing: Our GoFundMe is [https://www.gofundme.com/f/invest-in-liberation?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/invest-in-liberation?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1) “Invest in liberation, save the SF Bay View!” Support SF BayView with a donation to the Prisoners Subscription Fund: <https://sfbayview.com/donate/>. Prisoners say, “The Bay View keeps me alive,” and hundreds are waiting to be placed on the Bay View mailing list. Check the Bay View Calendar of Events daily <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=829hf98rkd77ervck14qft4gi4@group.calendar.google.com&pli=1>. You are sure to find an event that beckons you to get involved – and many are free! Find a friend among the Bay View Pen Pals, <https://sfbayview.com/category/enemylines/pen-pals/> who write, “I would love to hear my name at mail call.”

## Support Jacob Leidolf and Scope Apparel! Dec 15



Photo from: <https://www.facebook.com/jacob.leidolf>

serving life sentence without possibility of parole since he was captured in the year 2000.

We will be donating a portion of all proceeds made off this shirt to him and his family. If you would like to support or learn more please visit [whathappened2rap.com](http://whathappened2rap.com) "When the prison doors open the real dragon will fly out" ~ Ho Chi Minh #FreeThemAll #FreeAllPoliticalPrisoners #ScopeApparel #Art #Printmaking #monotype" See <https://www.facebook.com/jacob.leidolf> <https://scopeapparel.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/scopeapparel>

## Parole Letters Needed for Xinachtli Dec 15

"Xinachtli, as many of you know, means literally in English, "Seed," or, as Comrade "X" likes to phrase, it from a prisoner's perspective, "Germinating Seed" and s/n Alvaro Luna Hernandez, is a Chicano/Mexicano-Anarchist Communist and Anti-Imperialist Internationally-recognized Political Prisoner, has suffered long enough from a (50-year) bogus Aggravated Assault conviction rife with racist civil rights abuse and judicial misconduct. Presently, Xinachtli is preparing for his (1st) upcoming 'Parole Review Hearing,' on July 18, 2021. We are in need of help with a groundswell of support from the Prison Abolitionists, Human Rights, Indigenous, and Prison Activist Movement communities. TBPP suggests that FEW, clear & concise letters are preferred, to place in his case-file for review; lazy eyes is a disguise with TBPP Parole Panels. So, let's blast 'em with a barrage of letters to help us ensure that his 'Review' is an impartially-heard (Hearing?) by traditionally 'parole-stingy' Texas Board of Pardons& Parole Commissioners; and is a successful one. Try to include in the letter that Xinachtli, though he has tested 'COVID-19 -negative,' and in recent months received a 'flu shot,' has hypertension that's medicated, and is ostensibly cured of Hep-C, he nonetheless will be 69 years old May 12th, 2021; so the Corona Virus danger rages on! Also include, a solid confirmation that there's a solid support system waiting, available opportunities of employment, residence, and transportation, as well as psychological/coping support and a period of adjustment, are all important - he's been in a solitary 'time-capsule, the worldwide 'spider' web has exploded on the social scene since his conviction in June of 1997. We are working on preferably a place here in the Austin/Metro area, or

"When I was in high school I did an internship with my friend @realpatheticpixels for the **Boston Chapter of the Jericho** Movement who support and fight for the many political prisoners and prisoners of war who are held captive by the state. Many of these people have been locked up longer than I have been alive and were targeted for simply trying to help their people and organize their communities. We must remember those who have put everything on the line for us to be where we are now and remember that too many of them have still not come home and need our support. This design was based on the cover of the book 'Die Nigger Die!', a Political Autobiography by Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin formerly known as H. Rap Brown who is currently

in West Texas, Lubbock, and/or Midland/Odessa region -but not near Alpine, except to visit family. **Please address all your Letters of Support for Xinachtli with his registered name, ALVARO LUNA HERNANDEZ, and prison number, TDCJ-CID#00255735, to: Texas Department of Criminal Justice -Parole Division Attn: Correspondence Post Office Box 13401Austin, Texas 78711” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/updates-15-dec-2020.pdf>**

**The war on Indigenous people continues [action needed] Sign Now: Stop the destruction of Oak Flat Dec 16**

“Right now, the Trump administration is rushing to approve a mining contract in the Chi’chil Bıldagoteel Historic District of Arizona, a high desert oasis considered sacred to multiple Indigenous tribes. This contract would transfer ownership of land with deep cultural ties and ceremonial meaning to — and we can’t make this up — a UK-Australian mining company notorious for destroying Juukan Gorge, a treasured 46,000-year-old Aboriginal site.” “It’s despicable, but it’s not surprising. Decades of profit-first policy have privileged the interests of multinational corporations over those of Indigenous communities. We can’t trust Rio Tinto or the Trump administration to ensure this land gets the protections it requires. Congress has got to act fast and pass the Save Oak Flat Act — and YOU can help.” See <https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/save-oak-flat?source=mo20201217>

**THIS IS AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION Dec 17**

**Kindly join Louisiana United International, Inc.** in phoning demands for an official update on the health and well being of **U.S. political prisoner Rev. Errol Victor, Sr.**

**WHO TO CALL:** Alvin Robinson, Warden of the Nelson Coleman Correctional Center in Killona, Louisiana.

**WHAT:** State the following . . .

1. I'm calling from (IDENTIFY YOUR STATE OF RESIDENCE) and I'm concerned about your inmate Reverend Errol Victor, Sr.
2. I understand he is detained without charges at your facility and is exhibiting multiple symptoms of COVID-19 infection.
3. I am demanding that Reverend Victor's attorney of record be **immediately** updated on the state of Mr. Victor's health.

**HOW:** Dial the St. Charles Parish Jail @ (985) 783-1164

**WHEN:** Please start immediately.

December 15, 2020

*Light up the Phone Lines!*

“Louisiana United International, Inc. (LUI) is calling on our community for a time sensitive, critically important phone blitz! We are mobilizing to phone-in for LUI member, Reverend Errol Victor, Sr. His wrongful conviction for murder was vacated in April 2020 by the U.S. Supreme Court. The circumstances of that conviction and Pastor Victor’s ongoing detention make clear that he is a political prisoner without exaggeration.” See

<https://www.facebook.com/LUIaFORCE4Justice/posts/203339004605665>

**Thursday, December 17, 6:30 PM: Virtual Town Hall: New York State's Mandate to End Mass Incarceration in 2021 Dec 17**

**Virtual Town Hall:**  
New York State's Mandate to End Mass Incarceration in 2021

**Thursday, December 17, 6:30 pm**

Join us for a town hall on the need for Albany lawmakers to end mass incarceration in 2021 hosted by Assembly Member Demond Meeks, Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa, and formerly incarcerated and directly impacted advocates and community leaders.

Register here: [bit.ly/decarceration-town-hall](http://bit.ly/decarceration-town-hall)

Speakers include:  
 Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa  
 Assembly Member Demond Meeks  
 AM Sarah Clark  
 AM Elect Phara Souffrant  
 AM Elect Kenya Burgess  
 AM Elect Anissa Kallas  
 AM Elect Emily O'Sullivan  
 AM Elect Jessica Gonzalez-Rosa  
 AM Elect Emily O'Sullivan  
 Senator Elect Santos Brink

“Join us and the Center for Community Alternatives for a town hall on the need for Albany lawmakers to end mass incarceration in 2021 hosted by Assembly Member Demond Meeks, Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa, and formerly incarcerated and directly impacted advocates and community leaders.” Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XY\\_ETc5MQuCi2Q4Mcf9rbg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XY_ETc5MQuCi2Q4Mcf9rbg)

### Deb Haaland: Stand Against Modern-Day Jim Crow In Indian Country Dec 17

“We call on Representative Deb Haaland to publicly pledge her support for citizenship and equal rights for Freedmen of the Five Tribes in Indian Territory before being seriously considered for the position of Secretary of the Interior and to outline and commit to a plan for Freedmen integration and inclusion in Indian Territory. We demand accountability from Representative Debra “Deb” Haaland of New Mexico’s first Congressional district for her exclusion of legislative protections for Freedmen of the Five Slaveholding Tribes of Oklahoma while serving as New Mexico’s First Congressional District’s Representative.” Sign here: <https://www.change.org/p/debra-haaland-deb-haaland-stand-against-modern-day-jim-crow-in-indian-country?s=01>

### Tuesday, December 22: Cuomo Let Them Go Clemency Rally Dec 22

**WE'RE NOT ASKING**



**CUOMO, LET THEM GO!**

**INCARCERATION DURING  
A PANDEMIC = MURDER**

**WE DEMAND:**

**#ClemencyNow #FreeThemAll**

Meet us at Cuomo's office on 12/22 at 6 pm  
(633 3rd Ave. btwn 40th and 41st.)  
RSVP at [bit.ly/1222Rally](http://bit.ly/1222Rally)

To attend online RSVP here: [bit.ly/1222Webinar](http://bit.ly/1222Webinar)

This action is the product of collaboration between the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign (RAP), the #FreeThemAll Coalition (Close the Camps NYC, Cosecha NYC, Abolition Action, C.J. Rebellion, Take Down Columbus NYC), and the CUNY Law School Defenders Clinic.

“Join a collective of advocates and directly impacted leaders for a #ClemencyNow rally outside of Governor Cuomo's NYC office. We will continue to pressure Cuomo and demand that he release people through clemency. RSVP for the in-person rally here:”

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8axROrKvPu4DkANV5QIEna3ayNSgZ9mxPCbOjDTCEtQmHQ/viewform>.

Register for the virtual event here

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XguNIql6QxeU2vZg5pG2Fg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XguNIql6QxeU2vZg5pG2Fg)

### Support the Black Panther Party Alumni/ Legacy Keepers! (Ongoing)



“Help the Black Panther Party Alumni/ Legacy Keepers continue to educate, inspire and advocate for the creation of community institutions that address the needs of the people.

Join our community Go to [bpplegacykeepers.com](http://bpplegacykeepers.com) and click on "donate" to show your support. All donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID 46-0803016”

### We Are Maroon: Action Items! Dec 24

“Here are the actions: 1) Twitter Storm 12/24 \*Start posting this tweet from 9am to 10pm every hour on the hour: #MercyForMaroon: Bring Maroon Home For The Holidays!

(Reminder: You can schedule your tweets to go out ahead of time! ) 2) Video Blast 12/26

\*Create a video for the first day of Kwanzaa that is asking for the Mercy and Release of Maroon! (The video does not have to be long. But, we would like for it to include language that says or encourages “the release of Maroon and the encouragement of others to join his campaign; to show their support and encourage others to get involved in the movement”.) \*Once you have created your video, we ask that you send a copy for us to share on our page (only if you are comfortable with that). 3) Create Banners/Signs 12/28 \*Put a sign in your window and/or on your lawn that says one of the three or all three: “Free Maroon” “Mercy For Maroon” “Release Maroon For The Holidays” (We are asking for everyone to take a picture of it and share it with us and online.) Again, thank you for being part of this movement and campaign. And, please...share share share:))”

### **New Year’s Eve Noise Demonstrations Across North America Dec 26**

“Responding to a call from the NYC Anarchist Black Cross, communities across the so-called US and beyond are calling for noise demonstrations outside of jails, juvenile halls, prisons, and detention centers. Cal Anderson Park, 8PM; Los Angeles, CA: South End of Los Angeles Historic Park, 10 PM; Littleton, CO: Harriman Lake Park, Engelwood Federal Prison, 7: 30 PM; Omaha, NB: 14th and Farnam, 6 PM; Rockford, IL: Hashkell Park, 10:30 PM; Chicago, IL: Cook County Jail, Division 10 2700 S California Ave., 9: 30 PM; Cleveland, OH: Corner of West Lakeside + West 3rd Street, 7 PM.; Minneapolis, MN: Park Ave and 4th Street; Asheville, NC: Pack Square Park, 6:30 PM; Durham, NC: 217 Mangum St, 8PM; New York, NY: Metropolitan Correction Center, Pearl Street 9pm.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/updates-29-dec-2020.pdf>

### **“CUBA UPDATE: Sunday, December 27, 2020 @ 11:00 AM Is The Cuba Solidarity Rally & Car Caravan Protest In NYC Against The U.S. Government’s Racist 60 Year Long Blockade Dec 27**



"Gather at the José Martí Statue on W. 59th Street & 6th Avenue/Center Drive. Universal Zulu Nation Cuba Project & 2021 International Hip Hop 4 Humanity Tour" DAY 2 OF KWAMZAA IS "KUCHICHAGULIA" WHICH IS SELF-DETERMINATION FOR CUBA. For sixty years every Democratic and Republican administration has blockaded Cuba, violated Cuba’s sovereignty and sought to overthrow its government. Under the Trump administration, increased draconian measures have severely impacted Cubans and US residents. For the benefit of all we need travel, education, medical,

scientific, and cultural relations normalized. Here in New York City, we are joining with other solidarity groups through out this nation to demand an end to the blockade, lift the embargo and end the horrific sanctions that are hurting the Cuban people. Cuba is a sovereign nation yet Washington continues to attack it and its international medical teams which are now in 39 countries helping battle Covid-19. Sunday, December 27th, 11:00 am. Meeting location: W. 59th Street - 6th Avenue/Center Drive, New York, N.Y. 10019 In front of the Central Park Statue of Cuban Freedom Fighter Jose' Martí. In Solidarity, International US-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition [us-cubanormalization.org](http://us-cubanormalization.org) Saving Lives Campaign US-CANADA-CUBA Cooperation [savinglivescampaign.org](http://savinglivescampaign.org) New York-New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition [cubasinynjcoalition.org](http://cubasinynjcoalition.org)

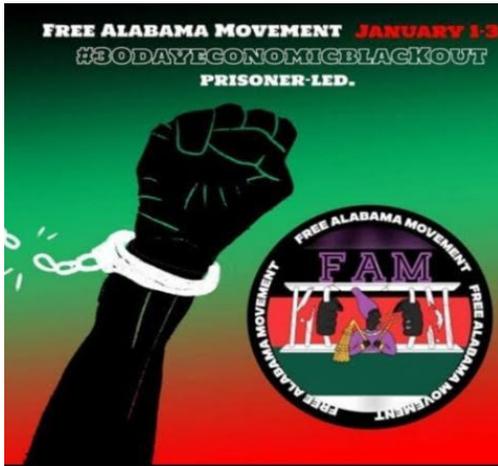
### **NYC/NYE Noise Demo Against the Prison Industrial Complex, In Solidarity with PPs and POWs Dec 31**

“Noise Demo Against the PIC, for the Liberation of PPs + POWs. WHEN: 9:00pm, Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. WHERE: Metropolitan Correction Center (MCC, the federal prison in downtown Manhattan); Pearl Street, between Cardinal Hayes Place and Park Row (J to Chambers Street or 4/5/6/

to City Hall; NOTE: we are not encouraging folks to take public transit or other risks. Please recognize your comfort level with attending this event)BRING: Noisemakers, air horns, drums, anything that is loud, but does not require mask removal! On the noisiest night of the year in New York City, come help us remind folks locked up that they are not alone. NYC Anarchist Black Cross, in response to an international call for noise demonstrations outside of prisons, is asking folks to join us outside of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in lower Manhattan. Come, not to appeal to authority, speak truth to power, or any other contrivance, but rather to stand with comrades, at a safe distance, and show direct solidarity to those on the other side of the wall. The state, writ large, is targeting anarchists all across the United States and abroad. This will be both protest and celebration.” See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/updates-29-dec-2020.pdf>

### Alabama Boycott 2021 Jan 1

“The Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) maintains a breeding ground for danger and death.



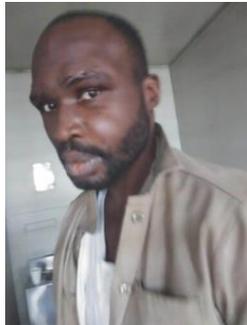
Now, as winter of 2020 begins to take hold in Alabama prisons, incarcerated people are having to light fires indoors to stay warm and are organizing an economic boycott in order to create conditions fit for survival. The ADOC refuses to care for even the most basic human needs amidst COVID19 and the waves of preventable deaths inside Alabama prisons. The conditions in prisons do not allow for health and safety. This is a public health crisis beyond

words... In the first 5 days of the boycott, several participants have already experienced brutal retaliation. You can contribute to Free Alabama Movement's Emergency Fund here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/emergency-support-for-the-alabama-prison-boycott>.

We're also hosting an AMONG US Let's Play Fundraiser for FAM this Sunday! Join and invite your friends!” See <https://fight-toxic-prisons.org/alabama-boycott/> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/2901000690147240/>”

### EMERGENCY TWITTER/PHONE CALL ALERT! Alabama prison hunger striker beaten Jan 5



“On the morning of Jan. 4, a prisoner participating in the #Alabama11 hunger strike was beaten and bloodied by a guard, Officer Landrum, at the instructions of Sgt. Williams, for his participation in the hunger strike. The prisoner’s name is Ronnie Miller, #244648. He is out of the infirmary, but photos show him with a busted lip and large lumps on his head and cheek. Miller has been subjected to several beatings by guards at Kilby Correctional Facility. The #Alabama11 and Free Alabama Movement are calling for a phone/tweet zap NOW to please demand justice and help for the prisoners during their #30dayeconomicblackout. From the #Alabama11: “Please contact Jeff Dunn. We are not safe.” Dunn is

Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Corrections. His phone number is 334-353-3883, email is [Jefferson.dunn@doc.Alabama.gov](mailto:Jefferson.dunn@doc.Alabama.gov), and twitter is @ADOCdunn. Tell Dunn: “At Kilby Correctional Facility, Sgt. Williams and Officer Landrum jumped on and beat a prisoner who is participating in a hunger strike. Alabama DOC needs to intervene immediately by investigating this incident and firing both guards.” (Photo from email: Ronnie Miller after guard beating).

#### **FOUR ACTIONS TO START 2021 to #HALTsolitary Jan 6**

**“1. Mass Call-in Day Tomorrow, Jan. 6-**The 2021 legislative session starts tomorrow, January 6. Please join us in starting the session off with a mass call-in day urging the Senate and Assembly leaders to bring HALT to a vote. Please make two calls tomorrow: Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins 518-455-2585, @AndreaSCousins; Assembly Speaker Heastie 518-455-3791, @CarlHeastie. As the 2021 session begins, I implore you to bring the HALT Solitary Confinement Act to a vote immediately. People - predominantly Black and Brown New Yorkers - are suffering and dying in solitary. It is torture and it has to stop. With COVID now raging in NY prisons and deaths rising, it is even more imperative than ever to pass HALT, as health experts lament how solitary worsens the harm and spread of COVID. Plus, during the current budget crisis, HALT will save money. We need to spend our money on health care, housing, and education - not torture. Pass HALT now. I also urge you to pass Elder Parole, Fair and Timely Parole, and other COVID-related measures to bring people home, save lives and stop the spread.”

**2. Virtual Press Conference Tomorrow, Jan. 6.** On the day the 2021 legislative session begins, we will also hold a virtual press conference urging that the HALT Solitary Confinement Act be brought to a vote immediately. You can register for the virtual press conference here [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CuPIE\\_2tTXyaa-ZWpLsGQw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CuPIE_2tTXyaa-ZWpLsGQw)

**3. Post on Social Media about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Torment in Solitary.** In the lead up to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday (January 15), we are sharing his devastating words about his experience in solitary and urging the NY legislature to #HALTsolitary now! You can use this graphic and tag your own NYS legislators in the graphic. Find them at [www.openstates.org](http://www.openstates.org) and find their social media accounts here. **Sample Tweet:** After suffering in solitary confinement, Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. wrote: "You will never know the meaning of utter darkness until you have lain in such a dungeon." As we prepare to honor him, we call on @AndreaSCousins & @CarlHeastie to finally bring the #HALTsolitary bill to a vote. **Sample Facebook post:** After suffering in solitary confinement, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote: "You will never know the meaning of utter darkness until you have lain in such a dungeon." As we prepare to honor him, we call on @AndreaStewartCousins & @CarlHeastie to finally bring the #HALTsolitary bill to a vote. Tens of thousands of New Yorkers experience the torture of solitary every year, more than 80% are Black and Latinx people. We know that a majority of New Yorkers and a majority of state lawmakers support the bill. The time is right to do what is right.

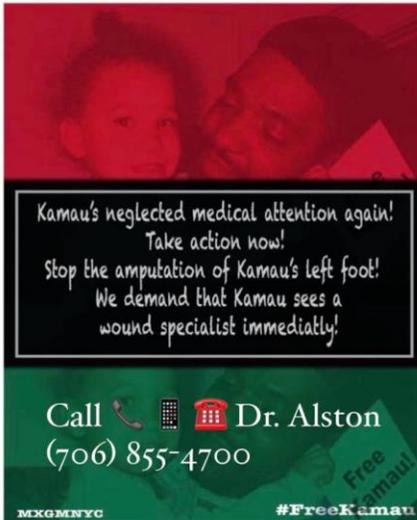
**4. Sign Up Today for #HALTsolitary Virtual Advocacy Day, Thurs., Jan. 21** Please join us for a #HALTsolitary Virtual Advocacy Day on Thursday, January 21. We plan to have a day full of virtual meetings with legislators and other actions. Please sign up to participate here: <http://bit.ly/HALTJan21>.

#### **Covid-19 continues to spread through prisons--demand all elders be released Jan 7**

“To protect lives amid the recent spike in COVID-19 cases — all aging people must immediately be released from the Adirondack Correctional Facility. Not only is Adirondack more than two hours away from the nearest hospital, but elders are being transferred without receiving COVID tests, forced to travel on poorly ventilated buses with people from multiple facilities, and are immediately integrated into the entire population without screening or quarantining. A newly announced lawsuit would force Governor Cuomo to improve conditions at Adirondack, but these elders need relief now. Join us in demanding that Governor Cuomo immediately release all people who held at the Adirondack Correctional Facility. **Sign Here:** <https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/save-our-seniors-cuomo/>

#### **FREE EM' ALL: EXTREMELY URGENT MEDICAL ACTION IS NEEDED FOR VETERAN BLACK PANTHER ELDER POLITICAL PRISONER KAMAU SADIKI WHO THEY ARE NEEDLESSLY TRYING TO AMPUTATE HIS FOOT AGAIN! Jan 7**

URGENT MEDICAL ACTION IS NEEDED FOR VETERAN BLACK PANTHER POLITICAL PRISONER KAMAU SADIKI. Despite the fact that Kamau's name was legally changed from "Freddie Hilton" and; Despite the fact that the prison has sarcastically stated to some callers that "He Seems To Be A Real Popular Guy With All The Calls That Have Come In" Prison officials have sought



once again to continue their plan to both medically neglect & ignore Kamau's request for a wound specialist in order to instead cut off his foot and potentially kill him, due to his other serious medical conditions of Hepatitis C and The ongoing threat of COVID-19 throughout the entire U.S. Prison System. SO WHEN CALLING THE PRISON ABOUT HIS EXTREME MEDICAL EMERGENCY PLEASE USE HIS GOVERNMENT NAME... "FREDDIE HILTON" & His Georgia Prisoner ID# 1150688. **From Kamau's daughter Ksisay:** Freddie Hilton AKA Kamau Sadiki #1150688 Urgent Call. ASMP wants to amputate my father's ankle. **Contact- Call Write Letters:** Augusta State Prison, 3001 Gordon Hwy, Grovetown, GA 30813. Chief Medical Facilitator Dr. Mary Alston, Warden Ted Philbin (706) 855-4700 He needs a wounds specialist not amputation!" See [www.freekamau.com](http://www.freekamau.com)

### Bring Malik Home! A call to BOP Director Michael D. Carvajal/ Geo Group Facility Director Maria Richard Jan 11



Malik & Nube. Photo from <https://incarceratedworkers.org/phone-zaps/bring-malik-home-call-bop-director-michael-d-carvajal-geo-group-facility-director-maria>

thwart efforts of rehabilitation, safety, and re-entry into society for our dear Comrade Malik. He recently highlighted that “ Instead of promoting the successful transition into the community, GEO Group seeks to destroy and sabotage those bonds and focuses on sending people back to prison or to the grave with COVID-19.” Comrade Malik has recently been promoted from Assistant Editor to Chief Editor at the San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper and since he is covering the news in District 10, which includes the neighborhood of Bayview Hunters Point. Mary Ratcliff of the SF Bay View is asking that Malik be granted permission to stay within an eight-block radius of the office and to be granted home confinement at his Fiancè Nube Brown's apartment for his safety and so that he may work effectively and in a healing environment. Malik and his Fiancè Nube, the Managing Editor of the SF Bay View, need to be close to Mary and Willie Ratcliff who are in their 80s and at a high risk of experiencing complications if they contract COVID-19. Due to the ongoing health conditions that Marie and Willie Ratcliff already have, Malik must be nearby to assist with any medical emergencies that may come up. Malik and Nube uplift the community through Mutual Aid and food distribution at Mother Brown's and are tireless freedom fighters.” For further info & instructions see <https://incarceratedworkers.org/phone-zaps/bring-malik-home-call-bop-director-michael-d-carvajal-geo-group-facility-director-maria> and to sign the petition and donate see <https://www.change.org/p/michael-carvajal-director-of-bop-help-me-get-my-loved-one-released-to-home-confinement>”

“\*\* UPDATE: Rather than Home Confinement, the Taylor Center is choosing repression and threats of Return to Custody as an outbreak spreads. See below for a copy of a document provided to Malik from facility leadership. Malik's phone has been confiscated and the facility is on lockdown. They are threatening Malik with Return to Custody for his exposure of the outbreak and mishandling of the COVID-19 outbreak by staff. The GEO Group is doing everything possible to

## Free Simon Trinidad / Liberen a Simon Trinidad (Please Call) Jan 14

Free Simon Trinidad!

Tell Trump to Pardon for Peace!

LAST CHANCE TO ACT!  
Thurs. 1/14 9am-5pm EST  
Call the Office of the Pardon Attorney:  
202-616-6070 - ext.4  
Free Simon Trinidad!

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE SIMON TRINIDAD  
FREESIMONTRINIDAD.ORG

“Please receive this appeal for the freedom of Simon Trinidad, a political prisoner who has already served 17 years of a 60 year sentence. Trinidad is held at the maximum security prison in Florence, Colorado, and can receive no visitors or mail. For media inquiries contact Simon Trinidad's U.S. attorney Mark Burton ESQ [simontrinidadlibre@gmail.com](mailto:simontrinidadlibre@gmail.com)”. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Asks President Trump to Free Simon Trinidad Prominent Argentinian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel and 43 other human rights activists from 18 countries have written to President Donald Trump asking him to free Simon Trinidad. Perez Esquivel, a writer and painter, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980 for his opposition to the Argentinian military dictatorship (1976-'83) which

tortured him and held him without trial for fourteen months. Simon Trinidad, a Colombian citizen and a peace negotiator for the FARC, has been jailed for 17 years at the Super Max prison in Florence, Colorado where he is unable to receive visitors or mail. He celebrated his 70th birthday this past July. The letter asks Trump to pardon or commute Trinidad's 60-year sentence stating that it took four trials and three hung juries to convict him. The letter goes on to say, “Freeing Trinidad and allowing him to return to Colombia, would advance the peace process.” The letter finishes by saying that releasing Trinidad “...would be a real gesture of peace...” which “Most all the people of Latin America would applaud...” The National Committee to Free Simon Trinidad has posted the full text of the letter on its website here <http://freesimontrinidad.org/open-letter-to-president-trump-pardon-simon-trinidad/> and on Facebook. The Committee is asking everyone to telephone the Pardon Attorney's Office at the Justice Dept. (202) 616-6070 ext.4 on Thursday January 14. Urge Simon Trinidad's release.” See <http://freesimontrinidad.org/>

## International Week of Action to Free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian Prisoners Jan 15-23, 2021

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION | JANUARY 15-23 2021

FREEDOM FOR  
**AHMAD SA'ADAT**

General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.  
He is now serving a 30-year sentence in Israeli prison.

samidoun SAMIDOUN.NET

“Today, it is critical to besiege the racist, settler-colonial Zionist project, and indeed, to delegitimize this project, and to support the struggle of our people for liberation, self-determination and return as the pathway to a democratic political solution for Palestine. Our people will not bow to the governments of “Israel,” including the current government which represents the will of the colonizers and the ultra-extremist Zionist terror. I call on all forces of progress, freedom and democracy to stand by the struggle of our people through all forms of boycott: political, economic, academic and cultural of the occupation state and the creation of a real economic cost for its industries of colonization and settlement and escalating the global campaigns for boycott of all corporations that

support and invest in the occupation militarily and economically.” – Ahmad Sa'adat. “As we mark the 12th anniversary of the Israeli sentencing of Palestinian national liberation and international Left leader Ahmad Sa'adat, and the 12th anniversary of the brutal Israeli assault on Gaza, “Operation Cast Lead,” Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network urges all who stand with Palestine and justice for the Palestinian people to join us between 15 and 23 January 2021 in a week of action to free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian prisoners.’ See <https://samidoun.net/2020/04/free-ahmad-saadat-imprisoned-leader-of-the-palestinian-liberation-movement/> and for actions see <https://samidoun.net/2020/12/15-23-january-2021-international-week-of-action-to-free-ahmad-saadat-and-all-palestinian-prisoners/>

**Harrisburg, PA, Mon. Jan 18: Join the Free Maroon Now Coalition on Martin Luther King Day!  
Funeral for Justice - Mercy for Maroon Jan 18**



“On Monday January 18th, The Free Maroon Now Coalition will be gathering at 11 am on the Capitol Steps in Harrisburg (501 N. 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17120) demanding the immediate release of PA political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz. On this Martin Luther King holiday, we remind the community that Martin Luther King was unpopular with the government of his time and that he was a political prisoner incarcerated for standing up for Black

Lives.” “Maroon was diagnosed with Covid in December, where he experienced "refugee like" circumstances with 30 ailing men living in a gym with only one bathroom. 145 organizations from across the country signed on to a letter demanding his immediate release. **Join us as we call for Mercy for Maroon.** Join us as we demand Amnesty for all Political Prisoners. Join us as we invoke the call for Reparations. Granting compassionate release for people defending Black lives is a part of Reparations. Join us as we mourn the death of justice. For as long as people continue to be incarcerated for defending Black Lives there can be no justice. There will be a funeral procession to an undisclosed location following the gathering at the Harrisburg Capitol Steps. Please sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd23fwcquqAngJpmnxKsZrxTRFszld1Lt3q6YXuLunlUniKcg/viewform> so we can get an idea of how many people are planning to attend and keep you updated with event details. Traveling is expensive, so if that is a barrier to your participation we can support your gas and toll money.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Action Reclaim His Legacy of Struggle and Action:  
Educate, Agitate, Organize Where People Work, Study and Live! Jan 18**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
National Day of Action

Reclaim his legacy of Struggle and Action:  
Educate, Agitate, Organize where people work, study, and live!

**Monday  
Jan.  
18<sup>th</sup>**

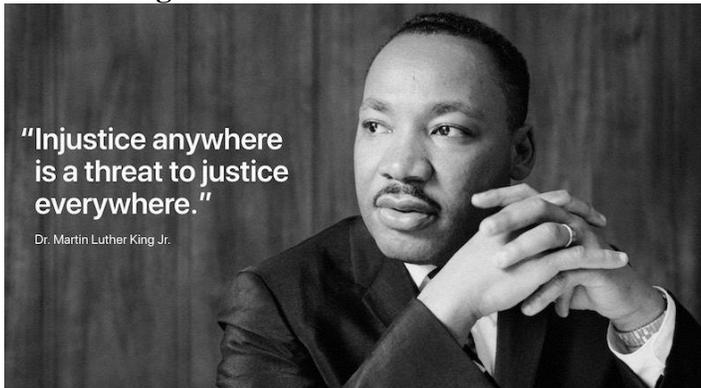
Sponsored by  
**The People's United Front**

For more information, please contact:  
Sister Betty: [bbtyd@gmail.com](mailto:bbtyd@gmail.com)  
Brother Larry: (720)979-9491 or [larrydhales@gmail.com](mailto:larrydhales@gmail.com)  
Sister LoriKim: [lorikim@gmail.com](mailto:lorikim@gmail.com)  
Brother Mark: (646)568-6144 or [peoplepuebloparty@gmail.com](mailto:peoplepuebloparty@gmail.com)  
Brother Ralph: [ralph.poynter@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.poynter@gmail.com)

“Car Caravan @ 2 p.m. Starts at the Audubon Ballroom (B'way & W. 165th St.), Ends at Harlem State Office Bldg. Harlem Speakout @ 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. 125th St. and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Live Facebook and YouTube Show @ 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. The People's TV on the People-Pueblo Party Facebook and YouTube Pages.

Sponsored by: The People's United Front. For more information, please contact: Sister Betty: [bbtyd@gmail.com](mailto:bbtyd@gmail.com), Brother Larry: (720) 979-9491 or [larrydhales@gmail.com](mailto:larrydhales@gmail.com)  
Sister LoriKim: [lorikim@gmail.com](mailto:lorikim@gmail.com) Brother Mark: (646) 568-6144 or [peoplepuebloparty@gmail.com](mailto:peoplepuebloparty@gmail.com)  
Brother Ralph: [ralph.poynter@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.poynter@gmail.com)”

**A CALL FOR ALL FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE TO COME OUT AND JOIN US ON MONDAY JANUARY 18, 2021 FOR THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 1st N.E. Regional "JUSTICE IS DEAD" Funeral Car Caravan! Jan 18**



“On Monday, January 18, 2021 In Observance Of The 92nd Birthday Of Former Political Prisoner & Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr; Cars From New York, New Jersey, Connecticut & All Throughout Pennsylvania, Will Be Converging On The State Capital Building In Harrisburg, Pa. In Order To Demand An Immediate End To The U.S. Prison System's Medical Neglect & Overall Genocidal Policies Resulting In "Death By COVID" In Prison.

WHEN: Monday, January 18, 2021 @ 11:00 am-WHERE: State Capital Building In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. WHAT: Following A Press Conference The Caravan Will Line Up & Proceed To An "Undisclosed" Location HOW: All Cars Must RSVP, Receive, Fill Out, And Then Return The Vehicle Participation Form By E-mailing The Organizers At: [Panthershepcat@aol.com](mailto:Panthershepcat@aol.com), [writealetta@gmail.com](mailto:writealetta@gmail.com), [freerussellmaroonshoatz@gmail.com](mailto:freerussellmaroonshoatz@gmail.com), WHY: To Achieve Civil Rights, Human Rights, Justice, Mercy & Empathy By Demanding.....

- The Immediate Release & Outside Care For All Elder Prisoners Who Have Tested Positive For COVID-19.
- The Immediate Implementation Of Physical Distancing & Medical Care For All COVID Positive Prisoners.
- The Immediate Distribution Of Personal Protective Equipment For All Prisoners, Visitors & Prison Staff.
- The Regular COVID Test Scheduling & Effective Tracing For All Prisoners, Visitors & Prison Staff.
- The Total Transparent & Updated Weekly Reports From Both Prisoners & Staff On COVID In Their Prison.
- The Immediate End Of The Letter Writing & Visitation Restrictions On Prisoner Families, Lawyers & Friends.
- The Immediate End Of Long Term Solitary Confinement And Other Related Forms Of Torture In All U.S. Prisons.

Organized By The Coalition To Free Political Prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz NOW!"

**Demand Mass COVID Clemency for the Holidays! Feb 1**

“Its impossible not to be thinking about friends and loved ones behind bars during the holiday season, especially at times like this, with so many living in fear or isolation as a result of this ongoing pandemic. *But we can turn that sorrow into action.* For example, [check out what they are doing in North Carolina!](#) On December 30th, a team we are working with will release an amazing short film about the two-month vigil at the NC Governor's mansion. We want your help to share that around as inspiration of what we can do *here and now to push harder for COVID clemency on a mass scale. Keep an eye on [Nation Inside's Facebook](#) for the video's release next week.* Bold demands and powerful actions having been taking place across the country over the past year. [Here is a glimpse of what they have looked like.](#) **Here at the #CagingCOVID campaign, we are gearing up for a [February 1st call-to-action](#) taking place in DC and other regional targets. This day is known historically as "National Freedom Day," since it marks the signing of the 13 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.**

Even after the inauguration next month, we will still have millions of people sitting unprotected in jails, prisons and detention centers which have proven to be a breeding grounds for COVID-19, turning any prison sentence into a potential death sentence. Of course there many other problems with the prison

system besides COVID-19, but this pandemic has highlighted some of the major disasters of mass incarceration, such as:

- overcrowded facilities making safety protocols near impossible;
- abysmal for-profit healthcare contractors;
- over-sentencing leaving the ill and elderly stuck inside;
- price-gouging putting basic necessities out of reach, including overpriced phone calls limiting communication with family;
- rampant censorship of organizations trying to reach in; and
- retaliation against those organizing against these conditions from the inside.

The pandemic has shown us even more clearly that the U.S. criminal justice system is incompatible with even the most basic human rights standards.

We hope you'll join us in this fight. Find out more on [Nation Inside's Facebook](#).

Last thing we want to relay is sad news about a major loss on our team. Nation Inside organizer from Florida, Karen Smith, was in a fatal car accident on November 29. We mourn her departure, send condolences to her family and do all we can to carry on her work. Support for her children can be offered [here](#). If you had been in touch with her, please re-direct any communication to [panagiotti@workingnarratives.org](mailto:panagiotti@workingnarratives.org) Thank you for joining us, Panagiotti Tsolkas Nation Inside, #CagingCOVID team

"#CagingCOVID is launching an effort led by the Nation Inside team, in partnership with prisoners and their families on the outside. We have four ways you can help.

1. Share our [#CagingCovid video](#) on all your social medias to raise awareness about this issue;
2. **Sign and share this petition to the DOJ and CDC demanding both investigation and enforcement action** to stop the rampant spread of COVID-19 among prisoners who are both unable to socially distance or stuck in isolation;
3. [Fill out this form with info about any family or friend who is locked up](#) and has a story to tell about COVID-19;
4. [Use the #CagingCOVID campaign page](#) to generate a persistent social media buzz.

This new campaign page is full of stories and resources for activists, journalists and policy-makers to use.

Our petition will be delivered to Department of Justice (DOJ) staff, as well the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), to call for immediate action. While the CDC has acknowledged the danger in prisons, it has fallen short of advocating the level of decarceration that is needed to truly implement its guidelines. There are over 6,000 state, local and federal prisons across the United States. Many of them have become hotspots of Covid-19, with disproportionately high impacts among [Black and Latinx prisoners](#), particularly in [Southern states](#).

Research from [Johns Hopkins and UCLA](#) shows prisoners are 550% more likely to catch COVID-19, and 300% more likely to die from it than the general population." See <https://www.facebook.com/NationInside>"

## Community Events & Resources (Dec 15, 2020-Jan 15, 2021)

### **#HonorLivesLost - Candlelight Ritual to Free Them All (ongoing)**

"Every Sunday, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. via zoom and live-streamed on Facebook. Hosted by Restore Oakland, California Coalition for Women Prisoners and 4 others. We invite you to #HonorLivesLost, an online weekly candle-lighting ritual to uplift incarcerated people we have lost to COVID-19 and #DeathbyIncarceration in California.

These gatherings will take place every Sunday at sunset via Zoom in both English and Spanish.

Organizers and advocates across the state have created this space so we can come together to mourn the

lives of people we have lost and send light and love to families grieving the unnatural deaths of their loved ones. We hope this effort will grow and support our ongoing demands to release incarcerated people who face a potential death sentence amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

#HonorLivesLost is a network of organizers and advocates dedicated to memorializing and uplifting incarcerated people we lose to COVID-19 and #DeathbyIncarceration in California” See <https://www.facebook.com/events/2672414763015683/>

**Both Sides of The Conversation in Collaboration with the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party: OAKLAND, CA Every Sunday at 2pm PST (Ongoing)**

**Both Sides of the Conversation**  
in collaboration with  
**The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party**

**Black Health During the Coronavirus Pandemic**  
*September 27th*

**Original Black Panther Party Guest Speakers:**  
*Dr. Patricia Neal & Prof. Steve McCutchen*

**WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE**

**Join us every Sunday at 2pm**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89321715567>

[OCBPP.home.blog](https://www.facebook.com/OCBPP)      [nccbpp.info@yahoo.com](mailto:nccbpp.info@yahoo.com)  
Both Sides of the Conversation      [Bothsidesoftheconversation@gmail.com](mailto:Bothsidesoftheconversation@gmail.com)

**Mumia: Fear of Socialism Dec 15**

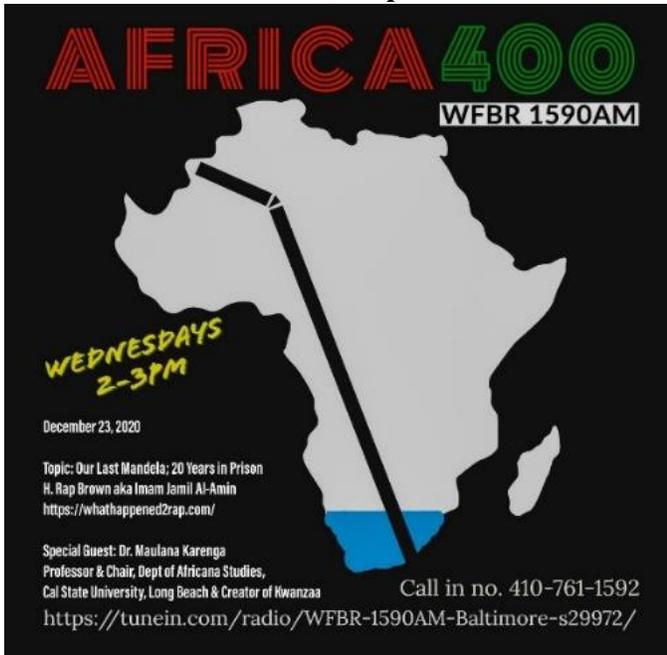
“Politicians have pulled out the fear card – socialism – to ensure that voters stay in their place,” said Mumia Abu Jamal, the nation’s best known political prisoner. “The term “still has a foreign ring” to US ears, but it’s actually “about as American as hunger, itself,” said Abu Jamal, in a commentary for Prison Radio.” Listen here: <https://blackagendareport.com/mumia-fear-socialism>

**Interview with the Certain Days collective Dec 20**

“What is the Certain Days 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. This calendar project has now been around for 20 years. Calendars feature 12 essays and 12 pieces of art by prisoners &/or their supporters, as well as radical dates commemorating movement history. All proceeds from the calendars are given to abolitionist-minded groups and organizations working to better the lives of those locked behind the bars.” See <https://kersplebedeb.com/posts/interview-with-the-certain-days-collective/>

**AFRICA400 Dec 23rd H Rap Brown Imam Jamil Al-Amin Dec 23**



“Join us Wednesday to discuss H Rap Brown Iman Jamil Al-Amin and latest updates...Vibration....A Quick Update On My Wrongfully Imprisoned Famous Father – YouTube Tune in....Raise your Vibration...

WFBR 1590 AM

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

Call in no. 410-761-1592

**Spirit of an Elder Poet by DJ Free Leonard Dec 24**



Photo from: <https://djfreeleonard.bandcamp.com/album/spirit-of-an-elder-poet>

Listen to the album here: <https://djfreeleonard.bandcamp.com/album/spirit-of-an-elder-poet>

**Listen to an Interview with the Black Panther Party Legacy Keepers on 94.1 KPFA! Dec 31**

Min. 0:33:12 @ <https://kpfa.org/player/?audio=348498>

## Equal Rights & Justice radio: Dec 24, 2020, 9 - 11 am: "Driving While Black" Dec 24

**WBAI**  
Free speech radio - news & analysis - hosted by  
**Mimi Rosenberg**

Tune in this Thursday, December 24, 2020, 9 AM - 11 AM, EDT  
**WBAI 99.5 FM New York**

**"Driving While Black"**

From the hidden message in the spiritual "Steal Away" for slaves to book passage on the Underground Railroad, to those Freedom Riders who took the reverse course and risked everything buying a ticket on a Greyhound Bus to travel in the Deep South, to the teen Claudette Colvin who refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery the struggles are of course about freedom - that is about freedom of movement. They're about breaking the chains of control of ones' personage. They're about self-determination, the free choice of one's acts without compulsion. They're about traveling freedom's highway unimpeded.

So, get behind the wheel with us as we steer towards freedom, while forced to navigate amongst the roadblocks and myriad restrictions imposed on Black movement, from slavery through the modern-day, and with America's ever-present policing stalking Black bodies. The story of Driving While Black is a story of space, race and mobility of disparate treatment and institutional racism in America, but it's a clarion call, "Ain't Gona Let Nobody Turn Me Around" on that road to freedom!

Contact Mimi Rosenberg: [mimiwbairadio@gmail.com](mailto:mimiwbairadio@gmail.com)

## What prisons are like during COVID lockdown: interview with a Pennsylvania incarcerated worker (Interview) Dec 27

"Since the start of November 2020, more than 3,000 incarcerated workers and at least 1,200 guards and staff have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC). Since last March, at least 58 people behind DOC bars have died from the pandemic, the majority of those deaths in the last six weeks. On Dec. 21, **Workers World interviewed Bryant Arroyo**, imprisoned at State Correctional Institute (SCI) Frackville, on what he's experiencing during this massive COVID-19 outbreak." See

[https://www.workers.org/2020/12/53514/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=what-prisons-are-like-during-covid-lockdown-interview-with-a-pennsylvania-incarcerated-worker](https://www.workers.org/2020/12/53514/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=what-prisons-are-like-during-covid-lockdown-interview-with-a-pennsylvania-incarcerated-worker)

## The People's Campaign for Parole Justice 2021 Virtual Advocacy Day Jan 27

**THE PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN FOR PAROLE JUSTICE: VIRTUAL ADVOCACY DAY**

JANUARY 27 - ALL DAY  
BEGINNING AT 9:30 AM

Join our statewide grassroots movement for a virtual advocacy day to demand parole justice. The day will include a community gathering, legislative meetings in support of the Elder and Fair and Timely Parole bills, and more. Details to come.

RSVP: [bit.ly/jan27-virtual-advocacy-day](https://bit.ly/jan27-virtual-advocacy-day)

THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE CAMPAIGN'S STEERING COMMITTEE:

IRAPP, NCLU, and other organizations.

"The People's Campaign for Parole Justice will hold a virtual advocacy day on January 27th. Beginning at 9:30 AM, join us for a powerful day that will include a community gathering, legislative meetings in support of the Elder and Fair and Timely Parole bills, and more. Details to come. RSVP here"

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSck-leKm0VjM618073K6Fy5zx5Ej6rctDSmW-Q1Bkm-2BkCUEg/viewform?gxids=7628>

### Eric King (virtual) letter writing event Dec 28

"Happy solstice everyone! As 2020 draws to a close and we celebrate the days getting longer, join us next Monday at 6:30pm to show anarchist political prisoner Eric King some solidarity and send new year's cards to comrades behind bars! We'll be joined by someone from Eric's support crew to provide the most updated info and answer questions. I will be presenting on Eric King's case at the Philly ABC (virtual) letter writing event. thanks, (Daniel).

Meet: [meet.jit.si/EricKingIsADieHardVegan4Life2727](https://meet.jit.si/EricKingIsADieHardVegan4Life2727)

Dial-in: +1.512.647.1431 PIN: 2610 9526 30#

Thankfully, the mail ban against King has been lifted for the time being, so we're taking this opportunity to send him some love. 2020 has been a rough year for many, particularly people whose lives are in danger inside prisons and folks like Eric who are facing additional repression such as communication restrictions and solitary confinement. Eric's account of life in solitary confinement in the Bureau of Prisons (Flipping the Script) was featured in Solitary Watch earlier this year. Read his take on the Kafkaesque existence of over 10,000 people being housed in segregation for at least 23 hours a day. If you can't make the event, please drop him a line without mentioning his current case, Covid, or anything about the mail ban." See <https://phillyabc.org/post/2020-12-21-letter-writing-eric-king/> Eric King #27090-045, FCI Englewood, 9595 West Quincy Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123

### Sunday 12-27-20: Jazz for Justice Virtual Benefit Concert Dec 27

"Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020 @ 7 p.m. EST (4 p.m. PST). Virtual Benefit Concert Featuring:

Bilal Sunni-Ali, Ngoma Hill, Sabu Adeyola, Warren Smith, Camille Thurman, Sara Elizabeth Charles, Shy'An G, Danielle Ponder, Clay Jenkins, Caroline Davis, Rob Garcia Invited Guests: Nkechi Taifa, Esq., Dr. Ray Winbush. A Night of Music, Culture & Education to Raise Funds to Support our Work to FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!!! DONATE here:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=PQ24QKMHK7TSS](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=PQ24QKMHK7TSS)

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER  
27TH  
@ 7:00PM**

**Jazz for Justice**

VIRTUAL BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURING  
BILAL SUNNI-ALI · NGOMA HILL  
SABU ADEYOLA · WARREN SMITH  
CAMILLE THURMAN · SARAH ELIZABETH CHARLES  
SHY'AN G · DANIELLE PONDER · CLAY JENKINS  
CAROLINE DAVIS · ROB GARCIA

INVITED GUESTS:  
NKECHI TAIFA, ESQ., BILAL SUNNI-ALI, DR. RAY WINBUSH

IN THE SPIRIT OF KIJICHAGULIA, PLEASE JOIN NEPPC AND  
NYC JERICO AS WE RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO SUPPORT  
OUR WORK FOR FREEDOM & JUSTICE. FREEDOM AIN'T FREE! SUGGESTED  
DONATION \$20.00. ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO SUPPORT  
THE LIBERATION OF OUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

**VIRTUAL CONCERT LINK TO BE POSTED ON EVENT PAGE**  
FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT [JAZZ4JUSTICE1@GMAIL.COM](mailto:jazz4justice1@gmail.com) AND VISIT OUR  
FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE @NORTHEAST POLITICAL PRISONER COALITION.

VIRTUAL CONCERT WILL STREAMED ON YOUTUBE (LINK WILL BE POSTED 48 HOURS BEFORE OUR EVENT). THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE!!! PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE: Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition for updates and/or email us at [Jazz4Justice1@gmail.com](mailto:Jazz4Justice1@gmail.com) Co-Hosted by NEPPC & NYC Jericho. Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020 @ 7 p.m. EST (4 p.m. PST). THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE!!!"

**Veteran Black Panther Yasmeen Sutton, Revolutionary Visual Artist Sophia Dawson Present Kuchichagulia: Self-Determination, Freedom & The State of Mind Dec 27**

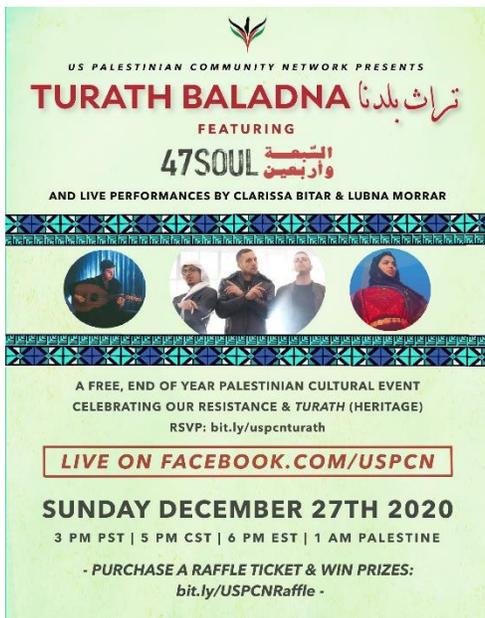
“SUNDAY 12/27 @ 7:00 PM:  
 Veteran Black Panther Yasmeen Sutton & Revolutionary Visual Artist Sophia Dawson Present "Kuchichagulia: Self-Determination, Freedom & The State Of Mind." Register for tonight's program here:  
[www.tinyurl.com/determinationlh](http://www.tinyurl.com/determinationlh)

**The Life and Work of Abdul Jabbar Caliph Book Teach-In and Kwanzaa Event Dec 27**

You are invited to a Zoom meeting. When: Dec 27, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada).  
 Confirmed guest speakers to include: Jihad Abdulmumit, Kazi Toure, Masai Eehosi, Freedom Koofshaw.  
 See Bookstore FB page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/booksforthemovement> Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYldOurrsjqGNNT7slu-ePx0kRUuyXHXCq5> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## USPCN event ft. 47Soul today at 6 ET Dec 27



“Listen to our dear friend & revolutionary Frank Chapman of the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression stand in complete solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and confirm his attendance at Turath Baladna! Watch this special shout out from Janna Jihad, the world’s youngest journalist, in Nabi Salih, Palestine! Hear Janna congratulate our work & thank us for hosting her during her speaking tour in Chicago! On Sunday, December 27th, at 3 PM PT / 5 PM CT / 6 PM ET / 1 AM in Palestine, the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN) will present Turath Baladna ("Our Country's Heritage" in Arabic), a free, end-of-year event celebrating Palestinian resistance and culture - featuring the music group originally from 1948 Palestine, 47Soul. The event will be streamed live on USPCN's Facebook page. (You do not need a Facebook account to access the livestream. Just go to this link to USPCN's Facebook page at the exact starting time!). The event will include the world premiere of 47Soul's new music video of its hit single, "Dabke System," followed by a live

Q&A with the group members, plus live performances from oud player and composer Clarissa Bitar and poet Lubna Morrar.

**47Soul** is a world-renowned electronic music group of Palestinians from Jordan. Its musicians have created a unique style they call Shamstep, in which hip hop and electronica are fused with Arab-influenced melodies and styles, including Egyptian shaabi, traditional dabke dance, and the pop music of the Levant. Currently comprised of members Tareq Abu Kwaik (El Far3i), Ramzy Suleiman (Z the People), and Walaa Sbait, 47Soul produced its debut album in 2015 and has since built a huge fan base across the global Arab diaspora. Clarissa Bitar, a Palestinian born and raised in Los Angeles, is a master oud musician, composer, and producer whose solo album, Bayati, was released in 2019 and focuses on the Maqam Bayati, an important mode in Arab music. And Lubna Morrar is a Palestinian organizer and spoken-word artist from Oakland, California, who performed her poetry at USPCN's national conference in 2010. She is a graduate of San Francisco State University, where she was active with its General Union of Palestine Students (GUPS). To support USPCN's 15 years of participating in Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaigns; advocating for political prisoners, like the campaigns to defend Ramea Odeh and #FreeKhitamSaafin; organizing tours from Palestine for the Wishah Popular Dance Troupe, Addameer's Sahar Francis, and the youngest Palestinian journalist in the world, Janna Jihad; developing our own curriculum to provide intensive political education for Arab youth and students; coordinating delegations to Palestine; and organizing in solidarity with Black liberation (police accountability and #CPACNow), workers' rights, immigrant rights, and other struggles across the U.S. - [purchase raffle tickets NOW](#) to win great prizes donated by our amazing sponsors, like the one in the image above from We Are Pali. **Join us** and invite friends and family to [our livestream!](#) We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, December 27th, at *Turath Baladna* with 47Soul!" See <https://www.facebook.com/USPCN/>

## Tuesday, December 29th – Letter Writing To Mumia Abu-Jamal Dec 29

“WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing WHEN: 7pm, Tuesday, December 29th, 2020 WHERE: YOUR HOME COST: Free. It’s our final every-other-week political prisoner letter-writing event of 2020 and we can’t believe it. Our last public event was on March 10<sup>th</sup> and when we decided to temporarily suspend in-person events we couldn’t envision it lasting the entire calendar year let alone the foreseeable future. Yet, here we are continuing to raise awareness and asking folx to write letters in the comfort and safety of their own homes so that we can keep the tradition alive as we collectively

move through this dystopian reality. For this final event of the year, NYC ABC and Page One Collective are asking folks to write to one of the most well-known u.s.-held political prisoners—Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia Abu-Jamal is an African-American writer and journalist, author of six books and hundreds of columns and articles, who has spent the last 30 years on Pennsylvania’s death row and now general population. Mumia was wrongfully convicted and sentenced for the murder of a Philadelphia cop. The demand for a new trial and freedom is supported by heads of state, Nobel laureates, distinguished human rights organizations, scholars, religious leaders, artists, scientists and, as important, millions of folks like you and us. For more information, be sure to visit <https://www.bringmumiahome.com>. Please take the time to write a letter to Mumia Abu-Jamal (and share a photo of your completed envelopes with us online)” See <https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2020/12/28/mumia2020>” Smart Communications/PA DOC, Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335, SCI Mahanoy, Post Office Box 33028 St Petersburg, Florida 33733

### **'Forsaken Land:' City and State Officials Mum on Covid Vaccination Plans for Incarcerated New Yorkers and Correction Officers Dec 29**

“While New York continues to expand the circle of groups eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, people living and working in correctional facilities are being left out of the equation, despite early commitments from the city's Health Department and the heightened risk of infection in those settings. With a limited supply of the vaccine, public health officials at the state and city levels have been developing a plan to prioritize populations that are most exposed and most vulnerable to the virus, which has killed more than 36,000 New Yorkers. Tracking guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), inoculations began earlier this month for high-risk city and state health-care providers with direct patient contact, and state health officials have been working with city agencies to create a phased distribution scheme for other populations as more doses become available.” See <https://www.gothamgazette.com/state/10030-forsaken-land-officials-mum-covid-vaccination-new-york-jails-prisons>

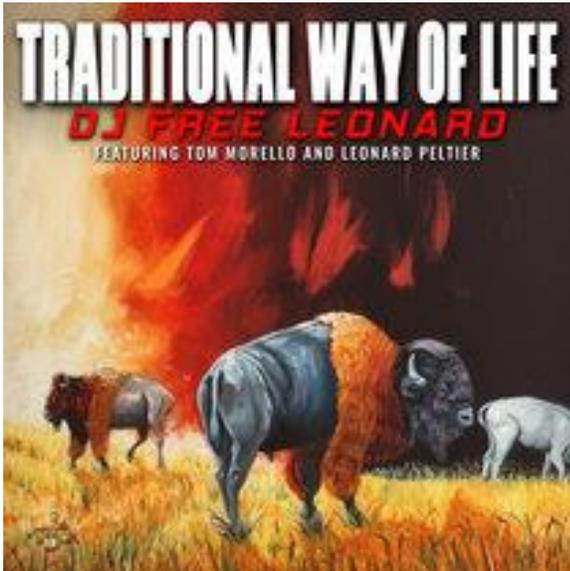
### **Film on COVID and Clemency in NC Prisons Dec 30**

“Nation Inside has been working with Decarcerate NC on an amazing short film about the two-month vigil at the NC Governor's mansion. You can watch it with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv9En6WvvUg> Along with watching and sharing the film, Decarcerate NC is also asking everyone to join them by signing their letter to Governor Roy Cooper.” Please sign it now here: <https://www.decarceratenownc.com/the-letter>

### **January 2021 Books through Bars book bundle! Announcing our January book bundle program with Freebird Books & Goods! Jan 1**

“We carry on our drive with 2021 inaugural picks that feature practicality, physical well-being, and a correction check on insanity. Purchase four works for \$30 (30% off retail): a Men's Health guide to working out without weights, simple steps for performing yoga, an instruction booklet for growing herbs, and a sober look at conspiracy theories (a topic commonly requested by incarcerated readers). Order at <http://www.freebirdbooks.com/shop.html>. Following December's drive, we begin the New Year with books that respond to requests from incarcerated readers on how to garden, stay physically fit, and make sense of conspiracy theory: Men's Health Best: Weight-Free Workout; Cults, Conspiracies & Secret Societies: The Straight Scoop on Freemasons, the Illuminati, Skull and Bones, Black Helicopters, The New World Order, and Many, Many More; Backyard Farming: Growing Herbs for Food and Medicine; and Instant Yoga: Exercises and Guidance for Everyday Wellness.” See <http://www.freebirdbooks.com/home/our-inaugural-2021-pick-is-all-about-health-wellness-and-a-reality-check>

**New release from DJ Free Leonard! Traditional Way of Life (Feat. Tom Morello and Leonard Peltier) by DJ Free Leonard- THE PRESIDENT TO PARDON LEONARD PELTIER** Jan 4



“Iconic rockstar Tom Morello teams up with DJ Free Leonard(Recording Artist) to release a new song “Traditional Way of Life” in hopes of Freedom for Leonard Peltier, an Indigenous Political Prisoner through a Presidential Pardon. Leonard Peltier has served over 44 years for aiding and abetting in the deaths of two FBI agents, during a shoot-out in 1975, in which the prosecutor of the case has most recently urged former President Obama to exonerate Mr. Peltier due to a false conviction including the use of false affidavits and coerced testimony. Mr. Peltier’s lawyer has been in attendance at the White House over the past year for the Prison Reform meetings in which the Clemency campaign has been presented to President Trump to right this wrongful imprisonment.

“Traditional Way of Life” was written, produced and

performed by DJ Free Leonard, the 1st cousin of Leonard Peltier, who collaborated with Tom Morello for the 1st time, creating a record that articulates many injustices with spoken word lyrics by Leonard Peltier himself as well as DJ Free Leonard, who duals as a Poet from Oakland, California. “With my verse I wanted to convey some major legal precedents being violated such as double standards towards Tribal members, the Justice system not always being impartial without biases and Constitutional laws stemming from this case taking place on the Pine Ridge Reservation, Sovereign tribal land including the historical atrocities committed against Indigenous People.”

This must hear song is slated for release on January 8th, 2021 on DJ Free Leonard’s Bandcamp page as a Free Download as well as All Digital Music Platforms. A special Press Conference with DJ Free Leonard (Tom Morello will not be in attendance) has been announced on January 6th, 2021 at 9:00AM Pacific Time. RSVP using contact information below.” See <https://djfreeleonard.bandcamp.com/track/traditional-way-of-life-feat-tom-morello-and-leonard-peltier>

(Photo from <https://djfreeleonard.bandcamp.com/track/traditional-way-of-life-feat-tom-morello-and-leonard-peltier>)

**Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, January 5, 2021 Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET** Jan 5

“Individual Projections of what to expect for 2021. Special Guests: NELLIE BAILEY.....HON. CHARLES BARRON.....BELINDA PARKER BROWN~L.U.I.

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

**Advocates Demand Action as Largest Women's Prison Experiences COVID-19 Outbreak** Jan 5

“There is a life-threatening massive outbreak of COVID-19 at the Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF), California’s largest women’s prison. In the past two weeks, there have been 500 new COVID-19 cases, representing 25% of the population at CCWF. The prison’s ineffective pro-

protocols and gross negligence have directly fueled the spread of the virus. Conditions at CCWF continue to rapidly deteriorate, putting hundreds of lives at risk. Despite having ten months to prepare for a potential outbreak, CCWF administration did not have effective plans or protocols in place to deal with this surge. After receiving positive COVID-19 test results, some cellmates continue to be housed together for hours on end, inevitably spreading the virus in crowded cells that house up to eight people. The units designated for quarantine are filthy, exacerbating breathing problems for those with COVID-19. Quarantine units do not have access to much needed disinfectant and cleaning supplies although these items are absolutely essential to reduce the spread of the virus.” See <https://womenprisoners.org/2021/01/urgent-action-covid-outbreak-in-ccwf/>

### Protesting while white (Video) Jan 7

“Like you, I watched the events of last week, as Trump supporters, who happen to be overwhelmingly white, like almost of them, stormed the United States Capitol. And all I could think was, "Man, protesting while white looks amazing."

Watch the video for this piece here <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2750140118580977>

I'm Arab and Palestinian, and I've been to hundreds of protests. I've organized dozens of them. But yesterday, I didn't see any of the normal protest markers I'm used to. No riot gear, no batons, no tear gas. I mean, some of that stuff came later. But if I understand the concept of riot gear correctly, it's supposed to make an appearance before the riots, not after. And no hundreds of people handcuffed? Is there a zip tie shortage in DC? Also, does tear gas not work on white people or something? Because I know the protests I've been to. If we act up, we have like 5 seconds before the gas comes in. "Free, Free, Pales-- shit!" Or maybe the cops were using pepper spray, and it just doesn't work on white people because of their inability to identify spices....” See video here

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2750140118580977>

### 2020 Reflection: Imperialist Infections, Elections & Aggressions Jan 9

“A look back at 2020 with members of the Black is Back Coalition. We look back on the imperialist infections, elections, and aggressions. Join us January 9, 2020 for a sum up of 2020 like no other. Webinar starts at 12 pm EST.

The Black is Back Coalition presents

2020  
**REFLECTION**

Imperialist  
Infections,  
Elections  
& Aggressions

**ZOOM WEBINAR**  
9TH OF JANUARY 2021  
12PM EST - 5PM EST

Featuring Members of BIBC Steering Committee.

Chairman  
Omar Yeshtela

Vice Chair  
Lisa Davis

Founding Member  
Glen Ford

Harlem Fight Back  
Nelie Bailey

Amos N. Wilson  
Institute  
Karrim Howard

Lynne Stewart  
Committee  
Ralph Poynter

Black Alliance for Peace  
Ajamu Baraka

BANCO  
Rev. Edward Pinkney

Universal African Peoples  
Organization  
Zeki Baruti

Louisiana United  
International  
Belinda Parker-Brown

The Jericho Movement  
Imad Alkhatib

New African Independence  
Party  
Khard Raheem

Black Community  
Control of Police  
Dip Olujoba

New Abolitionist  
Movement  
Belly Davis

BLACK IS BACK

REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://BIBC2020REFLECTION.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://BIBC2020REFLECTION.EVENTBRITE.COM)

This is an interactive event!!! Have your questions and comments ready.” To register please see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-reflection-imperialist-infections-elections-aggressions-tickets-133748071081>

### **Join us on January 11 to mark 19 years since the opening of the infamous Guantánamo Bay prison** Jan 11

“Throughout the last two decades, hundreds of men have been released from Guantánamo, but without any vindication or measure of justice. Forty men, including six of our clients, remain imprisoned without charge or fair trial, and their rights continue to be contested in and out of the courtroom. Join the Center for Constitutional Rights, Justice for Muslims Collective, Amnesty International USA, and Witness Against Torture for a virtual conversation to mark 19 years that the prison at Guantánamo Bay has been open. Rights or Rightlessness? The Lives of Men Imprisoned at Guantánamo. **Monday, January 11, 5:00–6:30 p.m. EST** Guantánamo, extreme as it is, can and must be situated in a broader history of U.S. detention camps and harms of the carceral state. What lessons can we learn from Japanese-American camps during WWII, the detention of Haitian refugees at Guantánamo in the 1990s, and the last 19 years of the military prison itself, to work towards the closure of the prison? **Speakers include:** Mohamedou Ould Slahi, a Guantánamo Bay prison survivor and author of the best-selling book, *Guantánamo Diary* (2015), Baher Azmy, Center for Constitutional Rights Legal Director, Dr. A. Naomi Paik, Associate professor of Asian American studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and author of *Rightlessness: Testimony and Redress in U.S. Prison Camps since World War II* (2016). The conversation will be moderated by Justice for Muslims Collective Co-Founder and Co-Director Dr. Maha Hilal and Center for Constitutional Rights Advocacy Program Manager Aliya Hussain.” See website to register: <https://ccr-justice.org/home/get-involved/events/rights-or-rightlessness-lives-men-imprisoned-guant-namo>

### **Tuesday, January 12th – Letter Writing To David Gilbert** Jan 12

“WHAT: Political Prisoner Letter-Writing WHEN: 7pm, Tuesday, January 12th, 2021

WHERE: YOUR HOME COST: Free. It's our first every-other-week political prisoner letter-writing event of 2021 and we are starting off by writing to David Gilbert—someone close to us, both physically and in spirit. For this first event of the year, NYC ABC and Page One Collective are asking you to continue to write to from home, staying safe, while also keeping our imprisoned comrades front and center. Please take the time to write a letter to David Gilbert (and share a photo of your completed envelopes with us online): David Gilbert #83-A-6158, Shawangunk Correctional Facility, Post Office Box 700, Wallkill, New York 12589. More information: [bit.do/DavidGilbert](http://bit.do/DavidGilbert)” See [https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2021/01/07/david\\_gilbert\\_2021](https://nycabc.wordpress.com/2021/01/07/david_gilbert_2021)

### **Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, Jan 12**

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

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

3. Prof. Louie: Liberation Poetry ~ In remembrance of Lynne Stewart”

### **The Freedom Campaign for Sundiata Acoli with Soffiyah Elijah** Jan 13

“Soffiyah Elijah is an advocate, attorney, scholar, and educator, and the executive director of the Correctional Association of New York. Prior to joining the Correctional Association, Elijah served as deputy director and a clinical instructor at the Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law School. Subscribe also to iMWiL!” <https://imixwhatilike.org> Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPUb7RO3pisSoffiyah&feature=youtu.be>”

### **2021 IS THE YEAR TO FREE ALL U.S. HELD POLITICAL PRISONERS & POWS** (Radio Show) Jan 14

“JOIN US ON THURSDAY MORNING "LIVE" YOU ARE INVITED BY "THE GOOD MORNING

NUEVA YORK" SHOW AND "THE COALITION TO FREE RUSSELL MAROON SHOATZ NOW" TO TUNE IN THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 @ 6:00 AM ON WBAI RADIO - NYC 99.5 FM FOR A SPECIAL (1) HOUR PROGRAM FOR OUR ELDER 77 YEAR OLD VETERAN BLACK PANTHER POLITICAL PRISONER WITH BOTH ORGANIZERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SHOATZ FAMILY TO BRING MAROON HOME!' WBAI Radio – NYC

[www.wbai.org/program.php?program=363](http://www.wbai.org/program.php?program=363)

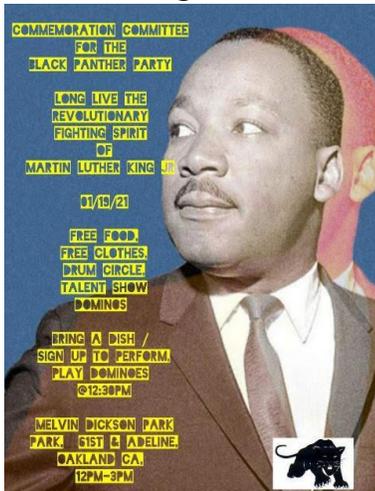
### We Are Maroon Album Release Jan 15



“The Maroon Party For Liberation & The Cultural Committee of the Free Maroon Coalition will host a virtual album release of We Maroon Liberation Suite #1 : The Mosaic of Sound. An album dedicated to Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, marronage and maroons. Join us for performances, updates, Q&A, strategy session on next steps, political education and report backs along with fresh new music and art to liberate Maroon(s). Do you want to add to this creative collection? We want you too! Connect with spiritchild - [spiritchild@xspiritmental.com](mailto:spiritchild@xspiritmental.com) Facebook Event for We Maroon Album Release” See [https://mail-](https://mail-chi.mp/f2f45d69817a/upcoming-events-to-free-maroon?e=4469dbc426)

[chi.mp/f2f45d69817a/upcoming-events-to-free-maroon?e=4469dbc426](https://mail-chi.mp/f2f45d69817a/upcoming-events-to-free-maroon?e=4469dbc426)

### CCBPP-Long Live the Revolutionary Fighting Spirit of Martin Luther King Jr! Jan 19



Join us at The Melvin Dickson Park, 61<sup>st</sup> & Adeline St., Oakland, CA. Jan. 19, 2021; 12pm-3pm PST.

Free food and clothes, drumming circle, talent show, dominos.

See you there!

### Oakland Jericho Political Prisoner Writing Session Jan 27

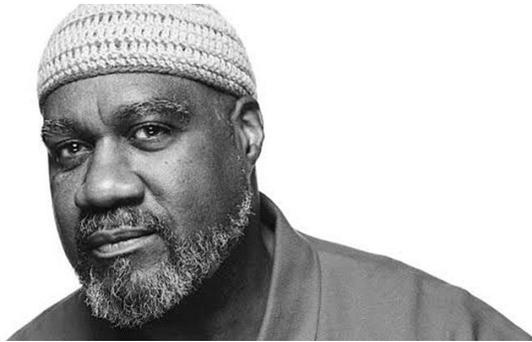


THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 AT 6 PM PST – 7:30 PM PST. Join us for an evening of discussion and letter writing for Bill Dunne, Mumia Abu Jamal, and Leonard Peltier. Please use white paper and white envelopes only. This is our first session of ongoing Political Prisoner letter writing and discussions. Get your free tickets here:

[www.eventbrite.com/x/oakland-jericho-political-prisoner-writing-sessions-tickets-136065149525](http://www.eventbrite.com/x/oakland-jericho-political-prisoner-writing-sessions-tickets-136065149525) See FB event page:

<https://fb.me/e/14LFXSuJT>

**We Are Our Own Liberators Feb 9<sup>th</sup>**



“In early February 2021, **Jericho Boston** is hosting, and Jalil Muntaqim is leading a six part seminar on Jalil's book, *We Are Our Own Liberators*. Jalil Muntaqim is a former Black Panther and political prisoner.

He was released from prison on October 7th 2020 after serving nearly 50 years. During his decades in prison, Jalil earned numerous educational degrees, authored two books, led mul-

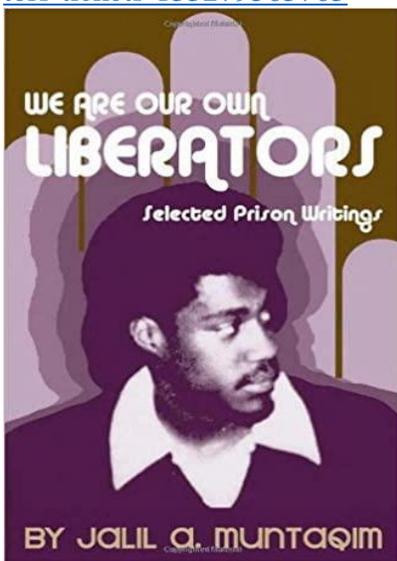
multiple education programs, and mentored many younger incarcerated men. In this six-part educational series, Jalil will bring his collection of writings to life and delve into the criteria needed for building a revolutionary nationalist front.

Additional information can be found by clicking on the event link here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-our-own-liberators-tickets-133279563763>. In this educational series, Jalil Muntaqim will cover his book, *We Are Our Own Liberators*, in six parts. Jalil will lead each class, on either Tuesdays or Thursdays, your choice, via zoom. Once you have signed up and paid for the seminar, the zoom link for the day you signed up for will be emailed to you. A detailed schedule is provided below.

**Seminar Schedule** Series will be held every other week via Zoom, you can sign up for either Tuesdays **OR** Thursdays

<p><b>Tuesday Track</b>                  Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST</p>	<p><b>Thursday Track</b>                  Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST                  Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 @7-8:30PM EST</p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b>  <b>Part 2:</b>  <b>Part 3:</b>  <b>Part 4:</b>  <b>Part 5:</b>  <b>Part 6:</b></p>
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**Fee:** Jericho Boston is requesting a \$60 donation be made to participate in the seminar. All proceeds will go to Jalil. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-our-own-liberators-tickets-133279563763>”



“**Book Purchase:** Jericho Boston has a limited number of hard copies of WE ARE OUR OWN LIBERATORS on sale for \$10 + Shipping. Please email: [kellie.jerichoboston@gmail.com](mailto:kellie.jerichoboston@gmail.com) for a copy.

The E-book can also be purchased independently here: [bit.ly/E-Book\\_WAOOL](http://bit.ly/E-Book_WAOOL).

Join us!” See <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-our-own-liberators-tickets-133279563763> <https://jerichoboston.com/> [https://www.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product\\_detail&p=481](https://www.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=481)

Please reference the links below for updates: [Jericho Boston Facebook - Jericho Boston](#)”

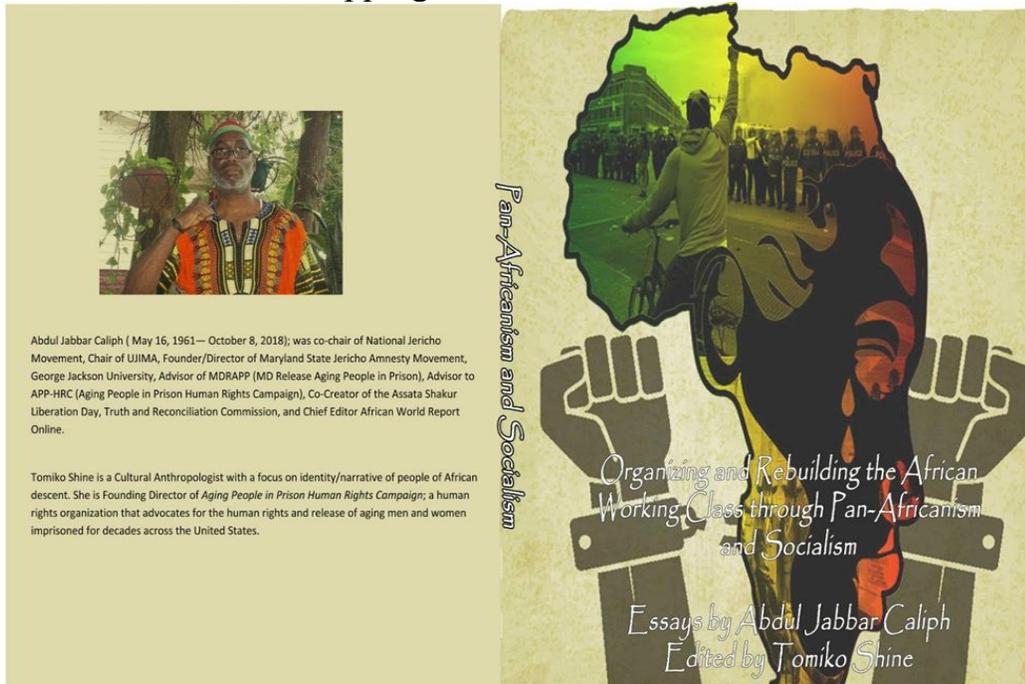
**“Organizing and Rebuilding African Working Class through Pan-Africanism and Socialism, a Collection of Essays” by Abdul Jabbar Caliph; Edited by Tomiko Shine. (Ongoing)**

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## News, Articles, and Updates

### **Arsenic Contamination in US Public Water Is More Likely in Latinx Communities Dec 9**

“Researchers studied approximately 13 million records from 2006 to 2011 covering 139,000 public water systems in 46 states, Washington D.C., and Native American tribes. The records cover water service for 290 million people, representing 95 percent of all public water systems and 92 percent of the total population served by public water systems. Researchers found that, while average public water arsenic concentrations decreased by an average of 10 percent nationwide over the time studied, that decrease was not equal across all areas or demographic groups. Arsenic levels remained higher in water systems serving Hispanic communities and areas of the Southwestern U.S. Their findings were published in December 2020 in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.” See <https://portside.org/2021-01-11/arsenic-contamination-us-public-water-more-likely-latinx-communities>

### **An Argument for the Early Immunization of Prisoners Dec 15**

“As public discussion turns to who will be first in line for coronavirus vaccination, prisoners are mostly left off the list, even though prisoners are known to have a very high rate of coronavirus infection and the infection of prisoners poses a public health danger to the community. Prisons and jails, like hospitals and nursing homes, are “total institutions.” There are a large number of individuals in a confined space and it is next to impossible to provide for social distancing, enhanced hygiene, healthy ventilation, masks, hand-washing, sanitizing, and health-supporting activities such as regular exercise and ongoing healthy social interaction. Officers are often less than rigorous about wearing masks,

washing hands, and maintaining social distance. They are even reported to cross over without proper precautions from areas of the prison designated for infected prisoners to areas where there are no known infections, further spreading the coronavirus.” See

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/prisons-and-prisms/202012/argument-the-early-immunization-prisoners>

### **We Are Not Done With Abolition Dec 15**

“Early this month, a group of Democratic members of Congress introduced an Abolition Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Why, in the year 2020, does the Constitution need an amendment dealing with the abolition of slavery? Wasn’t that accomplished over a century and a half ago? The problem is that the Thirteenth Amendment, ratified in 1865, which prohibits slavery throughout the country, allows for “involuntary servitude” as a “punishment for crime.” This loophole made possible the establishment of a giant, extremely profitable, system of convict labor, mainly affecting African-Americans, in the Jim Crow South. That system no longer exists but its legacy remains in the widespread forced labor of prisoners, who are paid far below the minimum wage. The Abolition Amendment would eliminate the Thirteenth Amendment’s “criminal exemption” by adding these words to the Constitution: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude may be imposed as a punishment for a crime.” See

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/15/opinion/abolition-prison-labor-amendment.html>

### **Why Millions of Americans Still Can't Get Coronavirus Relief Funds Dec 15**

“At first it seemed like an infuriating bureaucratic error, the message that kept repeating when Roy Wright called a hotline to find out when he would receive his coronavirus stimulus funds. “Not available,” it said. Wright said he had paid all his taxes. He manages a car wash in Baltimore, working steadily for the same company for the past 25 years. By April, as the pandemic gutted the city’s economy, the lines of cars were gone. His hours were cut and his income plunged. All around him people were receiving federal payments. Wright soon learned there was no mistake. He would not get the aid because of an exclusion deep in the \$2 trillion COVID-19 relief bill that Congress passed in March. If any family member filed a return using a taxpayer identification number, a legally valid alternative for people who do not have a Social Security number, the whole family was disqualified from payments.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/15/why-millions-of-americans-still-can-t-get-coronavirus-relief-funds>

### **Torturing children is normal for Israel Dec 16**

“In 2018, veteran Palestine solidarity campaigner and Jewish anti-Zionist Tony Greenstein was expelled from the Labour Party after being smeared as an anti-Semite. As has been seen so often during Labour's manufactured anti-Semitism crisis, the charges cited by party lawyers referred not to actual "anti-Semitism", but to legitimate criticism of Israel. On his blog, Greenstein had pointed to the anti-Palestinian record of the then Labour MP Louise Ellman. She's been a leading pro-Israel lobbyist in Britain for decades. At that time she was the vice-chair of Labour Friends of Israel, and later became the group's chairperson. While in parliament, Ellman frequently asked questions on behalf of Israel and its lobby. As Greenstein put it, her habit was to "put forward the standard Israeli security argument." He wrote that she was an "apologist for Israel's occupation forces" and a "supporter of Israeli child abuse." See <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201216-torturing-children-is-normal-for-israel/>

### **General Update on Palestinian Prisoners Dec 16**

“In November 2020, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) detained 413 Palestinians, including 49 children, seven women, and 157 from Jerusalem, amounting to a total of 4400 Palestinian prisoners currently inside Israeli prisons. Moreover, during this month alone, the Israeli occupation authorities issued 102 administrative detention orders, 47 of which are new orders and 55 renewed administrative orders.” See [http://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/november\\_newsletter\\_2020.pdf](http://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/november_newsletter_2020.pdf)

**[Freedom archives news] Nancy Barrett—;Presenté! Dec 16**

“We at the Freedom Archives are deeply saddened by the passing of Nancy Barrett, one of our founders, on December 12, 2020, at the age of 81, after a bout with cancer. Nancy was with us from the start, bringing her wise and compassionate spirit and counsel to our work. A longtime movement activist, Nancy co-produced our weekly series entitled “Nothing Is More Precious Than,” with Claude Marks and later Lincoln Bergman, from 1973 to 1976, as well as many other programs and projects over the years. The program’s name derived from a statement by Ho Chi Minh, that “nothing is more precious than independence and freedom.” A movement organizer from the mid-60s on, Nancy was active in the student, civil rights/Black liberation, anti-prison/antiwar/anti-imperialist, and women’s liberation movements. She worked with and helped lead and nurture women’s clinics in several parts of the country, including Planned Parenthood, and she directed an AIDS clinic with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. During the early years of our weekly programs, beginning with “The Real Dragon,” Nancy and her daughter and son, Renee and Michael, and her close friend from then to now, Barbara Sternfeld, lived on Blake St. in Berkeley not far from KPFA-FM where we broadcast.” See [freedomarchives.org](https://freedomarchives.org)

**The Marshall Project: police in Clark County, OR, shoot a 21-year-old Black man in the back 34 times Dec 16**

“Kevin E. Peterson Jr. appears to have been running from Clark County sheriff’s deputies at the time he was shot, according to a magnified version of a surveillance video released Friday. The video was taken from a business across the busy highway from the U.S. Bank branch where Peterson was killed Oct. 29. Peterson, 21, can be seen at first walking south along the far side of the parking lot. Two cars driven by deputies pull into the lot and a third car that had been waiting at the entrance of the lot backs into area. The video shows three deputies getting out of their cars. Peterson, who by then had made it to the corner of the lot, turns and runs north. The deputies move toward Peterson, who runs away from them in the direction of the drive-through bank window. The video shows Peterson go down. An earlier version of the video was released but it did not include a close-up view of the shooting. In all, the deputies fired a total of 34 times in what they described for investigators as a confusing scene that unfolded in seconds. The situation was so chaotic with so much gunfire that two of the deputies mistakenly feared that Peterson had fired at them. Peterson was hit four times and died on the pavement.” See <https://www.oregonlive.com/clark-county/2020/12/newly-released-video-shows-kevin-e-peterson-jr-fired-on-while-running-from-deputies.html>

**We’re suing ICE and DHS for information on terror tactics used in arrests Dec 16**

“On Wednesday, we joined with the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to demand access to arrest records and related information for a wave of ICE raids in sanctuary cities across the U.S. this year. The lawsuit seeks to compel both ICE and DHS to release policy guidances, memos, and trainings as well as records regarding the process ICE uses to determine “targets” pertaining to “Operation Palladium,” an aggressive immigration surveillance and policing initiative that advocates say has dramatically increased the use of force and other aggressive tactics by ICE since it began in early 2020. ICE and DHS refused to release information on the program in response to an urgent FOIA request, filed in June 2020, over concerns about the program. The lawsuit filed Wednesday seeks a court order to immediately release the requested documents.” See <https://ccrjustice.org/home/press-center/press-releases/immigrant-rights-attorneys-sue-dhs-and-ice-information-terror>

**Mumia Abu-Jamal Urgent Legal Update Dec 17**

“FOP Loses for Now: Ominous Split Decision by PA Supreme Court. The Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police Lodge Five & Maureen Faulkner have lost this fight. But the rematch is going to be brutal.

On December 16th the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dismissed the FOP's King's Bench petition to remove Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner as the prosecutor in Mumia Abu-Jamal's criminal case and replace him with Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro. Mumia is contesting his first-degree murder conviction for the shooting death of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner on December 9, 1981. His default opponent in court is the lead prosecutor for the city of Philadelphia: DA Larry Krasner. The recently-dismissed King's Bench petition argued unsuccessfully that Krasner is biased in favor of Mumia and should be removed." See

<https://prisonradio.wordpress.com/2020/12/18/urgent-mumia-legal-update/>

### **Prisoners four times more likely to get COVID Dec 18**

‘One in five state and federal prisoners has tested positive for COVID-19, a rate more than four times higher than the general population, newly analyzed data reveals. Hundreds of thousands of prisoners have been infected since corrections officials began keeping track of the coronavirus this spring but even that is almost certainly a significant undercount, experts say. In some states, more than half of prisoners have gotten sick. Prison workers have also been hit hard. Nationwide, one in five have tested positive.’ See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/18/1-in-5-prisoners-in-the-u-s-has-had-covid-19>

### **A Question of Violence Dec 18**

‘Rahsaan “New York” Thomas is barred from COVID-related release from San Quentin because his 20-year-old crime was violent. GoFundMe cancelled his legal defense campaign for the same reason. Here’s what it’s like to live with the scarlet letter V. “Denied, without prejudice, for failure to state a prima facie case for habeas relief.” Laying on the top bunk of the San Quentin cell assigned to me, I read those words on the California State Appellate Court’s one-page ruling over and over. “Without prejudice” means you can refile the same issue in that same court—something that does not usually happen. This was not exactly the decision I wanted, but at least they left the door open for me to resubmit the appeal I had filed in February, which included new evidence.’ See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/18/a-question-of-violence>

### **Disorganized, Violent NYPD Badly Screwed Up Floyd Protests, Watchdog Finds Dec 18**

‘The New York City Police Department’s tactics during the massive George Floyd protests over the summer “heightened tensions” between cops and residents, and were riddled with “deficiencies” that led to excessive use of force, according to a scathing report from the city’s watchdog.

The highly anticipated report, released by New York City’s Department of Investigation on Friday, acknowledged that “public trust is at a low ebb” in the city—in part because the NYPD didn’t have a “clearly defined strategy” on how to handle the protests. Millions of people took to the streets across the country after a white police officer held his knee on Floyd’s neck for nearly nine minutes in Minneapolis in May. “NYPD use of force and crowd control tactics often failed to discriminate between lawful, peaceful protesters and unlawful actors, and contributed to the perception that officers were exercising force in some cases beyond what was necessary under the circumstances,” the report concluded.” See <https://www.thedailybeast.com/disorganized-violent-nypd-badly-screwed-up-floyd-protests-watchdog-finds?ref=wrap>

### **National Guard rushed into prison duty Dec 21**

‘The National Guard is game but undertrained for guarding prisoners. The National Guard doesn’t typically train for corrections work. But guard members around the country are helping cover for COVID-19-positive correctional officers by patrolling outside penitentiaries, delivering food and other supplies and monitoring the health of the incarcerated. But in Ohio soldiers are providing security inside prisons and doing so after only a single day of formal training. Some guardsmen aren’t happy about the arrangement. “We really just kind of got thrown into the fire,” one says.’ See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/21/the-national-guard-is-using-force-on-prisoners-after-little-training>

### **Moving People—and Coronavirus—from Prison to Prison** Dec 21

“Families of men incarcerated at Michigan’s Kinross Correctional Facility believed its remote location would spare it from a deadly COVID-19 outbreak. For a while, they seemed to be right. Kinross, built on the grounds of a former Air Force base in the Upper Peninsula, is closer to Canada than it is to Detroit. Unlike most prisons in Michigan, Kinross had remained almost unscathed by the coronavirus with only one case between March and October. But on Oct. 28, corrections officials transferred nine prisoners to Kinross from Marquette Branch Prison, several hours west, where COVID-19 was running rampant. There were 837 confirmed cases by late October, 350 of which were active when the men were transferred.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/21/moving-people-and-coronavirus-from-prison-to-prison>

### **Detroit is Suing Black Lives Matter Protesters for “Civil Conspiracy”** Dec 21

“At the end of August, activists in Detroit, like those in dozens of U.S. cities, sued their local government for its police department’s reaction to this year’s Black Lives Matter mobilization. Their complaint alleges that Detroit cops “repeatedly responded with violence” when they took to the streets and includes photos and descriptions of some of the gruesome resulting injuries: bruised and broken ribs, concussions, a collapsed lung, a fractured pelvis. In light of this brutality, the protesters asked a federal judge to bar the police from using “tools of excessive force,” like chemical weapons, sound cannons, and rubber bullets, against them. Less than a month later, after the court issued temporary orders restricting the cops’ use of force, the city filed its official response. It includes a line-by-line denial of every brutality accusation — and a countersuit.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/12/21/detroit-black-lives-matter-lawsuit/>

### **Expunged Records For Inmate Firefighters** Dec 22

“In a year when catastrophic wildfires charred millions of acres across the state and stretched firefighting crews to the breaking point, California passed Assembly Bill 2147. The law will allow inmates who work in prison fire camps a chance to have their records expunged upon release. The law is designed to reward their service by making it easier for them to find employment upon release especially among the ranks of professional firefighters at a time when California proved to be woefully short. The bill's authors contend it could be key in protecting residents in this era of catastrophic wildfires. "Inmates who have stood on the frontlines, battling historic fires should not be denied the right to later become a professional firefighter," Newsom said upon signing the law.” See <https://patch.com/california/berkeley/s/hcxq2/6-new-california-laws-that-may-impact-your-life-in-2021>

### **Migrant women file class-action lawsuit for medical abuse at ICE detention center** Dec 22

“About 40 women filed sworn testimony in the case, "revealing a relentless pattern of unnecessary and non-consensual medical procedures, including unwanted gynecological surgeries and other non-consensual medical interventions," according to a statement. About 40 migrant women who were held at a Georgia detention center have filed a class-action lawsuit alleging they were subjected to medical abuse through nonconsensual or unnecessary procedures while in the facility. The complaint, filed late Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, also claims women at the Irwin County Detention Center were retaliated against for speaking out against Dr. Mahendra Amin, of Ocilla, Georgia, who has been accused of the medical abuse.” See <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/migrant-women-file-class-action-lawsuit-alleged-medical-abuse-ice-n1252066>

### **Black men have the shortest lifespans of any Americans** Dec 22

“Black Men Have the Shortest Lifespans of Any Americans. This Theory Helps Explain Why.

The unrelenting stress of fighting systemic racism can alter a body's normal functioning until it starts to wear down. The theory, known as John Henryism, helps explain racial health disparities." See <https://www.propublica.org/article/black-men-have-the-shortest-lifespans-of-any-americans-this-theory-helps-explain-why>

### **Samidoun salutes Abdulrahman Odeh on his release, urges freedom for Holy Land Foundation 5 #HLF5 Dec 22**

"Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network warmly congratulates Abdulrahman Odeh and his family on the occasion of his release from 15 years of unjust and illegitimate imprisonment by the U.S. government as part of the Holy Land Foundation 5 (HLF5) case. The persecution of the HLF5 is a clear anti-Palestinian attack by the U.S. government, a case that persisted for years upon years, on the slimmest of evidence, involving practices that undercut the very premise of justice and accountability, including anonymous testimony by Mossad agents. On this day of celebration for the Odeh family, we urge the immediate release of his fellow HLF5 political prisoners and all political prisoners in U.S. jails and the broadest possible mobilization to obtain their liberation." See <https://samidoun.net/2020/12/samidoun-salutes-abdulrahman-odeh-on-his-release-urges-freedom-for-holy-land-foundation-5-hlf5/>

### **Reversing course, feds say some US inmates get virus vaccine Dec 22**

"The Federal Bureau of Prisons says it has started to give the coronavirus vaccine to some high-risk inmates but won't say how many inmates have been vaccinated or how it selects those to receive the vaccine. The revelation, in a statement to The Associated Press on Tuesday, contradicts the agency's previous policy that initial doses were for staff members. The AP reported last month that internal prison documents detailed that initial allotments of the vaccine "will be reserved for staff," even though sickened prisoners vastly outnumber sickened staff. "At this time, we can confirm high risk inmates in a few of the BOP facilities in different regions of the country have received the vaccine," Bureau of Prisons spokesman Justin Long said in a statement." See <https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-prisons-d2c1a3013351ed42cf75a194e4661cf3>

### **Holy Land Foundation Five Prisoner Abdulrahman Odeh is released Dec 22**

"Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network warmly congratulates Abdulrahman Odeh and his family on the occasion of his release from 15 years of unjust and illegitimate imprisonment by the U.S. government as part of the Holy Land Foundation 5 (HLF5) case. The persecution of the HLF5 is a clear anti-Palestinian attack by the U.S. government, a case that persisted for years upon years, on the slimmest of evidence, involving practices that undercut the very premise of justice and accountability, including anonymous testimony by Mossad agents. On this day of celebration for the Odeh family, we urge the immediate release of his fellow HLF5 political prisoners and all political prisoners in U.S. jails and the broadest possible mobilization to obtain their liberation. Abdulrahman Odeh and his family were deprived of 15 years of their time together due to the malicious prosecution of the HLF5 in a concentrated, anti-Palestinian campaign designed to devastate the Palestinian community in the United States, destroy institutions that had been built over years of work and struggle and spread fear and repression among the community, especially amid the post-9/11 imperial war drive in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as the rising Intifada in Palestine." See <https://nycabc.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/updates-29-dec-2020.pdf>

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### **CA Supreme Court Vacates Ordered Reduction of San Quentin Prison Population Dec 23**

"Stating that "the COVID-19 outbreak at San Quentin [Prison] has been the worst epidemiological disaster in California correctional history," the First District, Division Two, Court of Appeal's October opinion in *In re Von Staich* found the prison warden and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation "have acted with deliberate indifference" to protecting prisoners from the pandemic. The court ordered the expedited removal from the prison — "by means of release on parole or transfer to another correctional facility" — of about half the inmates." See <http://www.atthelectern.com/supreme-court-orders-further-proceedings-in-pandemic-related-prisoner-release-transfer-case/>

### **"I'm overwhelmed with joy to know that my family finally counts." Dec 23**

"Congress steps up, abolishes a rule from the first pandemic relief legislation that punished American spouses of undocumented immigrants. About 1.4 million U.S. citizens and legal residents were barred from getting the first round of economic stimulus relief this summer because they filed taxes jointly with an undocumented partner. Now they are eligible to receive the new \$600 payment." See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/23/congress-ends-penalty-that-kept-a-million-americans-from-getting-covid-relief-funds>

### **Coronavirus outbreak infects 20% of East Bay women's prison Dec 23**

"A fast-moving coronavirus outbreak at FCI Dublin, a federal women's prison in Alameda County, has infected more than 20% of the prison's population, according to data released Wednesday. The mass spread of the virus in jails and prisons around the country, often following the transfers of inmates, has fueled anger from incarcerated people and the facilities' staffs. At FCI Dublin, the outbreak is raising concerns among lawyers and advocates about inmate safety there and questions about whether authorities did enough to try to control the virus. The prison reported 185 infections out of the 880 women incarcerated there Wednesday, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. More than 200 additional women at the low-security prison were awaiting test results." See <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Coronavirus-outbreak-infects-20-of-East-Bay-15825744.php>

### **Governor, please release our husbands: Loved ones of inmates ask for Christmas mercy Dec 23**

"2020 has been a year that most of us would prefer to forget. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in ways we never imagined. Protests and public outcry in 2020 emphasized the importance of listening and responding to those directly impacted by racial injustice. We are those people. As four Black women, all life partners of New Yorkers currently serving long prison sentences in our state's prison system, we need Gov. Cuomo — who has spoken often and eloquently about the need to show love and mercy during the pandemic — to listen to our voices and reunite our families before the new year. These are our stories. Nawanna Snipe-Tucker: I haven't been able to visit my husband since March because of COVID-19. He is serving his 32nd year in state prison custody. Imagine having a loved one, someone elderly or with vulnerable health conditions, in prison during this pandemic, with no guarantee of proper safety measures in place. My husband's and so many others' lives are at risk and there is one person with the power to save them through executive clemency: the governor. The virus has spread at exponentially higher rates behind bars. Efforts to contain it have varied dramatically in effectiveness from prison to prison, with no standardized approach for prevention and treatment. From

inadequate PPE to inhuman quarantine, New York's prison pandemic conditions are dangerous for all who are exposed to correctional facilities. Governors in other states have heard the pleas of advocates to save lives and reduce crowding in prison. By contrast, Cuomo has only granted three clemencies during the pandemic." See <https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-governor-please-release-our-husbands-20201223-qqdsty5tk5cmrnj3twe4437yhi-story.html>

### **Correctional Facilities Are COVID-19 Hot Spots. Why Don't They Get Vaccine Priority?** Dec 24

"The equation for COVID-19 hot spots has been clear since the earliest days of the pandemic: Take facilities where people live in close quarters, then add conditions that make it hard to take preventive measures such as wearing personal protective equipment or keeping socially distant. Major outbreaks in nursing homes this spring shocked the nation. Now, residents of those facilities are among the first in line for the vaccine. Similar conditions plague the nation's jails, prisons and detention centers, where outbreaks continue. The 2.3 million people incarcerated in the U.S. are nearly five times as likely to test positive for the coronavirus as Americans generally and nearly three times as likely to die, after adjusting for age and sex. But the question of when inmates will receive the vaccine remains wide open. Experts say that's because the states and agencies that control distribution face political pressure from a general public that has historically been unsympathetic to the health of incarcerated people." See <https://www.npr.org/2020/12/24/948873835/correctional-facilities-are-covid-19-hot-spots-why-dont-they-get-vaccine-priorit>

### **Activists demand prisoners' release amid COVID-19 pandemic** Dec 24

"During a Tuesday afternoon regional press-conference conducted at Penn Station in midtown-Manhattan activists demanded "the immediate release & outside care for all elder prisoners who have tested positive for COVID-19." Their primary focus has been on fellow Black Panther activists Mutulu Shakur, 70, Mumia Abu-Jamal, 66, and Russell Maroon Shoatz, 77, as well as others incarcerated in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut state prisons. Similar rallies ran simultaneously in several other states. Supporters of prominent political "prisoners-of-war" Shakur, Abu-Jamal and Shoatz; have called for their immediate releases from prison since they individually contracted COVID-19 earlier this year while imprisoned. The demands include treatment at modern medical facilities for all COVID positive prisoners/patients, as well as the "immediate distribution of personal protective equipment for all prisoners, visitors & prison staff." See <http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2020/dec/24/activists-demand-prisoners-release-amid-covid-19-p/>

### **40 Years a Prisoner Unearths a Little-Told History of Police Violence in Philadelphia** Dec 24

"Mike Africa Jr. met his parents in prison. In fact, he was born in a cell. For most of his life, he did all he could to get his mother, Debbie Africa, and father, Mike Africa Sr., released. A new documentary, 40 Years a Prisoner, available on HBO now, follows his journey fighting his parents' incarceration—and rigorously examines the sordid history of law enforcement practices like the ones that landed them there in the first place. Like Africa Jr., director Tommy Oliver grew up in Philadelphia, hearing rumblings about MOVE—the back-to-the-land Black anarchist group Africa Jr.'s parents were core members of. (While the name is capitalized, it's not an acronym.) It wasn't until Oliver began doing his own research on MOVE that a much bigger story began to reveal itself. "I watched everything I could. And then I went to the Temple [University] Urban Archives, and I went through dozens of boxes of content," Oliver told Vanity Fair. "There was still so much that I knew wasn't there. So I had a friend make an intro to MOVE"—first to a woman named Ramona, then to Africa Jr. He informed Oliver about the MOVE Nine, the incarcerated members of the group, which was founded in 1972 by John Africa. (All members take on the last name Africa.) Two had died in prison, while the other seven were still alive at the time, including his parents." See <https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2020/12/40-years-a-prisoner-a-little-told-history-of-police-violence-in-philadelphia>

**He got 100 years for shooting at police. Now a debate over racial bias prompts new trial.** Dec 24  
 “In 2016, Ramar Crump was convicted of crimes tied to a chaotic shootout with Charlotte-Mecklenburg police three years before. Superior Court Judge Greg Hayes sentenced Crump to up to 100 years in prison. Now, a divided N.C. Supreme Court has ordered a new trial, ruling that Hayes improperly blocked Crump’s attorney from questioning the prospective jurors about their possible racial biases. The 4-3 decision this month overturned a 2018 ruling by the state Court of Appeals that unanimously upheld Crump’s conviction.” See <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/he-got-100-years-for-shooting-at-police-now-a-debate-over-racial-bias-prompts-new-trial/ar-BB1cdecs>

**States Say They're Decarcerating to Fight COVID, Yet 1 in 5 Prisoners Has Had the Virus** Dec 25  
 “Some of us wear masks even in our beds, but it feels futile,” said Sarah Jo Pender, incarcerated at the Rockville Correctional Facility, one of Indiana’s three women’s prisons. “There is little to do except watch the infection spread and wait my turn to suffer.” These measures did not prevent Pender and six of the 14 women in her cell from contracting COVID-19. They were not alone: As of December 18, the prison had tested 1,050 women; 302 (nearly 29 percent) tested positive. On December 10, nearly nine months after the virus exploded across the United States, prisons reported 276,235 confirmed COVID cases, a rate more than four times as high as that among the general public. One in five prisoners has had COVID-19. Prisons have had at least 1,738 deaths from COVID.” See [truthout.org](https://truthout.org)

**Statement: 26 Palestine journalists inside Israel jails** Dec 26

“The Journalist Support Committee (JSC) confirmed on Friday that there are currently 26 Palestinian journalists inside Israeli jails, Anadolu Agency reported. In a statement reported by Anadolu Agency, the JSC, an NGO reporting on violations against Palestinian journalists, revealed that last week the Israel occupation forces arrested Palestinian journalist Laith Jaara from his house in Tulkarm. Jaara, according to the JSC, was the last Palestinian journalist to be arrested by the Israeli occupation forces, noting that his detention brought the number of Palestinian journalists currently inside Israeli jails to 26.” See <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201226-statement-26-palestine-journalists-inside-israel-jails/>

**Mumia Gets a New Chance to Challenge His Murder Conviction** Dec 25

“State Supreme Court rejects Faulkner Widow’s ‘Evidence-Free’ Effort to Block Mumia Appeal  
 Mumia Abu-Jamal, the prison journalist long known as the “voice of the voiceless” for his compelling writings and short audio tapes about life behind bars, moved a step closer to getting a chance for a reconsideration of his earliest appeal of his conviction — an allegedly flawed Post-Conviction Relief Act hearing in 1995, as well as three other later PCRA appeals of aspects his case, all ignored and their findings rejected by Pennsylvania’s appellate courts under spurious conditions. The opening comes in the form of dismissal by the state’s Supreme Court of an attempt by Maureen Faulkner, widow of slain Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner, to use an obscure legal gambit called a King’s Bench petition, to have DA Larry Krasner’s office removed as the legal entity defending against Abu-Jamal’s appeals. That effort, filed last February, had blocked any forward action on those appeals.” See <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/12/25/mumia-gets-a-new-chance-to-challenge-his-murder-conviction/>

**Demonstrators Besiege California Prison Headquarters** Dec 25

“‘Mass releases now!’ Sacramento, CA – Under the banner “From Balloons to Bullhorns,” an angry group of protesters converged on the steps of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to demand mass releases of incarcerated people due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The vigil and rally organized by Sistas With Voices began with 104 seconds of silence to symbolize the 104 prisoners who have already died inside California state prisons from COVID-19. According to the latest reports from the CDCR, there are 8,800 reported cases of COVID-19 among a prison population

of 91,000. More than 3,000 guards and other prison staff — the most probable source of the COVID-19 infection — have also tested positive.” See <https://popularresistance.org/demonstrators-besiege-california-prison-headquarters/>

### **Israeli Warplanes Bomb Pediatric Hospital in Gaza, Injure Child** Dec 26

“Israeli airstrikes and artillery attacks **damaged a pediatric hospital, a center for disability services and several homes** in the besieged Gaza Strip early Saturday morning, Palestine Chronicle correspondent Wafa Aludaini reported. Israeli warplanes fired five missiles east of the neighborhood of Tuffah in Gaza City injuring a six-year-old girl and a young man, according to our reporter and eyewitness’ accounts in the targeted area. Israeli media, citing official sources, claimed that the latest round of Israeli bombings targeted sites that belong to the Palestinian movement Hamas, which currently governs the Gaza Strip.” See <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/photos-israelstrikes-pediatric-hospital-in-gaza-injures-palestinian-child/>

### **The Haunting of Tulsa, Oklahoma** Dec 26

“The Tulsa, Okla., police department set the stage for mass murder in the spring of 1921 when it deputized members of a mob that invaded and destroyed the prosperous Black enclave of Greenwood. The armed marauders who swept into the community in the early hours of June 1 wreaked havoc in the spirit of a police directive that urged white Tulsans to “Get a gun, and get busy and try to get a n\*\*\*\*r.” They murdered at will while forcing Black families from their homes. They looted valuables that included jewelry, furs and fine furnishings. They used torches and oil-soaked rags to set fires that incinerated homes, churches, doctors’ offices, hotels and other businesses across an area of 35 square blocks. The first day of June was less eventful on the other side of the tracks, in white Tulsa’s business district. In his 1968 memoir, “Oklahoma Boy,” Ross Warner recalls that his work took him to the First National Bank building, on the corner of Fourth Street and Main. “From time to time on June 1,” he writes, “we heard sirens and, on looking out of the window, saw trucks headed south on Main Street with Negro bodies in them. We saw at least 30 or 40 hauled away in this fashion.” See <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/26/opinion/tulsa-race-massacre-mass-grave.html>

### **Israeli minister orders not to vaccinate Palestinian prisoners** Dec 27

“Despite Health Ministry’s directive to be vaccinated, Israeli Public Security Minister Amir Ohana ordered that Palestinian security prisoners would not be inoculated, Israeli newspaper Haaretz revealed on Sunday. The office of the Israeli minister stated that only prison staff should be vaccinated because “there should be no inoculating security prisoners without approval and in line with vaccination progress among the general population.” Likud minister Ohana’s statement did not single out Palestinian inmates. However, there are no non-Palestinian security prisoners in Israel. Israeli ministry’s directive contradicts the Health Ministry’s guidelines regarding the prioritisation of vaccination, Haaretz said.” See <https://ppost24.com/post/1001/israeli-minister-orders-not-to-vaccinate-palestinian-prisoners>

### **Officials knew about sexual abuse at Lowell prison —and did nothing. System must have independent oversight** Dec 28

“A horrifying new report by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) reveals that, for more than a decade, Florida’s political leaders and the state Department of Corrections (FDC) have ignored the sexual abuse by staff, including rape, of incarcerated women at the Lowell Correctional Institution. The report is shocking, but not surprising to anyone who’s paid attention to Florida’s prison system. Its findings should, at a minimum, finally prompt the Legislature to establish independent oversight of Florida’s prisons. According to DOJ, Florida Corrections was made aware of systemic sexual abuse of Lowell prisoners by staff as early as 2006, but failed to take action to remedy the problem.” See <https://www.yahoo.com/news/officials-knew-sexual-abuse-lowell-194114735.html>

### **The Marshall Project: How the police shot and killed Breonna Taylor in her own home** Dec 28

“None of the police officers who raided Breonna Taylor’s home wore body cameras, impeding the public from a full understanding of what happened. The Times’s visual investigation team built a 3-D model of the scene and pieced together critical sequences of events to show how poor planning and shoddy police work led to a fatal outcome.” See

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000007348445/breonna-taylor-death-cops.html>

### **Usual white privilege and presidential silence applied when Nashville bomber identified as white man** Dec 28

“In the hours after the FBI identified a 63-year-old white man as the sole suspect in the deadly Christmas bombing in Nashville, Tennessee, activists and social media users alike couldn’t help but notice the media narratives that had formed around him. The Tennessean reported that Anthony Quinn Warner, a computer technician initially named a “person of interest” in the bombing, died in the explosion authorities later said he caused. An unnamed law enforcement officer told Newsweek: “He is either a criminal mastermind or a dude who flew completely under the radar. He sounds like an extremely sad guy who wanted to die in an elaborate fashion on Christmas Day.” It’s the kind of description people of color are seldom afforded. President Donald Trump chose to remain silent on the bombing altogether, Kristen Clarke, president of the National Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, noted in a tweet. She said Warner has leveled a city block and Duke Webb, a white shooting suspect and active military member, is accused of killing three people and injuring three more in Rockford, Illinois.” See <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/12/28/2004473/-Usual-white-privilege-and-presidential-silence-applied-when-Nashville-bomber-identified-as-white-man>

### **FBI Counterterrorism Informant Spent a Decade Committing Fraud** Dec 29

“While working to ensnare Muslims in FBI stings, Mohammed Agbareia preyed on the Islamic community as a con man. Mohammed Agbareia was living the Florida dream. His three-bedroom, 2,126-square-foot home, with a palm tree-lined pool and hot tub in the backyard, was located near the tony town of Wellington: an equestrian-oriented playpen for the world’s richest people about 15 miles from President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort. Agbareia parked a Hummer and a Jeep Wrangler in the driveway. His neighbors in the manicured gated community knew him as a charming, successful man who had studied physics in Canada and sold medical equipment for a company in Boca Raton. But Agbareia’s life in Florida and his successful image came to an end on May 30, 2017, when a couple of FBI agents arrived at his home. Agbareia was just getting out of the shower. He wrapped a towel around his body to answer the door. “Get dressed,” an FBI agent told him. Agbareia and the FBI weren’t strangers. For more than a decade, Agbareia had been one of the FBI’s more than 15,000 informants — so valuable as a “national security asset” that FBI Special Agent Brian King told a federal judge in Alabama in 2006 and again in 2009 that Agbareia, who had been extradited from Canada to face criminal charges in the United States, should not be turned over to immigration authorities for deportation. The FBI needed him.” See <https://theintercept.com/2020/12/29/fbi-counterterrorism-informant-wire-fraud-scam/>

### **Wounded Knee Massacre of December 29th,1890: 130th Anniversary** Dec 29

“The Sand Creek Massacre and the Washita Massacre both led to the Wounded Knee Massacre. The Sand Creek Massacre brought the realization that “the soldiers were destroying everything Cheyenne - the land, the buffalo, and the people themselves,” and the Washita Massacre added even more genocidal evidence to those facts. The Sand Creek Massacre caused the Cheyenne to put away their old grievances with the Sioux and join them in defending their lives against the U.S. extermination policy. The Washita Massacre did that even more so. After putting the Wounded Knee Massacre briefly into historical perspective, we’ll focus solely on the Wounded Knee Massacre itself for the 130th Anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre.” See

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/12/29/2004662/-Wounded-Knee-Massacre-of-December-29th-1890-130th-Anniversary>

**'His death did not have to happen': Family of first person to die of COVID-19 in ICE custody sues** Dec 29

“The family of the Salvadoran immigrant who in May became the first person to die of COVID-19 while in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the federal immigration agency and private prison profiteer CoreCivic, The San Diego Union-Tribune reports. The company operates the notorious Otay Mesa Detention Facility, the San Diego detention camp where Carlos Ernesto Escobar Mejia contracted the virus. The 57-year-old had been on a court-mandated list of medically vulnerable detainees who could have been released by ICE due to pandemic, but by then he was already in the hospital, where he died on May 6. “CoreCivic deprived him of adequate personal protective equipment, proper social distance, and appropriate treatment, all with the knowledge and participation of ICE and its officials,” the complaint states according to the report. “His death did not have to happen.” It didn’t.” See

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/12/29/2004690/-His-death-did-not-have-to-happen:-Family-of-first-person-to-die-of-COVID-19-in-ICE-custody-sues>

**Film premieres today on COVID and clemency in NC Prisons and North Carolina Vigil for Freedom and Racial Justice** Dec 29

“Nation Inside has been working with Decarcerate NC on an amazing short film about the two-month vigil at the NC Governor's mansion. The film is premiering today at noon. You can watch it with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv9En6WvvUg> Along with watching and sharing the film, Decarcerate NC is also asking everyone to join them by signing their letter to Governor Roy Cooper. Please sign it now. Here's an excerpt from the letter:

"As a state Representative, state Senator, Attorney General, and now Governor, you helped lead North Carolina down a path of mass incarceration over the last 34 years. Even now as you have the absolute authority under our state constitution to free and protect hundreds or thousands of individuals from repeated exposure to Covid-19 in our prisons, you have not once lifted a pen to exercise your clemency power. Unless you act in the next few weeks, you will become the first governor in at least 40 years—and potentially more than 200 years—to refuse to grant a single commutation or pardon."

What's happening in North Carolina is an example of what can and should be happening across the country. Even after the presidential inauguration next month, we will still have over two million people sitting unprotected in jails, prisons and detention centers which have proven to be breeding grounds for COVID-19, turning any prison sentence into a potential death sentence. Here at the #CagingCOVID campaign, we are gearing up for a February 1st call-to-action taking place in Washington DC and other regional targets. This day is known historically as "National Freedom Day," since it marks the signing of the 13 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. But it also marked the birth of the U.S. prison system we know today. This pandemic has exposed the disaster of mass incarceration. We can't ignore it any longer. This year, we call for mass clemency to begin undoing the damage. Thank you for joining us, Panagioti Tsolkas, Nation Inside, #CagingCOVID team” Sign here:

<https://www.decarceratenownc.com/the-letter>

**Ohio Cop Contradicts Killer Colleague: I Saw No Gun, No Threat From Andre Hill** Dec 29

“The Columbus cop who answered a non-emergency call that ended in the death of an unarmed Black man on Dec. 22 has shared her own version of events, directly contradicting the officer who fired the fatal shots. Officer Adam Coy was fired on Monday after killing Andre Hill while responding to a 1:37 a.m. call from a neighbor who said that a man was sitting in an SUV in a garage for an extended period. Coy only turned his body-worn camera on after the shooting but a “look-back feature” captured the preceding 60 seconds without audio. An internal affairs report released on Tuesday offers details about

what Coy's colleague, Officer Amy Detwiler, saw that morning." See

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/columbus-cop-contradicts-ex-officer-adam-co-says-andre-hill-didnt-pose-a-threat>

### **'People are terrified': a coronavirus surge across California's prisons renews calls for releases**

Dec 29

"Nine months since the emergence of the coronavirus, every one of California's 35 state prisons is battling cases, a grim milestone in the state's epidemic. California's prison system has seen a system-wide rise in Covid-19 infections in past weeks, paralleling the intense recent surge in coronavirus cases across the state. Almost 9,500 people in the state's prisons have Covid-19, with most of the state's facilities facing over 100 infections. The rise in cases across the prison system is sparking renewed calls for the early release of thousands of prisoners at risk of developing serious complications from Covid-19. And it is elevating urgent questions about early vaccine access for people in the system.

"In the last nine months the state had a chance to do the right thing, they didn't and now people inside are terrified," said Dr Hadar Aviram, a professor with UC Hastings Law. 'What if he dies in there?' See <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/dec/29/california-coronavirus-cases-prison-system>

### **COVID-19, Prison and Another Pandemic Clare Grady Made Me Remember** Susie Day - Dec 30

"Clare Grady is going to prison. On February 10, this nice Irish Catholic lady of 62, who lives with her family in Ithaca, New York will enter Alderson Prison, West Virginia, to begin a one-year-and-one-day sentence. That's because, on April 4, 2018, Clare and six cohorts, also white and Catholic, broke into the world's largest nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia and defaced government property to call attention to the increasing danger of nuclear war. Because the group – Plowshares 7 – believes that nuclear weapons aren't created in isolation from a system that also creates climate change, murders people like George Floyd, and brutally detains immigrants, the group read out a statement, repenting of the sin of white supremacy. They condemned "racism, militarism, and extreme materialism," the triple evils of the U.S. profit imperative once called out by Martin Luther King. Unsurprisingly, Clare and her comrades were arrested, charged with federal crimes, and convicted on all counts. By now, all but one have been sentenced to terms similar in length to Clare's, which, compared to those served by most people convicted of felonies, seem almost tiny." See <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/12/30/covid-19-prison-and-another-pandemic-clare-grady-made-me-remember/>

### **Nearly all inmates in Alaska's largest prison have contracted Covid-19** Dec 30

'About 1,115 prisoners of the the total 1,236 prisoners at the Goose Creek correctional center had tested positive. Prisons are one of the most high-risk environments for the spread of infectious disease.' See <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/dec/30/alaska-prison-inmates-contract-covid>

### **NGO: 4700 Palestinians, including 550 children, in Israeli jails** Dec 30

"In its annual report, Palestine Prisoners' Center revealed on Wednesday that the Israeli arbitrary arrest campaigns have become a part of the collective punishment against the Palestinian people, describing 2020 as the worst year for Palestinian prisoners regarding health conditions, as their lives have been in risk due to the spread of COVID-19 virus inside Israeli jails. 140 prisoners have tested positive for the virus this year. The center expected that the numbers of COVID-19 cases will increase due to the lack of protection and deliberate negligence by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS), as well as because many prisoners already suffer from chronic diseases due to the poor conditions inside Israeli jails." See <https://qudsnen.co/?p=19754>

### **With Guards Crippled by COVID-19, States Are Closing Prisons** Jan 2

"Battered by a wave of coronavirus infections and deaths, local jails and state prison systems around the United States have resorted to a drastic strategy to keep the virus at bay: Shutting down completely

and transferring their inmates elsewhere. From California to Missouri to Pennsylvania, state and local officials say that so many guards have fallen ill with the virus and are unable to work that abruptly closing some correctional facilities is the only way to maintain community security and prisoner safety. Experts say the fallout is easy to predict: The jails and prisons that stay open will probably become even more crowded, unsanitary and disease-ridden, and the transfers are likely to help the virus proliferate both inside and outside the walls.” See

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/01/us/coronavirus-prisons-jails-closing.html>

### **An Open Letter of Thanks from the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee Jan 2**

“We have a common oppressor...Once we all realize that we have a common enemy, then we unite, on the basis of what we have in common...”

“An Open Letter of Thanks from the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee” “Greetings everyone, As we say goodbye to the backwards, hateful, fascistic and pandemic dangerous year that was 2020, the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our webinars in support of our political prisoners that we have done over the past year since his birthday on May 19th. We launched the webinar series as a way to make up for us not being able to do our annual fundraising dinner that we had been doing for the last 25 years! We are proud to report that through this effort, we have raised \$1600 for our political prisoners over the course of the year. On May 19th, through our joint effort with the Shabazz Center, we donated \$500 for Sundiata’s Defense Campaign. On June 28th, through our webinar on Malcolm’s launching the OAAU in NYC, we raised \$500 for Dr. Mutulu Shakur.

On July 17th, through our webinar on Malcolm’s Diplomacy, we raised \$300 for Jalil Muntaqim, who since been released. Jalil is facing some new challenges, but we are facing those challenges with him on the outside! On August 29th, through our Black August webinar, we raised \$400 for Russell ‘Maroon’ Shoatz. Since then, Maroon’s plight has worsened. In addition to his facing Stage 4 Colon Cancer, he is now fighting Covid19. Please help us turn it up for ‘Maroon.’ On September 26th, through our webinar on the 60th anniversary of Malcolm meeting Fidel, we raised \$200 for Veronza Bowers. On October 31st, through our webinar on Malcolm’s Influence on SNCC, we raised \$200 that will be going to Imam Jamil. We are still in virtual space and need to do webinars for Kamau Sadiki and Mumia. We are contemplating our plans for February 21st the anniversary of Malcolm’s still haunting assassination. Although we have all helped to secure the release of several political prisoners in the last few years, please support all efforts to help all of our political prisoners still behind the walls. We are actively involved in the support campaigns for Dr. Mutulu Shakur, ‘Maroon’ Shoatz and Sundiata because of the eminent medical dangers that they face. Mumia’s case is at the crossroads. The only direction to go is forward and to push for his release. Let’s push his new book out too. Finally, let us remember our political prisoners and write them and tell them how much they are loved and appreciated. With the unconquerable faith of our ancestors and our political prisoners, let us bring in the new year Black and strong! For your special place in the whirlwind, Zayid Muhammad”

### **Assange wins. The cost: Press freedom is crushed, and dissent labeled mental illness Jan 4**

“The unexpected decision by Judge Vanessa Baraitser to deny a US demand to extradite Julian Assange, foiling efforts to send him to a US super-max jail for the rest of his life, is a welcome legal victory, but one swamped by larger lessons that should disturb us deeply. Those who campaigned so vigorously to keep Assange’s case in the spotlight, even as the US and UK corporate media worked so strenuously to keep it in darkness, are the heroes of the day. They made the price too steep for Baraitser or the British establishment to agree to lock Assange away indefinitely in the US for exposing its war crimes and its crimes against humanity in Iraq and Afghanistan. But we must not downplay the price being demanded of us for this victory.” See <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/56130.htm>

**Opinion: It's Time for NYS to Act on Decarceration in Prisons to Curb COVID-19** Jan 4

“Cuomo has failed to implement widely accepted sound public health practices by refusing to release any meaningful number of the state’s COVID-vulnerable imprisoned human beings, and now by failing to put them in the first categories for access to the new vaccines. New York State and the country were transfixed last spring by Governor Andrew Cuomo’s forceful, straightforward commentaries and policies toward combating the COVID-19 pandemic. In November, the New York Academy of Medicine, in recognition, gave Cuomo their prestigious Stephen Smith Medal for Distinguished Contributions to Public Health. Yet in reality, Cuomo has failed to implement widely accepted sound public health practices by refusing to release any meaningful number of the state’s COVID-vulnerable imprisoned human beings, and now by failing to put them in the first categories for access to the new vaccines. Containment of this pandemic depends on what happens to the most vulnerable; pandemics reveal whether we really care about all human beings.” See <https://citylimits.org/2021/01/04/opinion-its-time-for-new-york-state-to-act-on-decarceration-in-prisons-to-curb-covid-19/>

**The Marshall Project: No Justice for Jacob Blake** Jan 5

“No charges against the cop who shot Jacob Blake seven times in the back in front of his children. Prosecutors in Kenosha, Wisconsin, announced Tuesday that Rusten Shekey, the police officer who paralyzed Blake, could successfully argue that he was acting in self-defense based on evidence not seen on the cellphone video that launched national protests this summer.” See <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/05/us/jacob-blake-kenosha-rusten-sheskey.html>

**The Confederacy Finally Stormed the Capitol** Jan 6

“President Trump should be impeached, removed from office, and then arrested for inciting his supporters to besiege and invade the US Capitol. Because the rioters were white, they were allowed to walk away. But just imagine if they had been Black.” See <https://portside.org/2021-01-07/confederacy-finally-stormed-capitol>

**How the System Kept Failing the Only Woman on Federal Death Row** Jan 6

“Throughout Lisa Montgomery’s life, authorities repeatedly failed to stop the extreme violence and abuse that she suffered. On Christmas Eve, a federal court ruled that the government had acted illegally when it set a new execution date for Lisa Montgomery, the only woman on federal death row.” See <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/lisa-montgomery-execution-federal/>

**International Commission of Inquiry to Open Hearings on Racist Police Violence in the US on MLK Day** Jan 7

“The National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL), the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) and the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) have assembled a commission of experts from around the world to investigate racist police violence against people of African descent in the United States. The International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence Against People of African Descent in the United States will broadcast live hearings online with testimony from victims’ families and lawyers beginning January 18, 2021, which is the the day that the United States will commemorate the birthday of civil rights legend Martin Luther King, Jr. The hearings come to a close on February 6, 2021. In June 2020 an international coalition of hundreds of organizations and individuals sent a communication to the United Nations Human Rights Council urging that the UN convene a commission of inquiry to investigate racism and racist police violence in the United States. The UN declined the request, though it did task the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights with preparing a report on racism.” See <https://nlginternational.org/2021/01/international-commission-of-inquiry-to-open-hearings-on-racist-police-violence-in-the-us-on-mlk-day/>

**The Marshall Project: Unrepentant Trump incites mob, riot, death and destruction on Capitol Hill** Jan 7

“Unrepentant Trump incites mob, riot, death and destruction on Capitol Hill. American carnage, the theme of the president’s inauguration speech, comes full circle during a day of domestic terrorism.” See [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trump-supporters-storm-capitol-dc/2021/01/06/58afc0b8-504b-11eb-83e3-322644d82356\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trump-supporters-storm-capitol-dc/2021/01/06/58afc0b8-504b-11eb-83e3-322644d82356_story.html)

### **At least 329,000 incarcerated people have tested positive for COVID-19 inside federal and state prisons Jan 8**

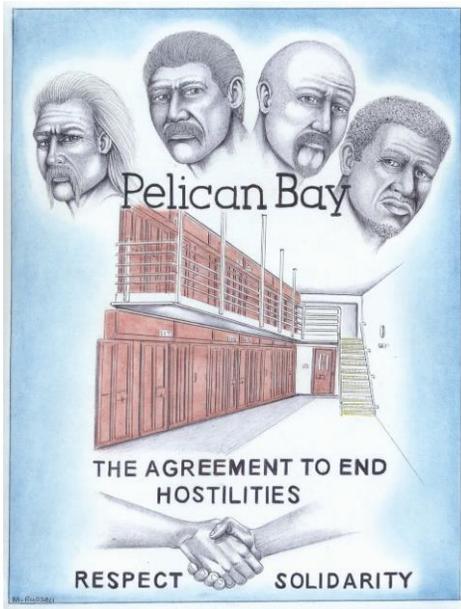
“At least 329,000 incarcerated people have tested positive for COVID-19 inside federal and state prisons. The past week saw a 5 percent increase, a rate that has lowered somewhat since mid-December. More than 2,000 prisoners have died from the virus. Nearly 233,000 prisoners have recovered from it. At least 84,000 prison employees also have been infected and at least 139 of those employees have died of the coronavirus. In collaboration with the Associated Press, here is our updated tracker.” See

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/01/a-state-by-state-look-at-coronavirus-in-prisons>

### **We're Suing Gov. Cuomo for Creating Deadly Conditions at His New Prison Nursing Home in the Adirondacks Jan 8**

“In June, while COVID-19 was raging in NY State prisons, Cuomo’s prison system transferred incarcerated elders to Adirondack Correctional Facility — a youth facility converted, in haste, to warehouse some of the oldest and sickest New Yorkers in prison. Nearly half of Adirondack's population is Black; 76% are people of color. Many entered with serious health concerns, weren’t tested for COVID-19, and have been routinely denied access to basic medical attention. Governor Cuomo’s willful neglect of incarcerated elders is becoming all the more clear. Yesterday, after months of rallying, strategizing, and struggling to support and free people from Adirondack, we signed on as an organizational plaintiff in a lawsuit filed against Governor Cuomo and the New York State prison system for the deadly conditions they created at the facility. Read more about the lawsuit in this Intercept story” <https://theintercept.com/2021/01/08/covid-new-york-prison-nursing-home-lawsuit/>

### **California Prisons - The time is now to seize the day by doing what’s right and just for all Jan 8**



“Our fight in solidarity out here to demand the release, not transfers of our elders and other unjustly imprisoned loved ones, cannot be realized without our collaboration with those on the inside. We must seize this moment of our shared humanity with the prisoner class and recognize the formidable work already done by prisoners who came together across racial and geographical lines to create the Agreement to End Hostilities and end indefinite solitary confinement torture, and use it as our own guiding principal. This is an excerpt from the AEH: “In conclusion, we must all hold strong to our mutual agreement from this point on to focus our time, attention and energy on mutual causes beneficial to all of us [i.e., prisoners] and our best interests. We can no longer allow CDCR to use us against each other for their benefit! Because the reality is that collectively we are an empowered, mighty force, that can positively change this entire corrupt system into a system that benefits prisoners and, thereby, the public as a whole.” See:

<https://sfbayview.com/2021/01/carpe-diem-the-time-is-now-to-seize-the-day-by-doing-whats-right-and-just-for-all/> (Photo from SF Bay View: Art: Michael D. Russell, C90473,

HDSP C2-122, P.O. Box 3030, Susanville CA 96127)

## "I am Maroon!" The Historical and Political Importance of Freeing Russell "Maroon" Shoatz

Jan 10

"Maroon is in need of proper medical treatment. We can only ensure this with his immediate release... particularly with the steady surge of COVID-19 in the prisons and jails across this country. It is impossible to social distance in prison. He is our elder. Our hero." See <https://redvoice.news/i-am-a-maroon/>

### In the Spirit of Mandela Campaign

Jericho is spearheading the "In the Spirit of Mandela" IT (International Tribunal) 2021 campaign proposed by 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. In collaboration with interested others, much headway is being made regarding organizing efforts. The campaign "In the Spirit of Mandela" is busy researching the charges for the tribunal, laying the groundwork, collaborating, attending working sessions, among other activities.

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

In the 1940's, W.E.B. DuBois first petitioned the newly-formed United Nations regarding the rights of U.S.-born people of African descent; in the 1950's Paul Robeson was one of a number who "Charged Genocide" against the U.S. government to the global body.

Minister Malcolm X's formation in 1964 of the Organization of Afro-American Unity was part of a direct campaign to put the case of "the 22 million Black people who are the victims of Americanism" before the Organization of African Unity and the U.N. On Human Rights Day 1978, attorney Lennox Hinds—working on behalf of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, and the National Alliance Against Racism—petitioned the UN's Human Rights Commission, resulting in a team of seven international jurists investigating cases of gross violations pertaining to U.S. political prisoners.

Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, Dr. Luis Nieves Falcon and a wide array of petitioners held a variety of Tribunals in Europe, the U.S., and Puerto Rico, with verdicts indicating further abuses of the U.S. prison, police, political, and military systems. And in 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee issued a report criticizing the U.S. for 25 distinct violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. **We are aware that the people's voice—including the voices of our long-incarcerated elders—must be heard!**

Mutulu Shakur asserted the need for a U.S. process of truth and reconciliation, and many have begun to discuss and implement grassroots forum for truth-telling, where witnesses listen and reflect upon voices "from the margins" to organize for an end to structural and militarized state violence. Jalil Muntaqim has called for campaigns "In the Spirit of Mandela," where the international social and political context which helped revise the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in 2015 be utilized in the case of those incarcerated in the U.S. Our International Tribunal will call for

testimony from both sides of the wall, both on issues of the torturous conditions of political imprisonment and on the root colonial and neo-colonial conditions and repression which inevitably lead to growing numbers of political prisoners. We will not separate the work to free our prisoners with the work to free the land, and for ultimate liberation of all."

## 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 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. The “In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela” initiative is the brainchild of Jericho’s co-founder Jalil Muntaqim (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  
Truth & Justice Commission to Free All Political Prisoners

International Solidarity

Contact your local Representative or:

Jihad Abdulmumit

Outreach Committee Representative

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

<https://spiritofmandela.org/>

804-304-8595

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

Please read our invitation below and contact us if you are interested in endorsing, sponsoring, or otherwise becoming involved in “The Spirit of 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 government can become so elitist and concentrate on elitist interests. To help the government, you must constantly hold its attention.” **Winnie Madikizela-Mandela**

The IN THE SPIRIT OF 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 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 are not 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 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. 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.

“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**

## 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 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:**

**Please make the check out to:**  
 IFCO/Jericho  
 PO Box 1368  
 Orange, New Jersey 07051-1368

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