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The Dragons Fire
THE NATIONAL JERICO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER
in Fierce Determination Since 1996
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**“When the prison doors are opened,
the real dragon will fly out”
Ho Chi Minh**

Revolutionary Greetings,

Welcome to our National Jericho Movement **Special Edition** Newsletter. Thank you to all who participated, sacrificed, and worked so hard to make **The Spirit of Mandela 2021 Tribunal** a success! We hope you find the information about this **historic Tribunal** inspiring, relevant, and moving forward will join us in the next steps!

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National Jericho Movement

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“Let the record show that a Black woman in America brought charges of genocide against the US”

Jihad Abdulmumit

SPECIAL EDITION



In the Spirit of Mandela

International Tribunal on U.S. Human Rights Violations
October 22-25 2021 | New York City
Register at SpiritofMandela.org

WE STILL CHARGE GENOCIDE: 2021 INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL 22-25 2021

International Tribunal on Human Rights Abuses

Against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples

October 23-25, 2021

New York, NY, Turtle Island, Lenape land, USA

CHARGING GENOCIDE, BUILDING FOR CHANGE

By Jihad Abdulmumit, Matt Meyer and Nkechi Taifa

Any movement worthy of serious consideration understands its historical precedents, and the strategic contours of building from past realities towards future possibilities. The 21st Century has so far been through some devastating crises, and while mass mobilization has been a feature of the past years, consistent, militant, and revolutionary movements have yet to emerge. The call for a 2021 International Tribunal, based on international law and steeped in popular resistance, understands its place in history and the need to intensify all of our struggles, to deepen our unity as well as increase our militancy, if any progress is to be made. Like the Sankofa bird of the Ghanaian Akan clan, we look back in order to understand how best to move forward.

Seventy Year Anniversary

On December 17, 1951, beloved actor, vocalist, athlete and activist Paul Robeson and organizer and attorney William Patterson submitted a petition from the Civil Rights Congress (CRC) to the United Nations. Titled, "[We Charge Genocide: The Crime of Government Against the Negro People](#)," the petition was signed by almost 100 U.S. intellectuals and activists. Robeson led a delegation to present the document at U.N. Headquarters in New York, while CRC Secretary Patterson delivered it to a U.N. meeting in Paris. W. E. B. DuBois—preeminent sociologist, Harvard affiliate, and co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—was scheduled to accompany Patterson to Paris, but the U.S. State Department prevented him from leaving the country.

The [book-length petition](#) documented hundreds of lynching cases and other forms of brutality and discrimination, evincing a clear pattern of government inaction and complicity.

It charged that in the 85 years since the end of slavery more than 10,000 African Americans were known to have been lynched (an average of more than 100 per year), and that the full number can never be known because the murders were often unreported.

The petition cited the UN's definition of genocide, adopted December 9, 1948, in Article II, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It states:

"In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: a) Killing members of the group; b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

Article 3 of the Convention goes on to clarify that "the following acts shall be punishable: a) Genocide; b) Conspiracy to commit genocide; c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide; d) Attempt to commit genocide; and e) Complicity in genocide."

The authors of the We Charge Genocide, taking from these UN statutes, concluded therefore, that:

"...the oppressed Negro citizens of the United States, segregated, discriminated against, and long the target of violence, suffer from genocide as the result of the consistent, conscious, unified policies of every branch of government. If the General Assembly acts as the conscience of mankind and therefore acts favorably on our petition, it will have served the cause of peace."

With the Cold War raging, the U.S. government maneuvered to prevent the United Nations from formally debating or even considering the charges brought in the petition. Working behind the scenes, they were able to prevent any discussion of the petition by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. The CRC was considered a Communist "front group" and discredited, disrupted, or ignored by official US representatives.

When one of the American delegates to the U.N. criticized William Patterson for "attacking your government," Patterson replied, "It's *your* government. It's my country. I am fighting to save my country's democratic principles." On his return to the United States, Patterson's passport was seized by the State Department so he could no longer speak to foreign audiences about the denial of human rights endured by African Americans and other people of color. Robeson too was prevented from leaving the country and the two of them, along with many others, were harassed and persecuted by the FBI and other federal agencies for the rest of their lives. Outside of the US, however, the petition was well received and extensively covered in news and movement circles. In Europe, Africa, and Asia, where the U.S. was competing against the Soviet Union and China for political influence, the document weakened American "Free World" claims and its assertion of global moral leadership, particularly among nonwhite peoples struggling against colonial rule.

Malcolm's Internationalism and Legacy

The founding of the 2021 Tribunal conceived, at its foundational stage, that the charge of genocide was more relevant than ever seventy years after the initial outcry. In 2017, several pivotal events pushed us forward in the concrete development of our current work. First, Black Liberation movement and Black Panther political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim, who co-founded the Jericho Movement and several other initiatives while behind the prison walls (enemy lines), wrote an essay noting that:

"In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela, we are calling for a new investigation by the International Jurists on the human rights abuses of political prisoners. It is incumbent on freedom-loving peoples of the world to join this campaign to expose this incessant racial repression by US white supremacist practices on US political prisoners."

Also in 2017, a great victory occurred. Based on decades of strategic planning, grassroots education and organization, and international alliance-building, Puerto Rican patriot Oscar Lopez Rivera was freed after over 36 years in prison. After years of petitioning the United Nations Committee on Decolonization and many other bodies, the 2016 UN Committee members stated that they would visit Oscar Lopez directly if the U.S. did not accept the global calls for his release. By the following year, the first speaker at the UN annual hearings, usually reserved for high level elected officials, was recently released Oscar Lopez himself, who received a standing ovation from international governmental and non-governmental representatives alike! Among the participants were friend and also recently former political prisoner Sekou Odinga (a founder of the Black Panther Party International), Jericho Movement National Chair Jihad Abdulmumit, and solidarity activist/author Matt Meyer (who had helped organize several tribunals throughout the 1990s and 2000s). Jihad Abdulmumit took the opportunity—in the halls of the UN assembly—to advance the idea of setting the date and creating a Tribunal organization, which would extend the parameters of the initial idea to include all forms of U.S. human rights abuses against Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples.

That vision could not have come about outside of the legacy of Minister Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. Baba Sekou Odinga was a Queens-based youth when he first met Minister Malcolm, and he later joined

Malcolm's exciting Organization of Afro-American Unity initiative, based on the just-formed Organization of African Unity: a space for the newly independent nations of Africa to join together in Pan African development and peacebuilding. Minister Malcolm and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. both increased their internationalist perspectives and actions in their final years, with Malcolm planning to utilize the OAAU to bring the case of U.S. human rights abuses against Black folks to the arena of the United Nations.

Minister Malcolm asserted:

"One of our first programs is to take our problem out of the civil rights context and place it at the international level, of human rights, so that the entire world can have a voice in our struggle. If we keep it at civil rights, then the only place we can turn for allies is within the domestic confines of America. But when you make it a human rights struggle, it becomes international and then you can open the door for all types of advice and support from our brothers in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and elsewhere. So, it's very, very important—that's our international aim, that's our external aim."

There is absolutely no coincidence that the 2021 International Tribunal is being held in New York City: both at the United Nations itself but starting at the place where Minister Malcolm drew his last breathes, the now renamed [Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center](#).

Facing Reality: Breaking Silos within the US Left

Fragmentation was inevitable following the FBI and US police collaborations aimed at destroying the Black liberation and radical Puerto Rican, American Indian, Mexican, anti-imperialist, and other movements. The assassinations of Minister Malcolm X, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and countless members of the Black Panther Party were just the tip of the iceberg. In addition to forced exile, cooptation, and the massive drugging of Black, Brown, and Native peoples, incarceration was the most popular form of removing leaders from their communities and disempowering efforts for independent political thought and economic development. Current work spotlighting hyper-mass incarceration (according to Oxford defined as the current US experiment utilizing "comparatively and historically extreme rates of imprisonment and by the concentration of imprisonment among young, African American men living in neighborhoods of concentrated disadvantage"), the Prison Industrial Complex, the "new Jim Crow" school-to-prison pipeline policies, and the Abolitionist connections between the criminalization of generations and the 13th amendment continuation of slavery-by-other-means and names is all rooted in the wave of illegal and immortal repression which signified U.S. response to efforts to free people from white supremacist control, and to "free the land." The majority of those still in prison for their political work or beliefs—and recognized as political prisoners or prisoners of war from any international legal perspective—are not surprisingly those whose militant work called for full independence from U.S. racist and imperialist subjugation; those supporting the development of a Republic of New Afrika, the independence of Puerto Rico, the sovereignty of Indigenous nations, and the like. Similarly unsurprising (though heinous), the majority of those still languishing behind bars after forty and fifty years are of the same ilk: Sundiata Acoli, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Kamau Sadiki, Maumin Khabir, and steadfast freedom fighters Leonard Peltier, Imam Jamil al-Amin, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Ruchell Cinque Magee, Veronza Bowers, Russell Maroon Shoatz, and many others.

Much work to spotlight the case of these political prisoners and the movement they represented was done even while the repression was intensifying. Some of the initial information about the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO), ultimately deemed illegal even by a US Senate Commission, came about in 1971 when Catholic leftists associated with prisoners of conscience and the draft resistance movement broke into the FBI field office in Medea, Pennsylvania, extracted files, and disseminated them to the media. Investigative work was conducted by framed New York Black Panther political prisoner Dhoruba bin-Wahad, who with his attorneys uncovered thousands of pages of COINTELPRO documents revealing human rights abuses and nefarious acts regarding trial preparation, jury tampering, torturous prison conditions and acts, denial of medical treatment, denial of religious rights, and other abuses. In 1979, a watershed series of events took place when an assembly of International Jurists convened in the US, visiting human rights petitioners brought together by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice. Lennox Hinds, Esq, attorney for the petitioners, presented expert testimony to the group, including barristers from India, Sweden, Great Britain, Nigeria, Chile, Trinidad, and Senegal. Filed with and ultimately delivered to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the 1978-79 report concluded that:

"It is within the climate of US Government lawlessness that the situation of political prisoners in the US must be examined. The cases which are set forth in this petition are not exhaustive of the list of US political prisoners. Rather these cases are intended to serve as examples to the Commission on Human Rights Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that are representative of the class of political prisoners and the various ways and patterns in which the gross and consistent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms alleged by the Petitioners are instituted and practiced by agents of the US government."

The collected documents of the human rights abuses reviewed at that time were edited by Attorney Hinds in a book titled *Illusions of Justice*.

A decade later, as sectarianism and repression continued to set in, the U.S. denial of political prisoners and human rights abuses had become fully entrenched, with those working on the cases of the incarcerated fully mobilized and intent on release while the rest of the U.S. left and progressives ignored the plight of imprisoned leaders of liberation movements they might not be ideologically aligned with. This "silo" nature of left groups and coalitions was finally challenged in the late 1980s by the formation of the Freedom Now coalition and the planning for a major Tribunal on US Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, to take place at New York's Hunter College in January of 1990.

In the years leading up to the historic 1990 Tribunal, a series of activities set the context for the transformative event. Freedom Now brought New Afrikan independence movement organizers in direct and consistent contact with various sectors of the Puerto Rican movement, anti-imperialists and nonviolence-oriented prisoners of conscience advocates all joined forces and made a splash with the iconic "Face Reality: There Are Political Prisoners in the USA" poster, itself a sea of diverse faces from each of these movements. A "People's Tribunal to Expose Control Units" was held in 1987, with groups such as the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (focused on the most intense of the new breed of super-maximum-security prisons) at the fore. The successful campaign to close the Control Unit at Lexington Women's prison, which oversaw the sexual

harassment and torture of Alejandrina Torres, and ongoing sensory deprivation of anti-imperialist prisoners Sylvia Baraldini and Susan Rosenberg was a boost to these campaigns. Similarly, a strong verdict on behalf of self-determination for the Puerto Rican nation was delivered by the Permanent People's Tribunal in Barcelona in 1989. In this same period, the Research Committee on International Law and Black Freedom Fighters considered and published papers such as "A Scientific Form of Genocide," authored by Dr. Mutulu Shakur with Adolfo Matos, Tarik James Haskins, and others. The paper asserted:

"We specifically charge that the government of the United States is practicing genocide through behavior modification and counterinsurgency and low-intensity warfare techniques in its penal system, i.e., the state and federal prisons. We submit that behavior modification as practiced in United States prisons incorporates techniques from both counterinsurgency—low-intensity warfare and the science of psychology in the interest of political and military objectives...This program involves a scientific approach in targeting special prisoners with the aim of achieving political objectives. Each targeted prisoner is observed to determine his or her leadership potential, religious beliefs, aspirations, and most importantly, to record his or her reaction to the experiments being implemented. The sole purpose of the program is for government agents to learn lessons from experimenting with political prisoners, how they suffered and reacted, then use those findings to formulate a broad plan to be implemented against the people in society at large who are the ultimate targets. The oppressive conditions and the experiments conducted in the United States penal system, as implemented by this government through prison officials, are the evidence of a psychological war being waged against political prisoners who come from a people who are involved in a struggle of resistance against oppression in all forms. When the behavior modification program conducted by the government is viewed in the light of the mandates contained in the "Geneva Accord," one can only conclude that the United States Government's actions are criminal and specifically violate the international laws concerning the rights of human beings. Accordingly, the United States Government's acts should be regarded as war crimes."

By December 1990, the key elements were in place. Eminent Puerto Rican educator, sociologist and author Dr. Luis Nieves Falcon—who had left a prominent tenured position at the University of Puerto Rico, where he founded and chaired the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies to return late in life to law school so he could better represent his imprisoned brethren—had relocated to New York City one year earlier to convene the effort, coming just off of his successes in Barcelona. Over a thousand participants gathered from around the world, mingling with groups and leaders from various national liberation movements within the U.S. The Tribunal was a serious political-judicial undertaking: Legal documents were carefully drawn up in accordance with international law, statutes and precedents. An indictment was written and delivered to U.S. officials, who were invited to attend and defend. An international panel of judges with distinguished legal and civic credentials was assembled. And the Tribunal itself was only the capstone of a carefully orchestrated set of multifaceted events throughout 1990. A large-scale poetry reading was held at New York's prestigious Society for Ethical Culture; an art show was presented at Charas, a progressive community center. An Interfaith Summit was convened at the American Indian Community House. The Tribunal itself became a hot ticket, public political event. By the end of it all, the issue of political prisoners was more clearly and definitively on the agenda of the U.S. left, and a verdict was available for the various movements to use in their base-building work.

Dr. Falcon, in preparatory essays before the Tribunal itself, noted that “the U.S. government has taken elaborate steps to confuse world public opinion as to the true character of these prisoners, because their existence exposes deep injustices in U.S. society. Furthermore, behind the screen of secrecy the jailers hope to break the prisoners’ bodies and spirits before an international conscience moves in a solidarity effort to demand an end to these abuses and for their immediate freedom.” In the unique New York setting, prominent Columbia University anti-apartheid activist Tanaquil Jones had befriended and then married well-known Panther prisoner Dhoruba bin-Wahad, whose dramatic release on his own recognizance scarcely six months before the start of the Tribunal aligned the two of them with the central organizing efforts. “Our fight is essentially a work of the heart and spirit,” Dhoruba noted in a pre-Tribunal event. “Back in the days of the [Panthers]...we didn’t realize that it was the *subjective* factor that was the dynamic factor. Before we can move ourselves, we have to change our hearts, and if we change our hearts, we can move other people because the human heart is universal, the human spirit is universal!”

Eight judges from Ghana, Palestine, Japan/Australia, Puerto Rico, Peru, Germany, the UK and the US—including a Member of the House of Lords and a Nobel Laureate—heard testimony based on a detailed 33-point indictment against the President of the United States, the US Attorney General, and the heads of the FBI, CIA, and Bureau of Prisons. Their verdict unanimously condemned the US for flagrant human rights abuses against those recognized as political prisoners and prisoners of war.

Walls and Spirits: From There to Here

In the years following the 1990 Verdict, mass campaigns were organized in each of the “constituent” groups despite the fact that the coalition as a whole did not stay together. A perceived notion that the Puerto Rican organizers who helped center the effort received slightly clearer findings, with emphasis on the colonial nature of US control over Puerto Rico spotlighted in the verdict, did not help maintain unity in the ensuing years. Yet that organizing team went on to conduct similar Tribunals in 1992 in San Francisco centering Indigenous Peoples and the “quincentenary,” in 2000 in Puerto Rico and Vieques connecting the decolonization struggle and the anti-militarist struggle in the archipelago, and several additional smaller efforts. The dialectic use of international law as a basis for global solidarity and grassroots mass mobilization across ideological lines surely contributed substantially to the 1999 release of 14 Puerto Rican political prisoners and the 2017 release of Oscar Lopez Rivera.

Within the Black liberation movement, the reverberations of the post-Tribunal world led to many rebuilding initiatives, including the call for a New Afrikan Liberation Front put forth by Jalil Muntaqim. By 1998, the NALF and over 50 other organizations called for a march on Washington, and the Jericho Movement for Amnesty for all Political Prisoners was born. The tremendous outpouring on the streets of DC surprised many on the left, as a deeper commitment to “tear down the walls” was evident in the Jericho response. Veteran organizers and former political prisoners Herman Ferguson and Safiya Bukhari, both representatives of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika, were tasked with leading Jericho, and the long-term battle for freedom—of political prisoners and in general—gained a new organizational form.

The movement was not, of course, without its roadblocks. Safiya spoke often about the Post-Traumatic Stress that many former prisoners and veterans of the liberation had, just for surviving. In an essay reprinted in her posthumously-published *The War Before* (2010), Bukhari noted:

"I think I'm one of the lucky ones. In 1983, after serving eight years and eight months of a forty-year sentence, I was released on parole. While in prison I maintained my commitment to the struggle for the liberation of black and oppressed people. What kept me going was knowing that the reason they were killing and locking up Panthers was to break them and therefore to break the back of the struggle. I was determined that I would survive and, one way or the other, live to fight another day."

When Spirit of Mandela first developed and the idea of hosting an International Tribunal based on the lessons of the past and moving the work forward effectively well into the future, these previous efforts were clear in our minds.

Black Power, Black Lawyer, and the People's Chief Attorney

As a young person during the late 1970's, Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Nkechi Taifa worked closely with Imari Abubakari Obadele I, first popularly elected President of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika (RNA) as part of the crusade of the New Afrikan Independence Movement to get Black political prisoners and prisoners of war recognized, both domestically and internationally. On October 12, 1978, a press release was issued by the Foreign Affairs Task Force of the Republic of New Afrika, titled, "RNA Asks United Nations Help for Black POWs and Independence." The press statement released the names of 17 people held in US state and federal prisons whom the RNA stated were not just political prisoners but prisoners of war within the meaning of the Geneva Convention of 1949. Accordingly, the RNA, in response to a public offer by Fidel Castro, then President of Cuba, that he would accept Black prisoners as an exchange, immediately seized upon the opportunity, providing names.

Several months later, in August 1978, while an Amnesty International acclaimed political prisoner himself, President Imari wrote to President Jimmy Carter, asking that Carter agree to exchange New Afrikan Prisoners of War for persons in jail in Cuba. And on October 1, 1978, President Imari sent a letter to Salim Ahmed Salim, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the UN and Chair of the Special Committee of 24 on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In this letter, the RNA President stated,

"The US government has never accorded the status of Prisoner of War to a single Black, Puerto Rican or Indian engaged in liberation struggles against the US. This is in violation of not only General Assembly Resolutions 2621 and 3103 with respect to the treatment of combatants captured in the course of struggles against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes, the US is in violation of Article Five of the Geneva Convention of 1949, Prisoners of War, which guarantees that all persons claiming status as POWs will be granted that status until a decision by a competent tribunal." Finally, the letter called upon the Special Committee to facilitate the exchange of New Afrikan Prisoners of War from the US to Cuba.

The request for prisoner transfer to a Third World country was one of the original demands from the 1971 Attica Rebellion. Today, the call must instead be for presidential and gubernatorial clemencies and commutations of sentence, particularly for COINTELPRO-era political prisoners. Pardons should also be granted for those who have been released and posthumous pardons given to those who were unjustly imprisoned and who have since passed. There is advocacy right now to the executive branch to release certain categories of prisoners: the elderly; those vulnerable to COVID-19; those who were sentenced before the federal sentencing guidelines went into effect and are still subject to non-functional parole boards; those serving marijuana sentences; and, importantly, the entire category and group of COINTELPRO-era political prisoners. Egregiously, not one government official from the COINTELPRO ever served one day in prison for their crimes. Yet there are still political prisoners languishing behind bars, subject to parole, or in exile.

The Tribunal demands presidential or state gubernatorial commutation of sentence for those still incarcerated, including but not limited to: Mumia Abu-Jamal, Sundiata Acoli, Imam Jamil Al Amin, Joseph Bowen, Veronza Bowers, Fred Burton, Leonard Peltier, Mutulu Shakur, Ruchell Magee, Russell Maroon Shoats, the Virgin Island 3 and many others. We demand full pardons for those in exile, including but not limited to Pete O'Neal, Assata Shakur, and others. And we demand full pardons for those who have been released, including but not limited to: Jihad Abdulmumit, Ramona Africa, Herman Bell, Masai Ehehosi, formerly incarcerated members of the MOVE Family, Jalil Muntaqim, the Philadelphia Five, Dhoruba bin Wahad, the RNA-11, and others. We demand posthumous pardons for those already departed, including but not limited to: Safiya Bukhari, The Honorable Marcus Garvey, Geronimo Jijaga, President Imari Abubakari Obadele I, Atiba Shana, Albert Nuh Washington, Abdul Majid, Bashir Hameed, and more.

Indeed, there is no need to invent any new wheels. There is precedent for such actions. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted reparations to Japanese Americans for their unjust incarceration during World War II, explicitly included a pardon for all those who resisted detention camp internment. No reconciliation or community peace can be expected until these basic demands, addressing fundamental injustices in recent history and memory, are seriously and significantly addressed.

The Genocide Convention, Black Lives, and recognition of People of African Descent

There are just over two years remaining of the International Decade for People of African Descent. For centuries People of African Descent in the U.S. have not only dreamed of justice but demanded it. We have urged the country to provide not even grandiose opportunities, but just basic human rights that protect our life and liberty. The response, however, has been systemic racism through which we suffer through decreased life expectancy rates, health disparities, economic inequality, mass incarceration and more.

Tragic as it was, the explosion resulting from George Floyd's death represented only the tip of Black people's demands for justice. The deferred dream exploded with Emmett Till whose brutal 1955 murder shocked the nation. It exploded with the senseless slayings of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Philando Castile, Tamir Rice and Rekia Boyd, Freddie Gray and Breanna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks, and the list seemingly grows daily.

With each death of a Black person by police or racist Whites, with each affront to voting rights, with each health disparity, with each trip down the school to prison pipeline, with each widening of the Black/White

wealth gap, with each house pilfered by redlining, and with each intergenerationally-transmitted traumatic injury – there was and is a demand for justice.

The U.S. government has failed to protect Black people from systemic racism and police violence. The international community must bear witness. The U.S. must not be above scrutiny. It must meet its commitments, review its own record, be open to criticism, and rectify injustices.

Similarly, the U.S must fully embrace human rights conventions it is a party to and eliminate limitations to their use in U.S. courts. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention Against Torture, the Convention on Political and Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner’s Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide should be used in US courts! In today’s environment, we think about systemic and structural racism, but what we should be discussing is the possible extermination of a people. This is because, we submit, the United States has moved beyond both overt Jim Crow and beyond unconscious bias to what Chief Prosecutor Taifa calls “institutionalized genocide.” The coinage of this phrase represents a scientific framework through which to analyze what is happening to people of African descent in the 21st century, regardless of the system being scrutinized – education, health care, economics, criminal punishment, environment etc.

While genocide appears to many to singularly denote killings through massacre and annihilation, its international definition as well as codification in the US Code also includes the creation of “conditions of life” calculated to bring about the destruction of a people, in whole or in part. Unfortunately, seldom do people examine the internationally and US Code-adopted parameters of the term genocide and then compare them with the treatment of Black people in the U.S. If one were to do so, state- sponsored genocide against Black people is at least plausible, if not undeniable.

As noted, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948, at its very origins. This Convention confirmed that “genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war is a crime under international law which must be undertaken to prevent and punish.” Genocide, the Convention declares, is the committing of certain acts with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. The international definition concludes by reminding the parties that those who commit genocide or any other of the related acts “shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials, or private individuals.” It took the US 38 long years to ratify the Convention. One fear was that Blacks in America would use the treaty to their advantage. Segregationists felt that American ratification would subject the United States to charges based on the treatment of Native American and Black people, and Ohio representative Senator John Bricker in particular was alarmed at the thought that literally thousands of discriminatory Federal and State laws could automatically be invalidated by application of international human rights law in U.S. courts.

Largely as the result of that, it has been said that the Genocide Convention set a record as “the most scrutinized and analyzed non-military treaty ever to be considered by the Senate...”. Thirteen days of public hearings were held by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, generating testimony from over 200 witnesses representing divergent views, culminating in a hearing transcript of over 2,000 pages.

After nearly four decades, however, and feeling comfortable that enactment of anti-segregation laws mooted concern over attacks against U.S. racial practices of the 1950's and 1960's and inserting language to limit the scope of the Convention within U.S. law, the U.S. Senate, nearly 40 years after its adoption by the United

Nations, and after scores of other nations had already ratified it, finally gave its advice and consent to ratification in 1988.

What is so significant about the Genocide Convention to activists, advocates, and lawyers, is that it is the only international human rights treaty adopted by the United States that is fully actionable in U.S. law. Later international human rights treaties such as CERD, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention Against Torture, while symbolic, are not self-executing, meaning they have no enforceability in U.S. courts because there is no U.S. legislation to implement their provisions. Ratification of the Genocide Convention, however, required the adoption of implementing legislation, to ensure that the ratification not be a symbolic gesture, but have the full force of law and the authority to enact penalties.

On April 4, 1988, then President Ronald Reagan completed the final step to the ratification process by signing the treaty, The Genocide Convention Implementation Act. This Act codified the international Genocide Convention in U.S. law, although making various changes in an attempt to limit its applicability, such as adding the term "specific" before word intent.

It is important to recall the full title of the Genocide Act. The International Convention on the *Prevention and Punishment* of the Crime of Genocide. Using the criminal legal system as an example, there are necessary reforms that can prevent genocide and lead to systemic transformation, such as the use of force only as a necessary last resort; that all sorts of chokeholds be banned; that racial profiling be prohibited; that transfer of military equipment to law enforcement be ceased; that no-knock warrants be abolished; that there be a recklessness standard in the law so that killer cops can be held accountable; that a national public database be developed so that problematic police cannot easily move from one police agency to another; and that the doctrine of qualified immunity be ended, which shields police from being held legally accountable when they break the law.

In concert with such laws that could prevent the genocide from continuing, advocates and lawyers must also be in the courts, using provisions from the Genocide Convention to punish those with the intent to destroy in whole or in significant part, a national, racial, ethnic, or religious group. And while it is clear that few public officials, private individuals, or constitutionally responsible officials (much less police officers) will affirmatively state, 'I have the specific intent to destroy, in whole or in substantial part, your racial, ethnic or religious group,' there are still strong basis for using the statute. In reality, many of the disparities which are part and parcel of intent arise from institutional and structural racism, where bias is codified within the structural fabric of social institutions and manifests routinely without the need for a discrete actor to overtly perpetuate or announce a discriminatory act.

There is a broader social context which underlies the criminal punishment system in the U.S. It is a social context permeated by the poverty, rampant unemployment, poor housing and homelessness, inadequate education, harmful health outcomes, and diminished life opportunities and it is these unmet social needs which provide the fuel for the cycle of incarceration and the police as its first responders. These damaging conditions of life often result in the destruction of not only individuals, but entire families and generations. Are these conscious acts intended to cause destruction? Are they the unconscious effects of structural racism in the system? Or do they constitute institutionalized genocide?

There is a solution. The International Race Convention allows intent to be gleaned through actions and impact, regardless of specific intent, reaching both conscious and unconscious forms of racism. Thus, if the intent standard of the Genocide Convention as ratified by the United States were to be interpreted in accordance with the intent standard in the international Race Convention -- then a claim of genocide against a substantial

portion of the Black populace in the United States resulting from institutionalized or structural racism control could, in fact, be actionable.

It is clear that the horror of racism—overt as well as institutional—has not been repugnant enough for the fashioning of structural solutions to abate the problem. It is our own intent and hope that this Tribunal's application of the intensified nomenclature of genocide will shock the conscience of the public to intensify actions to remedy the problem. Perhaps the stark correlation between the internationally accepted definition of genocide and the juxtaposition of that definition against the impact of racism in the U.S. will spark needed revolutionary change in policies and practices and move the country away from genocide.

Testimonies within this Tribunal will show that the United States violates not only elemental principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution but basic human rights and fundamental freedoms outline in a myriad of international instruments as well. The Tribunal will present the case that the cumulative impact of destructive treatment against Black people, combined with the destructive conditions of life negatively impacting generations, are violations of international law, specifically the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. These and all other international instruments must be used so that we may abate the human rights genocide crisis facing Black, Brown and Indigenous people in the 21st Century.

2021 Tribunal: Tools to be Used!

The October 2021 International Tribunal stands as a powerful and viable tool in the people's movement to challenge and eradicate the historical and continued genocidal structures and practices established and perpetrated by the United States government and its states. The history of racism, exploitation, and oppression of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people in the United States is undisputed. What needs to be understood is that this history is rooted in America's colonizing of African slaves and Indigenous people, and that genocide, in whole or in part, was and continues to be a necessary and functional mechanism of colonialism, neocolonialism, and capitalism. Colonialism, as universally understood, is the act of acquiring full or partial political-economic control over another country or people, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it in a myriad of ways. It is the act of one nation subjugating another, conquering its population, exploiting it, and forcing its own language and cultural values upon the colonized. This is exactly what the white settlers imposed upon Indigenous people already living in America and the African slaves who were diverse peoples with their own religions, cultures, and languages.

American settlers from Europe—many who were tramps, vagabonds, criminals, and outcasts—"discovered" a land already inhabited by Indigenous nations, and then imported captured Africans forcing them into slavery. The often bragged about rough and rugged start of building a nation in North America began in earnest through theft and genocidal kidnapping, rape, and murder. As this budding nation grew, it continued to enslave more and more Africans, torturing and slaughtering thousands in the process. The control methods included rampant killing of members of the "group", causing serious bodily and mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions of life which were calculated to bring about people's physical destruction, imposing measures intended to prevent births, and forcibly separating and transferring children from their parents and families. Hence, all the elements of the crime of genocide were committed.

As noted, these histories are hardly disputed. What we do with them, however, the people's response, has been often unfocused or un-strategic, muted by the continuing forms of 21st policies which maintain the same intent regarding fundamental power imbalances but are put forth in forms which appear at times (and to those unenlightened or intoxicated) to be "kinder or gentler" than the original heinous acts.

The 2021 International Tribunal creates a space to spotlight the already proven facts of racial violence, exploitation and oppression. It is a space where we invoke international scrutiny; where we declare enormous documented human rights violations committed by the United States to the world; and where we prop up a mirror for the centuries old finger of white supremacist leadership, institutions, culture, and immoral values. The people's tool is to shine this mirror as brightly as we can: to point back to itself in its accusations and criticisms of other countries' treatment of its citizens.

It is the intention of the 2021 International Tribunal to expose the practice of genocide committed against Black, Brown, and Indigenous people, and demand that the United States government and its States reckon with the legal and political consequences of its genocidal actions. The Tribunal will smash the social and political narrative that such injustices no longer exist, and that now everything is better for everyone. The Tribunal brings to light the old saying that "the more things change, the more they remain the same." Another truism also applies to our current and future work: the rich have gotten richer and fewer, and that the ranks of the poor and working-class people have grown and become disproportionately poorer.

The Tribunal will prove the fact that capitalism fueled by greed, corruption, and racism is destroying the environment. It will show that the lives of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people do not matter in the face of profits and the unbridled acquisition of wealth. That the legacy of slavery lingers and haunts the descendants of slaves in every aspect of their lives—mental health, chronic trauma, dysfunctional families, substance abuse, relentless poverty, marginalization, mass incarcerations, racial profiling, despair, ignorance, fratricide, self-hatred, health disparities, food apartheid, decadent and degrading life-styles, and the creation of a culture that is calculated to maintain this reality and to ensure the continued existence of the powers that be.

The Tribunal will facilitate the legal and political presentation of accurate information to build a Peoples' Human Rights Movement with the eyes of the world watching. It will prove to the international community, and to US citizens themselves, how real democracy is or isn't.

The 2021 International Tribunal builds upon the shoulders and wonderful work of past Tribunals, as noted at the forefront of this essay. In closing, though, it is important to add: the 2021 International Tribunal is not only an educational political event, but also a people's judicial proceeding. We intend to establish a strong foundation to launch international solidarity campaigns, civil and legal proceedings in US Federal and State Courts, potential Congressional legislation, and multiple diverse grassroots-centered campaigns to right the wrongs outlined by the People.

The international community, including the United Nations, has been historically ineffective and non-responsive to the issues of oppression, racism, and exploitation of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people in the United States. The 2021 International Tribunal plans to go beyond basic presentation of the findings, understanding that the People cannot rely on administrative bodies, not even independent international ones,

to do our work for us. The Spirit of Mandela coalition which initiated the Tribunal project has a unique set of outcomes planned which provide an opportunity for organizing on a mass level across many social justice arenas. We abide by the empowering cry proclaimed by our recently released Black Panther comrade Jalil Muntaqim: “We are our own liberators!”

We must all, in light of this work and these perspectives, take responsibility for building powerful and effective organizing tools to mobilize people from all walks of life. The Tribunal charges are expansive yet focused enough to embrace and address much of the oppression experienced by Black, Brown, Indigenous, poor, and working-class people throughout history to today. The 2021 International Tribunal not only vets the facts and proclaims a demand for justice; we also call for a plan of action, for two, three, many plans which Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win! Together, victory is certain!”

International Panel of Jurists Convenes to Oversee Tribunal on US Human Rights Abuses Against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples, 22-25 October 2021

“In the spirit and legacy of the Russell Courts on Vietnam (1966-67) and Latin America (1973-76), and the Permanent People’s Tribunals which followed (1979-present), a newly constituted panel of Jurists from the fields of law and human rights has assembled to oversee the International Tribunal on US Human Rights Abuses Against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples, to take place from 22-25 October 2021 in New York City and virtually. As experts in the inter-related fields of institutional and structural racism, colonialism and neocolonialism, women’s and children’s rights, minorities rights, Indigenous treaties and international law, self-determination and sovereignty processes, and the genocide conventions, the Panel of Jurists asserts itself as an independent and non-governmental body which will convene to hear testimony based on a broad indictment served to the accused US federal and state parties.

The International Tribunal itself derives from an historic legacy and trajectory, initiated by a US- based coalition, In the Spirit of Mandela. Created in 2018, the coalition recognizes and affirms the rich history of diverse activists including Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela, Graca Machel Mandela, Ella Baker, Dennis Banks, Cesar Chavez, Fannie Lou Hamer, Fred Korematsu, Lolita Lebron, Rosa Parks, Ingrid Washinawatok, and many more in the resistance traditions of Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples. Though fully independent and separate from the In the Spirit of Mandela coalition, the Panel of Jurists recognizes the important experiences which have shaped the petitioners’ charges against US government agencies.

2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the campaign in which African American leaders Paul Robeson and William Patterson, with the support of eminent sociologist Dr. WEB DuBois, presented the “We Charge Genocide” petition to the burgeoning United Nations headquarters. A decade later, Minister Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik el-Shabazz) formed the Organization of Afro-American Unity, in part to bring the case of US human rights abuses to the attention of the UN. The Tribunal itself will be held at UN headquarters and the Church Center for the UN, but hearings and community testimony will also take place at the site of Malcolm X’s assassination, the now-refurbished and Columbia University-affiliated Malcolm and Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in Harlem.

The Panel of Jurists is composed of nine members, with representatives including a South African former Member of Parliament; a Board Member of the distinguished Nobel Peace Laureate organization with an unprecedented dozen Nobel Peace officer awardees; a Puerto Rican legal scholar who serves as an expert for the UN Special Committee on Decolonization; a UN representative of the oldest inter-faith pacifist organization in the world; an internationally-accredited expert on genocide; the director of the only peoples-centered US human rights network with ECOSOC status and consistent UN advocacy; the youngest elected Chairman of the

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and leader of UNITY/the United National Indian Tribal Youth; and the former Chair of the United Nations Working Group on People of African Descent and a judge of the Permanent People's Tribunal. They are majority women and majority global south rooted, from India, Eritrea, Haiti, France, Puerto Rico, the USA and elsewhere.

These jurists will preside over two days of testimonies from impacted victims, expert witnesses, and attorneys with firsthand knowledge of specific incidences raised in the charges/indictment. **The Tribunal will be evaluating charges of human and civil rights violations on the basis of the following five areas:**

- ☑ Police killings of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people,
- ☑ Hyper/mass incarcerations of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people,
- ☑ Political incarceration of Civil Rights/National Liberation era revolutionaries and revolutionaries and activists, as well as present day activists,
- ☑ Environmental racism and its impact disparities and its impact on Black, Brown, and Indigenous people,
- ☑ Public health racism and its traumatic impacts

As a result of the historic and systemic charges of all the above, the overarching charge of genocide is also being evaluated. The Panel of Jurists will announce its Verdict following deliberations and discussions, planned for delivery at the United Nations on Monday, 25 October 2021." (1)

OPENING STATEMENT

Nkechi Taifa

October 23, 2021

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON US HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

"May it please this Honorable and Historic Tribunal; esteemed members of this International Panel of Jurists; Black, Brown and Indigenous People Residing in the United States; allies, and the world at large. My name is Nkechi Taifa, and I am serving as Chief People's Counsel for this auspicious proceeding which is charging the U.S. government with violations of international human rights. The Plaintiff class which I represent consists of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people comprising the following racial and national groups:

- 1) People of African descent brought to the U.S. by 400 years of chattel enslavement, or by immigration from former slave territories, often as a result of additional economic oppression brought upon them post slavery by defendant US government and co-conspirator former colonial powers, following the independence of the lands of their birth.
- 2) People of Latinx descent, both natives of territories taken or acquired by the expanding US and those who migrated to US territory often as a result of further economic oppression brought upon them by the Defendant US government and the former colonial powers following their independence.
And
- 3) First Nation Peoples, original to the lands now occupied by Defendant US, mostly taken by force and or breach of genuine and fraudulent Treaties with Indigenous Nations and /or interlopers.

The Defendant class consists of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of all levels of the US government, as well as state, county, and local political subdivisions.

Thus, on behalf of the plaintiffs – the Black, Brown and Indigenous People Residing in the United States, I present the following Opening Statement:

In 1903, upon the launch of his seminal treatise, *The Souls of Black Folk*, historian W.E.B. DuBois prophesized that "the problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color-line," referring to the pernicious role of race in

U.S. society. And now, more than 100 years later, his prognosis is even more ominous as the evidence from this Tribunal will show that conditions facing Black, Brown and Indigenous people residing in the U.S. during the 21st century U.S. amount to genocide.

This charge is not the ranting and raving of wild-eyed militancy, but, as you will see from testimony and exhibits during this Tribunal, results from a careful and methodical analyses of over 400 years of examination and study. This tribunal is, however, by far not the first such inquiry.

It comes on the heels of the Jan-Feb 2021 - International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence against People of African Descent in the United States

The 1992 – International Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples and Oppressed Nations (San Francisco);

The 1990 - International Tribunal on the Human Rights Violations of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the United States (New York)

The 1979 - International Jurists Report to the UN Human Rights Commission on Visit with Human Rights Petitioners in the U.S.

This tribunal stands on the shoulders of El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, Malcolm X, whose mottos were land, self-determination, self-defense and internationalization, and it is in this very sacred space, this building formerly known as the Audubon Ballroom, where his DNA still manifests as we gather to continue to honor his sacrifice and carry on the tradition of his work.

And then last, but most major – this October 2021 Tribunal stands on the shoulders of the seminal 1951 - Civil Rights Congress Petition to the UN (Paris): “We Charge Genocide: The Crime of Government Against the Negro People” – twenty years later published as *We Charge Genocide: The Historic Petition to the United Nations for Relief from a Crime of the United States Government Against the Negro People*.

So, this Tribunal today, while not unique, seeks to once again, unabashedly, Charge Genocide, but this time, rather than a sole reliance on the international treaty, the Convention to Prevent and Punish the Crime of Genocide, the only vehicle available when the original 1951 petition was brought to the U.N., today, we also seek jurisdiction based on the implementation of that international Treaty as documented in the U.S. Code.

Although this Tribunal seeks to use the international definition of genocide as a lens to scrutinize 5 key issue areas -- policing, mass incarceration, political prisoners, environmental racism and public health system inequities and their impact on Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, the genocidal impact in other systems, such as education and the racial wealth gap, could likewise be so examined.

I would be remiss if I did not unfortunately acknowledge that the term genocide appears to singularly conjure in most minds’ images of fiery ovens and atrocious massacres. As such, there is often a blanket denunciation of the applicability of the term to the United States. This censure, while understandable from the colonizer’s standpoint, is myopic from the viewpoint of the colonized. Seldom does the colonizer class dispassionately examine the internationally accepted parameters of the term “genocide,” and then methodically apply that definition to the impact of United States’ policies and practices on particular racial groups. For if one were to do so, and this Tribunal attempts such, we hope that you will agree that the definition of genocide against a substantial segment of the Black, Brown, and Indigenous populace in the United States is a reality.

This evidence you will hear and review will specifically and unabashedly address the issue of genocide with both testimony and documentary evidence. In this Tribunal we will present the definition of genocide embraced by the international community and analyze its adoption as ratified by the United States. We will tackle a presumptively fundamental barrier -- the issue of intent --- and discuss how that hurdle might be overcome. This Tribunal will demonstrate far-reaching and grave implications which in many respects parallel the definition of genocide against substantial segments of the U.S. Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, within the framework of both international and domestic law.

Because the issue is so major and because of the limited white ethnocentric nature of the education system in the U.S., PERMIT ME TO delve a little deeper into this background and history.

You will hear in either testimony or documentary evidence that the UN General Assembly In 1948 adopted the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. You will hear that the Convention confirmed **that** genocide, whether committed in time or peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which the Contracting parties undertake to prevent and to punish. Genocide, the Convention declares, is the committing of certain acts, “with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.” **You will learn that according to the international convention, the following acts constitute genocide:**

- (a) Killing members of the group
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group [or]
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

You will hear that pursuant to the Genocide Convention, however, genocide is not the only punishable act. Related acts, such as conspiracy, incitement or attempts to commit genocide, and complicity in genocide, are equally punishable. Furthermore, the international definition concludes by reminding the Parties that those who commit genocide or any other of the related acts “Shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials, or private individuals.”

The US General Assembly adopted the Genocide Convention in 1948 without dissent, with the U.S. being the first nation to sign. Indeed, the U.S. delegation played a pivotal role in drafting the international Convention. However, it took the United States 38 years to give its advice and consent to ratification. One of the articulated reasons for this unconscionable delay was the fear that Black folk in the United States would use the treaty to their advantage.

That fear was not without substance. Why? Because In 1951, three years after the passage of the Genocide Convention by the United Nations, W.E.B. DuBois, William Patterson, Mary Church Terrell, Paul Robeson and over 90 others presented the United Nations with that historic petition chronicling the genocidal sufferings, murder, mental assault, and crimes against humanity inflicted against Black people.

So, what were the reasons for delay? The documentary evidence you will review will reveal that the anxieties of segregationists that ratification would subject the United States to punishment under the Convention, based on the country’s treatment of Native and Black people was no longer relevant.

According to an American Bar Association scholar whose committee chronicled the history of the Genocide Convention’s ratification process, the Genocide Convention had set a record as the most scrutinized and analyzed non-military treaty ever to be considered by the U.S. Senate. Indeed, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings for 13 days. More than 200 witnesses, representing divergent views, testified. The hearing’s transcript was more than 2,000 pages long.

So nearly 40 years after its adoption by the United Nations, and after scores of other nations had already ratified it, the U.S. Senate finally gave its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the enactment of implementing legislation under federal law. Implementing legislation was now critical because the Genocide Convention, distinct from later international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, incorporated a provision that the Contracting parties agree to enact the necessary legislation in their respective jurisdictions prior to depositing the ratification documents with the United Nations. This provision was significant, in that it ensured that ratification of the Genocide Convention would not be a symbolic gesture but would have the full force of laws and the authority to enact penalties.

On April 4, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Genocide Convention Implementation Act, codifying the international Genocide Convention in U.S. law, making various changes to limit its applicability. These changes included 1) adding the terms “specific” before “intent” and substantial in front of “part, and (2) defining “mental harm” as the permanent impairment of mental faculties, particularly referring to the application of narcotic drugs. Thus, the Genocide Convention, as codified in U.S. law, `18 U.S. Code section 1091, reads as follows:

Whoever whether in time of peace or in time of war, in a circumstance described in subsection (d) and with the SPECIFIC intent to destroy, in whole or in SUBSTANTIAL part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group as such

- (a) Kills members of the group
- (b) Causes serious bodily injury to members of the group
- (c) Causes the permanent impairment of the mental faculties of members of the group through drugs, torture, or similar techniques.
- (d) Subjects the group to condition of life that are intended to cause the physical destruction of the group in whole or in part
- (e) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group, or
- (f) Transfers by force children of the group to another group,

Shall be punished.

Jurists, I found it important to go over this procedural history as part of the Tribunal’s Opening framing, because it is not the history normally taught in schools in general or law schools. In fact, the very fact of U.S. codification, has essentially remained hidden from the general public.

Esteemed jurists, much of what you will hear during this Tribunal arise from institutional and structural racism, in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways, to perpetuate racial and ethnic group inequity. As such, the “specific intent” prong, as inserted by the United States, admittedly could be a fundamental hurdle to use of this treaty as codified by U.S. law. Indeed, it is a difficult hurdle, given the restrictive manner in which U.S. courts have historically construed the intent requirement within a general equal protection analysis.

Jurists, as you listen to the testimony during this weekend’s Tribunal and review the documentary exhibits, ask yourself, are these conscious acts intended to cause destruction? Are they the unconscious effects of structural racism? Or do they, in fact, constitute genocide?

During this Tribunal you will learn that the United States inflicts police racism and violence against Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. Specifically, you will both hear and review through witness and documentary evidence that the United States systemically executes Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities through the unchecked practices of Police Brutality, the manufacturing of hyper-criminalization, and the perpetuation of slow death conditions. Indeed, racially – biased and extrajudicial killings against Black people, whether by lynch mobs or officers of the law, fall within the definitional prongs of the Genocide convention.

You will learn that the United States perpetuates a criminal legal system that results in a mass incarceration unparalleled in the world. You will hear testimony that the United States has refused to acknowledge, and subsequently address, clear evidence of systemic racial bias while systematically criminalizing poverty to the specific detriment of Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities.

You will also learn that the oppression and struggle against oppression in the United States has resulted in a class of political prisoners and prisoners of war peculiar to the historic, ongoing, and now normalized reality of colonialism and genocide in the United States imposed upon Black, Brown and Indigenous people, which started with the incursion and occupation of the Americas by white settlers from Europe in 1619 and continues structurally and systematically until this present day. I direct your attention specifically to Appendix A – detailing cases of Political Prisoners in the U.S. You will hear the definition of political prisoners as defined by

the then 1990 Special International Tribunal on the Violation of Human Rights of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the United States Prisons and Jails.

You will hear testimony about the Cointelpro, how the U.S. government's once secret illegal campaign seeking to disrupt and destroy movements in general and those led by Black, Brown and Indigenous populations in particular was manifest.

You will hear comparisons that US political prisoners, who fought against United States apartheid, are no different than the late President Nelson Mandela, who headed South Africa's African National Congress and eventually was forced to lead armed struggle against the sustained and the systematic racial violence, abuse and oppression of South African apartheid. The US CIA played a significant role in Mr. Mandela's 1962 capture and put him on their terrorist watch list. Mandela served nearly 27 years in prison. This Tribunal would like you to take special note that many of the political prisoners you will either hear about during this Tribunal as well as those testimonies incorporated in the appendix, have served over 40 years behind bars. You will hear that they have been subjected to lengthy sentences as a result of their politics, beliefs, and conscious actions against their oppression, and many after having served their court ordered time have been repeatedly denied parole; how they have experienced torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment and punishment; many serving decades in solitary confinement, suffering from medical conditions and neglect – all causing serious bodily and mental harm, all in contravention to international human rights treaties in general, and the Genocide Convention in particular.

You will hear that in more recent years more political prisoners, largely supporters of modern-day movements such as climate action, Black Lives matter and other movements, are being illegally surveilled and detained by the government under the pretext of rooting out extremist groups disproportionately composed of people who publicly challenge the dehumanization and oppression of communities of color.

You will learn that the United States intentionally inflicts bodily harm on Black, Brown, and Indigenous people through environmental racism. Specifically, you will hear witness testimony that the United States knowingly created and negligently ignored the Flint water crisis, failed to produce and enforce environmental regulations in Louisiana's "Cancer Alley", and deliberately inflicted conditions of life that would bring about physical destruction in the face of natural disasters.

Finally, you will learn that the United States has created a health crisis that aids in the destruction, in whole or in part, of Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, creating conditions of genocide through the promulgation of an environment that results in inequitable health conditions that disproportionately and deliberately impact members of the plaintiff class. Through these conditions US has created a mental health crisis, increased infant and mortality rates, and increased rates of disease and death. You will hear testimony that the United States has created the mental health crises through historically oppressive systems, facilitated an inaccessible healthcare system resulting in disproportionate health issues in the Black community, and constructed harmful living spaces that triggers disease, delays in biological developments, and often death, and has done so intentionally.

And the US has imposed measures meant to prevent births to Black Brown and Indigenous people being held in detention and coerced those facing charges into sterilization. And finally, the US has intentionally and forcibly transferred the children of BLACK incarcerated parents and Brown immigrants as part of policy.

Esteemed Jurists, in closing. You have before you an awesome responsibility, and a courageous task. Just as in 1954 when Mamie Till Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till demanded an open casket for the world to see the image of her 14-year-old son Emmett, savagely mutilated and dumped in Mississippi's Tallahatchie River, the duty of this Tribunal is to likewise present an open casket for the world to see and hear the testimonies of Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples who have been subjected to human rights abuses.

“Open it up,” Mamie Till demanded. “Let the world see what they did to my boy,” she demanded as her son’s mangled and battered body was thrust on public view. Indeed, her decision forced the nation and the world to face in shocked disbelief the horror of racism. This Tribunal will likewise open the voluminous body of evidence, for the world to see and hopefully, with your verdict, begin the process to hold those responsible, accountable.

Dr. MLK once stated that the ultimate test of a person is not where she stands in moments of comfort and moments of convenience, but where he stands in moments of challenge and moments of controversy. Yes, it may be challenging to the U.S. that we are using not only an international human rights frame through which to present domestic harms but quite intentionally a genocide frame. It may be controversial for some to hear mere whispers that crimes against humanity were perpetrated domestically or that the plaintiffs in this Tribunal still charge genocide. But these are not comfortable or convenient times.

Just as Mamie Till commanded in 1955, there is a time when we must Open up the casket. There is a time when we must right the wrong. It is once again time for the world to see and act. The time is now. Moments of crisis also represent moments of opportunity. I humbly ask that this new set of international jurists listen to all the evidence, both testamentary and documentary, and return a verdict for justice, rooted in International human rights law.”

VERDICT: GUILTY on ALL Counts!

After hearing from over 30 witnesses and receiving hundreds of documents, the Panel of Jurists found the US government and its subdivisions GUILTY of Genocide and Gross Human Rights Violations.

The Executive Summary Verdict which follows is their preliminary report, with a detailed and cited ruling to appear in the near future.

International Tribunal on Human Rights Abuses
Against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples
October 23-25, 2021
New York, NY, Turtle Island, Lenape land, USA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY VERDICT in the case of BLACK, BROWN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Charging Human Rights Abuses and Genocide Against the United States of America
As represented by its President, Department of State, federal and state policing agencies,
and other governmental institutions

As collected in evidence at the 2021 International Tribunal
on US Human Rights Abuses Against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY VERDICT

Introduction: The Context of Our Work and Why We are Here

The fact that the United States has committed an array of human rights abuses against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples should be as uncontroversial as it is incontrovertible. There is widespread agreement that settler colonialists committed genocide and other crimes against the Indigenous populations while taking their lands. No one would disagree that enslaved Africans were forced to work the settler colonial lands for hundreds of years in subhuman conditions.

The historical record tells the story of additional human rights abuses committed against Mexicans and other groups as the US expanded West and colonized countries like Puerto Rico. No one doubts that Japanese were forced into concentration camps during World War II or that Blacks were lynched and brutalized during Jim Crow. The current President of the United States acknowledges these crimes. His Secretary of State recently confirmed this while stating, "great nations such as ours do not hide from our shortcomings; they strive to improve with transparency."

If laudable, such sentiments ring hollow unless met by action. The Spirit of Mandela Coalition petitioned for the creation of this Tribunal because they believe that not only are US human rights abuse "shortcomings" not being fully acknowledged, but that the US has sought to bury a number of these crimes. The Coalition enlisted a prosecutor, Nkechi Taifa, to argue their case. Their indictment on behalf of Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples in the US charges the U.S. government and its state and local political subdivisions with crimes committed in five areas: police racism and violence, mass incarceration, political prisoners/prisoners of war, environmental racism, public health inequalities. Further, they argue that the US has committed genocide. In 2021, the International Tribunal on US Human Rights Abuses against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples convened as an independent body to hear the case. We did so as a quasi-legal body in the tradition of People's Tribunals dating back to the Russell Tribunal and Permanent People's Tribunal, among others. While evaluating the charges in terms of international and domestic human rights law and practice, we also recognize that such legal structures have limitations that can reinforce racism and deny voice and redress to Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples as the prosecution in this case alleges.

To assess the merits of the case, the Tribunal convened from October 23-25, 2021. Over the course of two days, the Jurists heard eighteen attorneys and students of law solicit evidence from thirty witnesses from across the US.

Background

The Panel of Jurists heard testimony emphasizing the millions upon millions of Indigenous and African peoples murdered, disappeared, and nearly exterminated over a period from 1492 through the present. Further the witnesses and prosecution argued that the wrongs have been historic and deliberate, with colonization, racism, militarism, imperialism, materialism, criminalization, patriarchy, neocolonialism, and internal colonialism as part of the larger process that now manifests itself in medical and digital apartheid, chemical warfare, environmental violence and racism, divestment, and a pandemic of accessible guns and drugs - with the majority of gun violence perpetrated by police and security forces in the false claim of upholding law and order. Statements were made testifying to new forms of colonialism which include the Prison Industrial Complex, the Military Industrial Complex, and the commercialization of our health and privatization/commodification of all social services.

The testimonies include substantial evidence of the erasure of histories; distortion and cultural misappropriation contributes to and exacerbates the attempted invisibilization and denial of People's basic humanity. The profound impacts of all of these realities extend beyond the erasure and attempt to exterminate Black, Brown and Indigenous lives. Hence, as one witness stated, "the colonization of the spirit and mind continues to this day."

The testimonies of this Tribunal reaffirm the traditional wisdom and knowledge of Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples. Strong evidence was presented on the indomitable, unbreakable resistance and resilience of the peoples' struggle for justice and dignity. In the face of egregious human rights violations and crimes against humanity, this spirit of collective survival shone through.

The 2021 International Tribunal on US Human Rights Abuses Against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples was initiated by a US coalition, In the Spirit of Mandela. Its own recognized legacy, based on efforts dating from the 1951 “We Charge Genocide” petition to the present, rests on the idea that any examination of US human rights must be done in an international context. The Panel of Jurists came together as an independent body made up of legal scholars, human rights advocates and activists, and community leaders. Utilizing the International Criminal Law on Genocide and other instruments, the Panel convened to hear and review the testimony organized by Spirit of Mandela Legal Team. The Accused, though informed, did not respond to the charges and indictment against them, nor did they appear as invited to present a defense.

Proceedings

The following is a summarized and preliminary presentation of the testimony.

Police Killings

Testimony was heard regarding an alarming pattern and practice of police murdering Black, Brown, and Indigenous people with impunity. We were informed that a recent Commission of Inquiry found that “Black people are 3.5 times more likely than white people to be killed by police when Blacks are not attacking or do not have a weapon.” Disaggregated data for other Peoples is lacking.

Mass Incarceration

Testimony emphasized that in the case of US Constitutional law, while the 13th Amendment promised the abolition of the process of chattel slavery, it in fact created an exception incentivizing the incarceration of people of African descent and other peoples. Further they argued that a school-to-prison pipeline has been set in motion by the racialized policies and programs of the US federal and state governments. One testimonial noted, “the law is used as a weapon of war” against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples. Further testimony indicates that there are US policies of wars on poverty, wars on drugs, wars on terror, and others - amounting to a war on Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples as they disproportionately criminalize their youth and communities.

Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War

Arguments were made presenting the criminalization of legitimate political struggles, most particularly of Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples. One witness testified that it is like a “Counter-Intelligence Program on steroids.” Several witnesses testified that with regard to traditional torture techniques, there is ample evidence of solitary confinement lasting for decades, which go so far beyond the UN constituted definitions of torture that they defy any modern standard of humane government. Further testimony was presented arguing that decades-long sentences have been imposed for those imprisoned for their political beliefs. One witness stated, “the US is the only industrialized nation in the world that denies the existence of political prisoners.”

Environmental Racism

Testimony was received arguing the impact of environmental violence. They asserted that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples, constituting environmental violence. The Prosecution contended that there is a deliberate and callous poisoning of land, water, air, and soil, reflecting the valuing of profits over peoples which threatens the survival of the planet and impacts most devastatingly the lives of Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples.

Public Health Inequities

The testimony highlighted deep public health inequities including both physical and mental health manifestations. Further assertions were made that the COVID-19 pandemic and an “inadequate and incompetent Federal response to this crisis” magnified the disparate impact of structural racism affecting access to health care. Moreover, testimony was heard regarding indifference to the suffering of groups of people considered expendable due to the profit model of US health care, leaving behind those most vulnerable. The Prosecution argued that, from forced sterilization to “food deserts” and chemical contamination, from toxic stress based on the environment in which one lives to the criminalization of mental illness, Black, Brown, and Indigenous people are neglected and left out of any illusion of the human right to health.

While these crimes are well-documented, they have more rarely been acknowledged, remedied and addressed with some very distant from public knowledge.

Judgement

Despite the need for further deliberation on the extensive submissions and documents from varied expert witnesses, a deep analysis from the Jurists found that the process did sufficiently cover the scope and elements of all five counts in the indictment as having legal standing and hence legitimacy.

The Jurists further establish that the grounds for each of the five counts in the indictment presented the basis for successful intervention due to the extensive testimonies of both witnesses and expert witnesses.

A full and detailed judgement will follow regarding our findings on these counts. Any minority position of the Jurists will be developed, with collective consensus on each count asserted to further advance our recommendations for remediation, reparations, and future actions.

After having heard the testimony of numerous victims of Police Racism, Mass Incarceration, Environmental Racism, Public Health Inequities and of Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War, together with the expert testimonies and graphic presentations, as well as the copious documentation submitted and admitted in the record, the Panel of Jurists find the US and its subdivisions GUILTY of all five counts. We find grounds that Acts of Genocide have been committed.

Signed, 25 October 2021, Panel of Jurists

Church Center of the United Nations

Chief: Her Honorable Magdalene Moonsamy (South Africa), former Member of Parliament (ANC); Deputy Chair of the African Peer Review Mechanism, an instrument of the African Union; attorney-director of the Women's Justice Foundation; Admitted Attorney of the South African High Court; lecturer of the Law Society of South Africa's Legal Education and Development (LEAD) school

Deputy Chief: Wilma E. Reveron Collazo (Puerto Rico), long-standing member and leader, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rican Bar Association); former Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Center for Research assigned to the United Nations Office of Information on the Right to Self Determination; former Senior Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union

Dr. Vickie Casanova-Willis (USA), Executive Director, US Human Rights Network; past president, National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL); founding member of Black People Against Police Torture; Co-organizer of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (US Visits); co-author of multiple historic policy-shaping reports including the first UN Universal Periodic Review raising the issue of US Political Prisoners and COINTELPRO

Kassahun Checole (Eritrea/USA), CEO and publisher, Africa World/Red Sea Press; renowned Pan Africanist and Pan American scholar; lifetime advisor of the Association of Concerned African Scholars and the African Studies Association

Sherly Fabre (Haiti/USA), International Fellowship of Reconciliation United Nations Representative; member, Muslim Peace Fellowship/Community of Living Traditions; co-founder, Proyecto Faro

Professor Mireille Fanon Mendès-France (France), former Chair of the United Nations Working Group on People of African Descent; former Commissioner of the 2020 International Commission on Inquiry (Systemic Racist Police Violence against US People of African Descent); Judge of Permanent Peoples Tribunal; Co-Chair of the Frantz Fanon Foundation

Dr. Alexander Hinton (USA), Director of the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, Rutgers University; UNESCO Chair on Genocide Prevention; Distinguished Professor of Anthropology

Chairman Brian Moskwetah Weeden (Mashpee Wampanoag), Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; Bear Heart from Eel Clan; Co-President/Trustee of the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY); Co-Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Youth Commission

Binalakshmi "Bina" Nepram (Manipur/Northeast India), Founder-Director, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network; Founder-Director, Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Gender Justice and Peace; Board member of the International Peace Bureau (1910 Nobel Peace Laureate)

Special Advisor to the Panel of Jurists: Matt Meyer, Secretary-General, International Peace Research Association

Special Advisory Committee convened to assist Panel of Jurists

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Chair

Director, Quaker United Nations Office (Geneva); Former Deputy Speaker of the South African Parliament, South African former Deputy Minister of Health; South African former Deputy Minister of Defense

Matt Meyer, Co-Chair

Members:

Diana Marcela Agudelo-Ortiz (Colombia), Professor/Psychologist, Universidad Externado de Colombia; IPRA Executive Committee

Celia Cook-Huffman (USA), Vice President for Academic Affairs, Manchester University

Richard Falk (USA), Professor Emeritus of International Law, Princeton University; UN Special Rapporteur

Sahar Francis (Palestine), Lawyer/Director, Addameer Prisoner's Support and Human Rights Association

Ela Gandhi (South Africa), Founder/Director, Gandhi Development Trust; South African Member of Parliament (1994-2004)

Janet Gerson (USA), Educational Director, International Institute on Peace Education (IPE)

Lennox Hinds (Trinidad/USA), African Bar Association; UN Representative of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers; counsel for Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress, and the South African government

Mairead Corrigan Maguire (Northern Ireland), Nobel Peace Laureate (1976); co-founder, Community for Peace People, Northern Ireland

Gustave Massiah (France), Founder, France ATTAC; Secretary General, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples; International Council of the World Social Forum; member, Permanent People's Tribunal

Marie-Lou Nahhas (Lebanon), Actress, Orange is the New Black, UN Population Fund spokesperson on girl's and women's rights

Moses John Monday (South Sudan), Convener, Pan African Nonviolence and Peacebuilding Network

Sri Nuryanti (Indonesia), Co-chair, Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association; Researcher, Indonesian Institute of Sciences

Betty Reardon (USA), Founding Director of Peace Education Center, Columbia University; co-founder of IPRA, the International Institute on Peace Education, and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Stellan Vinthagen (Sweden), Endowed Chair of the Study of Nonviolent Direct Action, UMass Amherst; IPRA Council member

Polly Walker (Cherokee/USA), Chair, Indigenous Educators Network; former Director, Baker Institute of Juniata College

Hakim Williams (Trinidad), Professor, Africana Studies and Director, Peace and Justice Studies, Gettysburg College

As Opening to the 2021 International Tribunal on US Human Rights Abuses Against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples, convened by the US-based Spirit of Mandela coalition, the attached special message of endorsement was presented, from **Her Royal Highness Princess Zenani Mandela-Dlamini, South African Ambassador and daughter of Winnie and Nelson Mandela:**



MESSAGE OF ENDORSEMENT
FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON US HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST BLACK,
BROWN & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

I am honoured to give my endorsement to this important initiative at a time when global intolerance and prejudice is on the rise which has not only been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 but COVID-19 has also shone the spotlight on global systemic prejudice and inequality.

Through this initiative, which I hope will compel world leaders to show the political will to act on these vile injustices perpetrated against the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, which my mom and dad, Winnie Madikizela and Nelson Mandela fought tirelessly and selflessly to eradicate.

In addressing these issues, which have now become more than ever pervasive in our society. The actions of the International Tribunal will not only bring to the fore the plight of the world's disenfranchised, marginalised, and poor but in the process will continue to champion the very causes that were very important to my parents and other struggle activists.

As a child of political activists, who suffered not only from my parents' incarceration but also from the pain and trauma of being separated from them, I understand the sacrifices and meaning of what it takes to stand up to social injustices and speak truth to power.

As such I am committed to the principles and ideals of restorative justice and the inalienable rights for all. My family and I are committed to a world free of prejudice, social and gender injustices where human rights for all are respective acknowledged and applied.

Always in Solidarity.

Zolanini

HRH Princess Zenani N Dlamini

16 October 2021

Panel of International Jurists Render Verdict that U.S. is Guilty of Genocide by The Taifa Group LLC

<https://www.prlog.org/12891307-panel-of-international-jurists-render-verdict-that-us-is-guilty-of-genocide.html>

Listen to the 55-minute radio show by COVID, Race & Democracy with Co-host Bob Lederer (Pacifica show airing different days on 15 different stations)

“Co-hosts **Bob Lederer**, one of the producers of Out-FM covering anti-racist LGBTQ+ issues on WBAI in New York and Akua Holt, host of Pan African Journal on KPFT in Houston share excerpts of an historic people’s tribunal that happened from Oct. 22nd to 25th, 2021 in New York City.” See <https://covidtaskforce.pacifica.org/2021/11/08/in-the-spirit-of-mandela-international-tribunal-on-u-s-human-rights-violations-against-people-of-color/>

Closing Statement

On behalf of the Spirit of Mandela Tribunal Coordinating Committee, we thank each and every one of you for making this historic Tribunal possible. Needless to say, there is quite a bit of work to be done in reaching our stated outcomes, viz. building the movement for reparations, developing the "Peoples' Senate", filing in federal court, completing and widely circulating the Jurist's detailed Final Verdict (to be completed by the end of the year). We hope that you find your place in and continue to support these efforts.

In terms of schedules, Spirit of Mandela general meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Saturday of the month, from 12 noon to 2pm Eastern time. There we will have pertinent updates of when and how to proceed with all of this organizing, building up to the Peoples Senate. This will also be an excellent opportunity to begin the process of discussing all strategic initiatives moving forward. Please share the Zoom invite when it comes out (usually shortly before the meeting itself), and if you know of anyone new wanting to join in and participate, please feel free to invite them. The Coordinating Committee, the Media Committee, and the Outreach Committee have already been meeting and we are all looking forward to being together on Saturday, November 20th at our next general meeting.

We are super excited about the opportunities and prospects that lie before us. The next few months will be critical for us. The issue with any movement that has experienced terrific momentum is its sustainability. We can sustain this movement and meet all expectations and more. Key elements for success will include, but not be limited to: sharing responsibilities, patience with one another, and maintaining positive vibes and attitudes.

Let's Maintain!

Jihad Abdulmumit, Sekou Odinga, A'isha Mohammed, Jalil Muntaqim, Emok Quint, Eileen Weitzman, and Matt Meyer
Spirit of Mandela Coordinating Committee

There is Work to be Done! What You Can Do!

1. Continue to spread the Tribunal Verdict via this Information Packet to any and all social media contacts and platforms
2. Commit to work on the Media and Outreach Committees by sending your contact information to: spiritofmandela1@gmail.com
3. Participate in the General Zoom Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the month where updates are given and you can share your input. If your name is not on the general Spirit of Mandela listserv, please send your contact information to spiritofmandela1@gmail.com

Contacts/Questions

1. Nkechi Taifa, Esq., Chief People's Attorney for the Case of Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples against the US Government and its Subdivisions
nkechi@thetaifagroup.com
2. Prof. Matt Meyer, Special Advisor to the Panel of Jurists;
Secretary-General, International Peace Research Association
internationalpeaceresearch.sg@gmail.com
3. Jihad Abdulmumit, Tribunal Coordinating Committee
Spiritofmandela1@gmail.com
4. Dr. A'isha Mohammad, Tribunal Press Agent
Aishamohammed72@gmail.com
5. Panel of Jurists Website Verification:
<https://www.tribunal2021.com/news>

References

1. <https://www.tribunal2021.com/press-releases>
2. <https://www.tribunal2021.com/news>

Links

Website: <https://spiritofmandela.org/>
Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/SpiritofMandela>
Instagram: @SpiritofMandela
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/inthespirit>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Spirit-Of-Mandela-105492791756066/>
PayPal: @spiritofmandela

Chairperson's Corner

The day after International Tribunal 2021 found the US GUILTY of genocide! by Jihad Abdulmumit



(Photo Credit: SF Bay View. "IT-2021-Jihad-Abdulmumit-at-Malcom-X-Dr.-Betty-Shabazz-Center-NYC-1021-IMG_9988, The day after International Tribunal 2021 found the US GUILTY of genocide! Featured World News & Views Jihad Abdulmumit was a main organizer of International Tribunal 2021. Here he is taking a moment from the intense testimony to look out at the world from the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Center, where the Tribunal was held, wondering how to get the word to the People. – Photo: Karpani Burns")

"On Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, after hearing from over 30 witnesses and receiving hundreds of documents, a [panel of International Jurists](#) found the US government and its subdivisions GUILTY of Genocide and Gross Human Rights Violations.

The verdict was rendered after a weekend of testimony given at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in Harlem, New York. This is the old Audubon Ballroom where Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965. His legacy of calling for the civil rights struggle to be elevated to the rightful call for human rights and placed on the international stage has been honored and continued through this Tribunal.

The day after and what follows now is a call for all activists, academics, clergy of all faiths, professionals, athletes, entertainers, families, students, incarcerated individuals, business folks, health care providers, environmental activists, water protectors and community organizations et al. to join in the post-Tribunal call for building a People's Senate.

Now that the facts and evidence of genocide have again been proven, we the People must resolve to build our own mechanism of liberation and self-determination in 2021.

Now that the United States government and its states are being held accountable, we the People must no longer act as bystanders.

Rather, we the People must seize this opportunity to build a level and quality of true representation not experienced for centuries, perhaps since Black Reconstruction.

The facts and evidence of genocide have again been proven.

Five decades later after joining the Black Panther Party at 16 years old and organizing breakfast programs, building free clinics, conducting community political education classes, selling the Panther papers, standing poised to defend the community against police violence, and eventually going underground, I realize that every so often major opportunities present themselves for the Movement to progress and grow exponentially.

The massive protests in the wake of the George Floyd murder were a recent opportunity. Millions took to the streets. Beyond the emotions and beyond the protests, what was the long-range plan, and what was the strategy for building self-determination and infrastructure in our communities? Can we sustain our movement for self-determination? Now we have another opportunity.

The Tribunal Coordinating Committee and its chief attorney, Nkechi Taifa, will continue to hold the United States liable legally and politically – however, the onus of work now resides with the People.

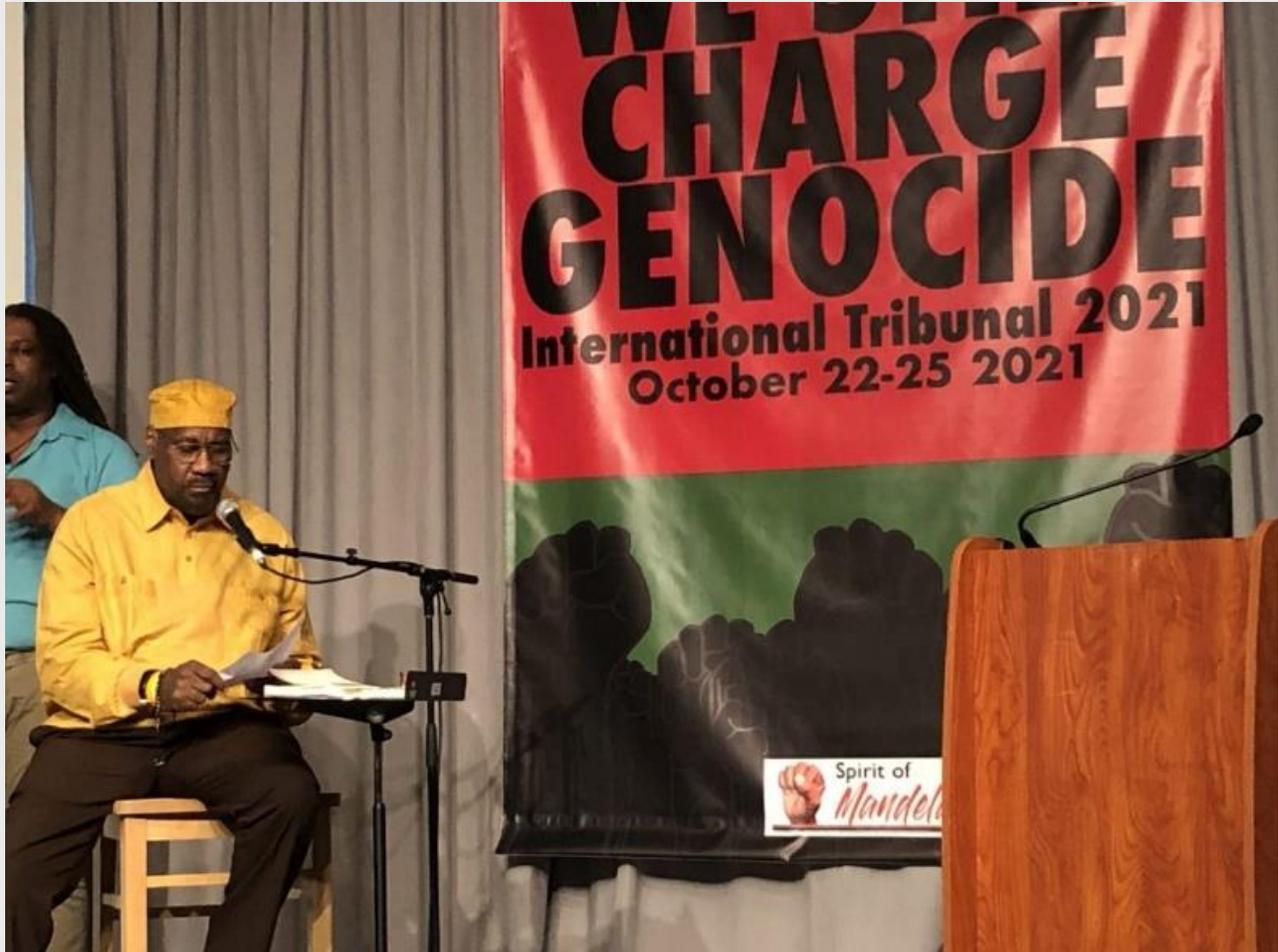
The will and strength of the People will be reflected in many ways by the support given to building upon this guilty verdict.

We now have more international attention on our plight of genocide than before. The day after belongs to the People!"

"Jihad Abdulmumit of the 2021 International Tribunal Coordinating Committee is also chairperson of the National Jericho Movement. He was born in 1954 in New Jersey, joined the Black Panther Party at 16, then went underground with the Black Liberation Movement and served 23 years in federal penitentiaries. He earned an MBA in health services and now lives in Richmond, Virginia, with his wife and three children, working as a health care provider in a free clinic. Jihad, who is also a playwright, and his wife have a community theater company called For Our Children Productions. He can be reached via jihadabdulmumit@gmail.com and [@jihad_abdulmumit](https://www.instagram.com/jihad_abdulmumit)." See <https://sfbayview.com/2021/10/the-day-after-international-tribunal-2021-found-the-us-guilty-of-genocide/>

Jericho Highlights and Tributes

Guilty on all counts! Executive summary verdict by the International Panel of Jurists Oct 29



(Photo Credit: SF bay View “Former Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim testifies at the International Tribunal on Oct. 23. It was he who conceived – while still in prison in 2018 – the idea of returning to the UN on the 50th anniversary of the 1971 delivery of the “We Charge Genocide” petition to the UN by Paul Robeson and William Patterson. – Photo: Karpani Burns”)

“(Long version) International Panel of Jurists finds US guilty of genocide on all 5 counts Executive summary verdict by the International Panel of Jurists.” “After hearing from over 30 witnesses and receiving hundreds of documents, the International Panel of Jurists found the US government and its subdivisions guilty of Genocide and Gross Human Rights Violations. The executive summary verdict, which follows, is their preliminary report, with a detailed and cited ruling to appear in the near future. The International Tribunal on Human Rights Abuses against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples was held Oct. 23-25, 2021, in New York, NY, Turtle Island, Lenape land, USA.

The context of our work and why we are here

The fact that the United States has committed an array of human rights abuses against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples should be as uncontroversial as it is incontrovertible. There is widespread agreement that settler colonialists committed genocide and other crimes against the Indigenous populations while taking their lands. No one would disagree that enslaved Africans were forced to work the settler colonial lands for hundreds of years in subhuman conditions. The historical record tells the story of additional human rights abuses committed against Mexicans and other groups as the US expanded west and also colonized countries like Puerto Rico. No one doubts that Japanese were forced into concentration camps during World War II or that Blacks were lynched and brutalized during Jim Crow. The current president of the United States acknowledges

these crimes. His secretary of state recently confirmed this while stating: "Great nations such as ours do not hide from our shortcomings; they strive to improve with transparency." If laudable, such sentiments ring hollow unless met by action. The Spirit of Mandela Coalition petitioned for the creation of this tribunal because they believe that not only are US human rights abuse "shortcomings" not being fully acknowledged but that the US has sought to bury a number of these crimes..." See <https://sfbayview.com/2021/10/guilty-on-all-counts/>

Post Tribunal Message to Supporters

Greetings of Peace to Everyone,

A week has quickly passed since the historic Monday, October 25, 2021 guilty verdict was announced. I suppose by now we all have had ample opportunity to have viewed and read the several different press releases and post Tribunal announcements. If not, please reference tribunal2021.com or

www.spiritofmandela.org to update yourself, or check out this link:

<https://www.prlog.org/12891307-panel-of-international-jurists-render-verdict-that-us-is-guilty-of-genocide.html>

On behalf of the Spirit of Mandela Tribunal Coordinating Committee, we thank each and every one of you for making this historic Tribunal possible. Needless to say, there is quite a bit of work to be done in reaching the stated outcomes, viz. building the Movement for reparations, developing the "Peoples' Senate", filing into court, etc. We hope that you find your place and continue to support these efforts.

In terms of schedules, the general meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Saturday of the month, from 12 noon to 2pm. There we will have pertinent updates of when and how to proceed with organizing the Peoples Senate. This will also be an excellent opportunity to begin the process of discussing strategies moving forward. Please share the Zoom invite when it comes out if you know of anyone new wanting to join in and participate. The Coordinating Committee and the Media Committee have already been meeting. The Outreach Committee hasn't met yet, and will probably commence in earnest after the Saturday, November 20th general meeting. We are super excited about the opportunities and prospects that lie before us. The next few months will be critical for us. The issue with any movement that has experienced terrific momentum is its sustainability. We can sustain this movement and meet all expectations and more. Key elements for success will include, but be not limited to, sharing responsibilities, patience with one another, and maintaining positive vibes and attitudes.

Let's Maintain!

Jihad Abdulmumit, 2021 International Tribunal Coordinating Committee

Liberate the Caged Voices: Amerikkka Inc. guilty of genocide! by Bay View Editor Nube Brown Nov 6

"The historic and systemic assault on our health is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our housing is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our food sovereignty is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our education and history is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our economics is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our environment is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our self-determination is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our mental and spiritual wellbeing is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our quest for liberation is genocide. The historic and systemic assault on our right to defend our lives is genocide. The evidence is with the people! The oppressor – the colonial, capitalist, imperialist – wants us to be hung up on data, numerical and statistical proof. But considering the copious amounts of policy, legislative and academic violence, I say look to our greatest resource – the people.

The most profound aspect of the International Tribunal 2021, We Charge Genocide, that manifested for me from the testimonies and the jurists' questions is that genocide isn't just physical destruction or death, but mental and spiritual as well – a perspective well-honed and expressed by prisoners. I've heard them call it crimes against humanity, modern-day slavery – their work always asserting their humanity, thereby acknowledging ours.

It is through our stories – historic and current, our gained knowledge and the tremendous work being done on the ground and behind the walls that this next phase of this movement for liberation and building power for

the people will move forward. Listen to the changing language that will express the truth of what we are experiencing as Black, Brown and Indigenous people in Amerikkka Inc.

Along with two days of witness testimony, a 90+ page body of evidence of genocide was presented to the international jurists in the Tribunal that took place Oct. 22-25. One of the documents – which I had the honor of being able to put together and included – was a compilation of some of voices of the historic California Hunger Strikers 2011-2013...” See <https://sfbayview.com/2021/11/liberate-the-caged-voices-amerikkka-inc-guilty-of-genocide/>

Parole Granted! The New York State Board of Parole has voted to grant David Gilbert parole. Oct 26



“ A Message from David:
To all of you who did so much to make this miracle – born of hard work, love and creativity – happen,
THANK YOU. ”

“We are happy to share that The New York State Board of Parole voted today to grant **David Gilbert** parole. We appreciate your letters and support. David extends his gratitude to you.” The national Jericho Movement sends congratulations, love, and immense joy to our comrade David. We wish David the best as he reunites with his family, and begins his new journey!!! Photo: David with his family!!! (Photo Credit: Email)

Maroon is Free!!! Oct 26

Prayer Gathering for Maroon

We are coming together at Malcolm X Park to give thanks for Maroon's homecoming. We will be gathering for prayers, spiritual expressions, reflections, cultural performances and BBQ by Grill Master "Bro. Shep"

Tuesday, Nov 2, 3–6pm
Malcolm X Park
52nd & Pine, Philadelphia
Wear all white



linktr.ee/FreeMaroonNow

The National Jericho Movement extends our deepest joy for our brother's release. Our love and prayers are with Maroon and his family, may Allah grant Maroon and his precious family all of Allah's blessings and happiness. "Tomorrow's Wednesday, October 27th Scheduled Inter-Faith Prayer Gathering Outside Of The Philadelphia Court House Is CANCELLED! Because... **"TODAY" RUSSELL "MAROON" SHOATZ - WILL BE RELEASED FROM PRISON!** Click On The Below Video From Yesterday's Victorious Court Hearing; **And Then Stay Tuned For The Upcoming "Welcome Home Maroon" Inter-Faith Prayer & Celebration In Philadelphia's Black Community."**

"Maroon is free." Video: "I filmed and edited a mini documentary today. I hope I lose followers over this.

"Maroon is free." chronicles the moments this morning just after Russell Maroon Shoatz was granted compassionate release after serving 50 years in prison. In the film I ask his son and my good friend, Russell III, what the first thing he wants to say and do when he sees his dad on the outside.

When we fight, we win. We will bring Mumia Abu-Jamal home. We will bring Mutulu Shakur home. We will bring Sundiata Acoli home. We will bring Jamil Al-Amin home. We will bring Joe Joe Bowen home. We will bring Leonard Peltier home. Russell Maroon Shoatz is a veteran Black Panther who has been incarcerated since 1972.

He is currently suffering from Stage 4 colorectal cancer with a terminal diagnosis that has caused a complete blockage of his digestive tract and requires parenteral nutrition through an IV in order to survive. Maroon has not received adequate care from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Since October 11, 2021, he has not been given any nutrition through his IV, effectively starving him to death. On October 25, 2021 at 9:30 am, he met before Philadelphia Judge Kai Scott to plead for compassionate release. This film begins at 10:20am." See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiHn8qDCzgg> **"MAROON" IS OUT OF PRISON...COME OUT ON TUESDAY, NOV. 2ND @ 3PM "DRESSED IN WHITE"** TO "MALCOLM X PARK IN WEST PHILLY TO CELEBRATE & GIVE THANKS "MAROON" IS OUT OF PRISON & BACK HOME IN PHILLY! SPREAD THE WORD FOR FOLKS TO COME OUT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND @ 3 PM "DRESSED IN WHITE" TO MALCOLM X PARK IN WEST PHILLY TO BOTH CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE RETURN OF RUSSELL "MAROON" SHOATZ TO THE COMMUNITY"

Political Prisoners/POWs Updates

1. Medical

-**Kojo Bomani Sababu**: Kojo needs hip surgery.

2. Legal

Maroon Shoatz: Maroon is released!!

David Gilbert: David made Parole!!

Mumia Abu Jamal: Mumia's latest appeal was rejected

Virgin Island 3: The Virgin Island 3 will be requesting a Parole hearing in December

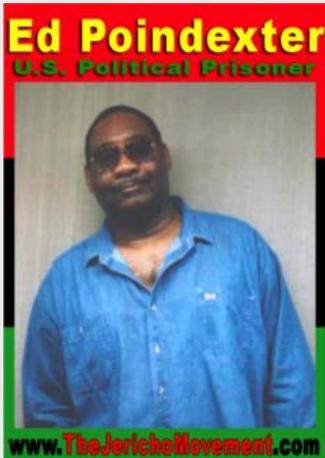
3. Other

- **Kojo Bomani Sababu**: would like reading material mailed to him! "Books magazines etc. if possible, it must be subscriptions"

Political Prisoners/POWs Birthdays: Please Send a Card!

November Birthdays!

Ed Poindexter-Birthday: November 1, 1944



BLACK PANTHER PARTY

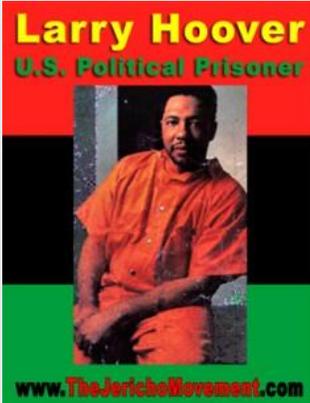
Contact Information/Prison Address

#27767--Nebraska State Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2500, Lincoln, NE 68542, United States

Affiliation: Black Panther Party

Captured: 1971-life. Denied parole 4 times.

"A breakthrough in Poindexter's case could have important ramifications for Mondo we Langa (formerly known as David Rice, gone to the ancestors), who exhausted his appeals thirty years ago. Amnesty International has classified Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter -- known as the Omaha Two at the time of their trial in 1971 -- as "prisoners of conscience." See nebraskansforjustice.org/ and <http://n2pp.info> and <http://omahatwo.wordpress.com>

Larry Hoover-Birthday: November 30, 1950

Political Prisoner

Contact Information/Prison Address

#86063-024-Florence ADMAX, P.O. Box 8500, Florence, CO 81226, United States

Captured: 1973 –150 years

Excerpt from 1993 Call For Peace: "...And finally, in my sincere appeal for peace and unity: Those of us that have experienced being our brothers' keeper — We must educate our members around us. Education brings about awareness. Awareness generates the ability to think. Our youth must know the end result of crime is shame, disgrace, and imprisonment to themselves, as well as the community. We must come to the point of outlawing those who willfully disrupt our communities and our call for peace and unity. " <http://newafrikan77.wordpress.com/>

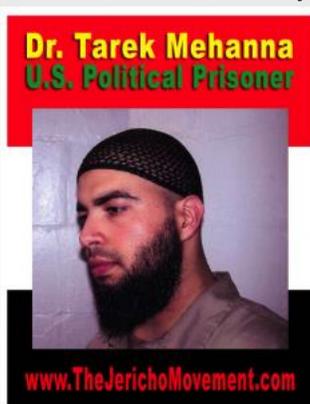
October Birthdays!**Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin-Birthday: October 4, 1943****Contact Information/Prison Address**

99974-555, USP Tucson, P.O. Box 2450, Tucson, AZ 85734

Affiliation: Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee

Captured: 2000- Life No Parole (Georgia to Federal custody).

The prosecutor in the Atlanta case after the conviction said, "After 24 years we've finally gotten him," which means the prosecutor was counting back to the day when Jamil walked out of a prison in New York City. So, this case in Atlanta...was and is an extension of the targeting." New Trial for Imam Jamil Al-Amin FKA H. Rap Brown <https://whathappened2rap.com/> <https://thejerichomovement.com/profile/al-amin-jamil-abdullah>

Tarek Mehanna- Birthday: October 17

POST 911 MUSLIM POLITICAL PRISONER

Contact Information/Prison Address

#05315-748--USP Marion, Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959 United States

Affiliation: Muslim

Captured: 2008. Sentence: 17.5 years.

"In your eyes, I'm a terrorist, I'm the only one standing here in an orange jumpsuit, and it's perfectly reasonable that I be standing here in an orange jumpsuit. But history repeats itself. One day, America will change and people will recognize this day for what it is. They will look at how hundreds of thousands of Muslims were killed and maimed by the US

military in foreign countries, yet somehow, I'm the one going to prison for "conspiring to kill and maim" in those countries – because I support the Mujahidin

defending those people. They will look back on how the government spent millions of dollars to imprison me as a "terrorist," yet if we were to somehow bring Abeer al-Janabi back to life in the moments she was being gang-raped by your soldiers, to put her on that witness stand and ask her who the "terrorists" are, she sure wouldn't be pointing at me. The government says that I was obsessed with violence, obsessed with "killing Americans." But, as a Muslim living in these times, I can think of a lie no more ironic." -Tarek's Sentencing Statement

<http://www.freetarek.com>



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

Former & Current Political Prisoner Voices

**Message from Kojo Bomani Sababu
(via NYC Jericho)-Oct. 17, 2021**

“We have had a homicide and continuous gang conflict here and lockdown on and off again so please understand and accept my apology for any delay in just saying hello also extending solidarity to all. I am fine and a specialist consultant on bone told me that I need a hip operation (left side) I have bone on bone banging into one another. I have excruciating pain all the time, growing old simply isn't as pleasurable as we all make it out to be when the illness come. Besides those matters in the life of the immured I am fine. What can be done about reading material? Books magazines etc. if possible, it must be subscriptions. May Allah bless you and supporters and grant mercy also ability to everyone to accomplish their endeavors. Build To Win!! Kojo”

“Am I allowed to breathe” by Eric King Oct 17

“This is a poem from October/2016 from when Eric was just two months into his time at FCI Englewood, the start of his journey into this BOP nightmare.”

See <https://nycabc.wordpress.com/pppow-updates-announcements/>

“Am I allowed to breathe?
 Is that a punishable offense?
 Am I allowed to feel
 Is that a shot?
 Are my thoughts read
 like my letters
 Scanned and stored
 to be used against me later
 My dreams dissected and distorted
 Tearing apart the meanings
 Digging for something
 anything
 Does my every firing neuron
 Have sinister intentions
 Yes...”

News & Community Calls for Action

#HALT Solitary: Emergency Bronx Rally Tomorrow: Another Person Died on Friday. No More! BRONX RALLY TO FREE OUR PEOPLE TOMORROW Oct. 19

EMERGENCY RALLY

A PROTEST DEMANDING DECARCERATION:

STAND WITH US

WHEN: Tuesday, OCTOBER 19th 12pm-1pm

WHERE: Bronx Hall of Justice (265 E 161st, Bronx, NY)

THE 13TH PERSON HAS NOW DIED!

In Response to the death of another person in NYC Jails:

VICTOR MERCADO

“Please join a Rally to Free Our People, Tomorrow, Tues, October 19, 12 pm outside the Bronx House of Justice, 265 E. 161st St., Bronx, NY. Victor Mercado, died on Friday after contracting COVID while on Rikers Island. He had reportedly been locked on Rikers since July after the Bronx District Attorney requested, and a Bronx judge set, bail he could not afford. Victor, who used a wheelchair and had health challenges, had requested a lower bail amount last month because he was at higher risk of contracting COVID. But the request was denied. Victor is at least the 13th person to die in New York City jails this year. Please join a rally to demand that Bronx DA Darcel Clark stop requesting bail and consent to releases. Everyone should be released and not one more person should be sent to NYC jails to face serious risk of harm and death.”

Rallies for Aafia Siddiqui

Rally in Support of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui

Wednesday, Oct. 20th, 3:00 PM EDT

12 East, 65th Street New York, NY 10065

Outside the: Pakistan Consulate

Logos include: MAS PACE, INTERNATIONAL Action Center, MAJLIS ASH-SHURA, ICNA COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, Aafia FOUNDATION, muslimmatters.org, AMP, HUMAN RIGHTS SANRAKSHAN SANSTHA, BOSTON SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, National Jericho Movement, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MUSLIM COUNCIL, AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE, CAIR NEW YORK, MANA, PDA, and CAIR NEW JERSEY.

There were a series of 5 mobilizations for Political Prisoner, Dr. Aafia Siddiqui organized by Hajji Mauri' Saalakhan, President of the Aafia Foundation (www.aafia.org). The mobilizations started with two in September in Houston and Fort Worth, Texas; two more in October in New York and Boston; and the fifth Mobilization on November 13th in front of the White House. In Washington, the mobilization championed the call to free both Dr. Siddiqui as well as Imam Jamil Al-Amin.

In 2003, Dr. Aafia was kidnapped in Pakistan and sentenced to life in prison in a notoriously unjust trial. Our Sister has been in oppressive captivity for 18 years!

People wore yellow to the rally! Learn more about Dr. Aafia Siddiqui!" See

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvAGpWds8D8>

National Rally for Dr. Aafia Siddiqui and Imam Jamil Al-Amin

Saturday, November 13th, 2021
1:30 PM
Presidents Park (aka Lafayette Park)
*Directly across from the White House



Imam Jamil Al-Amin



Dr. Aafia Siddiqui

For additional info email:
Peacethroughjustice@aol.com or info@aafia.org

By Phone: (202) 245-9608
TO DONATE ONLINE: www.aafia.org

By Mail:
The Aafia Foundation
11160 Vains Mill Rd
LLH18, PMB 258
Wheaton, MD, 20902




Jericho avails its complete support for the freedom of Sister Aafia Siddiqui and Imam Jamil Al-Amin. The struggle for her freedom continues. Please send donations to support these efforts. www.aafia.org.

International campaign for the release of Georges Abdallah Oct 22

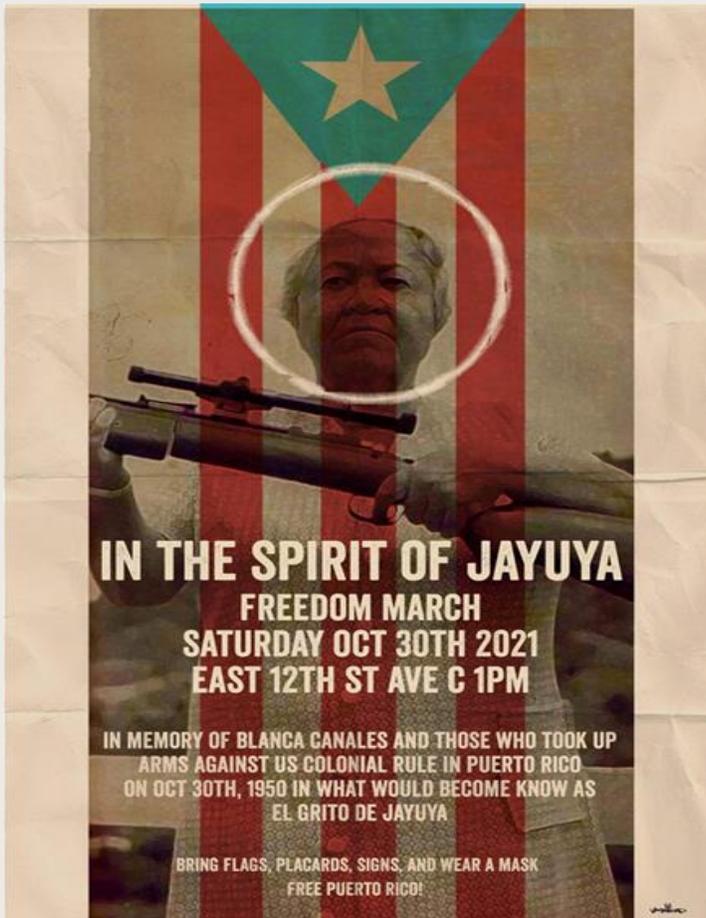
“Release Georges Abdallah: a demand for justice! Georges Ibrahim Abdallah is a Lebanese communist of Maronite Christian origin, imprisoned in France for almost 37 years. Why? How is a Lebanese man arrested in 1984 in Lyon still in French prisons despite the fact that he has been eligible for release for 22 years? As a teacher in northern Lebanon in the 1970s, Georges Abdallah worked with the Palestinian people and against colonization. He left his region as a young man to join the mobilization against the Israeli occupation, especially during the invasions of 1978 and 1982, while Lebanon was in the midst of war. The repeated Israeli military operations were devastating and murderous for the Palestinian and Lebanese populations. Israeli army bombings claimed thousands of civilian lives and the brutality reached its peak in the now infamous massacres of the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in September 1982...” See <https://kersplebedeb.com/posts/international-campaign-for-the-release-of-georges-abdallah/>

Please sign Open Letter to the Judges presiding over Julian Assange US vs Julian Assange at the High Court 27/28 Oct 21 Oct 26

“Open Letter to the Judges presiding over the Julian Assange case at Royal Courts of Justice 27th and 28th of October 2021.” “You have in front of you the case US vs Julian Assange, the publisher of media organization WikiLeaks. The way this case has reached you, you are asked to deliberate on narrow aspects of the law, without looking at the broader picture of the consequences of your decision. You are obliged to look at the law and the evidence impartially and deliberate fulfilling your duty to society and the public. In fact, the decisions you are making are not made in your name but on behalf of society since it is our society that has institutionalized the function of your role. Your decisions are a legal expression of the culture we share as it evolves through the centuries of our nation’s existence...” See <https://wiseupaction.info/2021/10/26/please-sign-open-letter-to-the-judges-presiding-over-julian-assange-us-vs-julian-assange-at-the-high-court-27-28-oct-21/>

DONATIONS: Rest in Power Rita "Bo" Brown, dyke revolutionary Oct 27

“Rest in Power, Bo, our beloved, feisty, kick-ass butch dyke anti-imperialist revolutionary. She passed yesterday. If you can, please donate to the GoFundMe to support the expenses faced by her solid-as-a-rock partner Etang, who's been thru hell and back taking care of Bo through a painful decline.” “Our beloved Bo Brown died at home on Sunday morning, **October 24th, 2021**, of complications from behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia. Her passing was unexpected and quick. She is mourned by her partner, Etang, and a broad, inter-generational community of family and friends. She is dearly missed. All donations after 10/24 will cover cremation and memorial costs and to support Etang through this time. Our beloved Bo Brown died at home on Sunday morning, October 24th, 2021, of complications from behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia. Her passing was unexpected and quick. She is mourned by her partner, Etang, and a broad, inter-generational community of family and friends. She is dearly missed. All donations after 10/24 will cover cremation and memorial costs and to support Etang through this time. Here's a snippet of what bo's friends wrote about her on GoFundMe 3 years ago: “Bo Brown is a lifelong movement-maker and community supporter who is living with Lewy Body Dementia, for which she requires constant care. If you've never met Bo, you've never seen the profound effect this powerhouse, principled woman has had on everyone around her....Lewy Body Dementia is a brutal, wretched thing with which to live. It affects a person's cognitive function, their motor abilities, their digestion, their sleep, their memory, and their personality.” This is bo's self-written bio for a book I worked on in 2008 with its editor, **Matt Meyer**: Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners (Kersplebedeb & PM Press)--available at https://www.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=60. It contained several essays by bo.” For more info and to donate see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/pfspu-show-up-for-bo-brown>

In the Spirit of Jayuya Freedom March Oct 30

“The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign
www.ProLibertad.org
 ProLibertad@hotmail.com
 Facebook.com/ProLibertadFC
 Twitter: @ProLibertad
 Instagram: @ProLibertadFC
 ProLibertadTV/YouTube Channel
 Telephone: 718-601-4751”

PETITION: SAVE O'ODHAM QUITOBAQUITO SPRINGS & DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST LAND DEFENDER AMBER LEE ORTEGA Oct 30

"Beginning in the summer of 2019, man camps descended on traditional Hia Ced O'odham Territory (known as Organ Pipe National Monument), to build a wall across the U.S.-Mexico border. The border wall is a physical representation of the cyclical and historical trauma O'odham land and peoples have faced through colonization, warfare and occupation. On September 9, 2020, two O'odham women, including Amber Lee Ortega, were arrested for blocking border wall construction taking place next to the O'odham sacred site of A'al Vappia, Quitobaquito Springs. Since the Gadsen purchase of 1854, O'odham have been divided by an international border between the colonial nations of the United States and Mexico. The federal government established policies to create a massive land grab of traditional O'odham territory, effectively displacing those communities. O'odham have seen ancestral land occupied for mining, made into inaccessible federal parks, or turned into bombing ranges. By the 1990's this occupation entered into a new era of violence as militarization and border infrastructure. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 36 states: "Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders." Furthermore, Article 36 says that "States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right." On November 4, 2021, Hia Ced O'odham Land and Water Protector, Amber Lee Ortega, will go to trial for federal charges for defending O'odham sacred site, A'al Vappia. **Sign the petition** to drop the charges against Amber & save O'odham sacred land. Send U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, Glenn McCormick an email asking him to drop Amber's charges: [tinyurl.com/Justice4Amber](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAhNqoFPanY)" See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAhNqoFPanY>

PLEASE SUPPORT Oakland Jericho! Get your MERCH Here! Nov 4



Support Oakland Jericho by purchasing a Political Prisoner shirt, keychain, and sticker. Please email Emokquint@gmail.com to preorder. Orders will take 3-4 weeks to process and ship. \$33 shirts \$10 keychain, \$5 sticker, (Shipping not included).

Black People's March on the White House and Conference Nov 6th & 7th



BLACK PEOPLE'S MARCH
ON THE
WHITE HOUSE

DEEPENING THE RESISTANCE TO POLICE TERROR:
HONORING OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS
OF WAR - BLACK COMMUNITY CONTROL OF THE POLICE

March & Rally - NOV 6, 2021
11AM EST @ MALCOLM X PARK

Conference - NOV 7, 2021
11AM EST VIA ZOOM/LOCATION TBA
REGISTER AT: BLACKISBACKCOALITION.ORG
MASKS REQUIRED

Black is Back

FREE EM' ALL... THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAW STUDENTS & NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD PRESENTS:
"POLITICAL PRISONER WEEK OF ACTION" Nov 8-12



NLG NEWARK & ABLs PRESENTS:

POLITICAL PRISONER WEEK OF ACTION

MON 11/08 6-8 PM
Via Zoom: bit.ly/NLGFilm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Film Screening & Discussion
"Justice on Trial" film Screening and Discussion with Dr. Johanna Fernandez.

TUE 11/09 5-6:30 PM
Via Zoom: bit.ly/NLGTeachin
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Teach-In
Featuring Veteran Black Panther Bro. Shep & Spiritchild of the Free Maroon (s) Now Coalition.

WED 11/10 12-3 PM
RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL ATRIUM

Letter Writing Tabling
Meet us in the atrium to write a letter to a political prisoner/ prisoner of war.

THU 11/11 4:30-6 PM
BOSS BLEND COFFEE
Limited capacity for the public, Register: bit.ly/3by43yL

Discussion with Veteran Black Panthers & Political Prisoners
Join us for a discussion with Veterans of the Black Panther Party & political prisoners/political POW's.

FRI 11/12 5-7 PM
Via Zoom: bit.ly/3EDK7ab

Collective Read of "Inadmissible Evidence" (Excerpt) & Group Reflection
Join us for a collective read & group reflection of "Inadmissible Evidence."

FREE EM ALL !

"2021 is The Year To Free All U.S. Held Political Prisoners... and seriously time to "pick up the work" with only (2) months left
FREE EM' ALL... The Association Of Black Law Students & National Lawyers Guild Presents:
"THE POLITICAL PRISONER WEEK OF ACTION"
Monday, November 8th -thru- Friday, November 12th...Register NOW:
bit.ly/3by43yL "Registration: <http://bit.ly/NLGFilm> takes you to a registration page. If you are having trouble, here is the direct link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAudeuqrj4oGtB4haH-LsoKlpbycgEs6p27?xzm_rtaid=o2DMPUGwQu2462G_iLhYFg1636217146709.12b7923874d159fd6d8ecb7c98872d44&xzm_rhtaid=240

Here is the link for the November 9 Teach In: <http://bit.ly/NLG>
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtceyprjkjGdcB7tjESjKRoohCT-HEPguS>

PETITION: Clemency for a mentally disabled teen sentenced to more than 80 years in prison Nov 8

“Ronald Davis now 40, was a high school teen when he and two others committed several robberies throughout Hampton Roads area. If he serves the minimum sentence, he will be about 88 when he is released. In his final days in office former Virginia Governor Bob McDonald failed to commute the sentence of Ronald Davis, a Portsmouth man convicted as a high school teen of armed robbery and sentenced to more than 80 years. The pardon denial leaves Davis, now 37, with less hope of ever returning home to his family. Davis was in high school when he and two young men and a young woman robbed several establishments throughout Hampton Roads area. No shots were fired and no one was injured. Davis, a handicap special education student at the time, naively thought since he was not the primary robber and never possessed a weapon, he was somehow slightly responsible for the criminality of what they were doing. To such a notion he would receive a rude awakening. Before even graduating high school he would be sentenced to 80 years for his involvement.” See <https://www.change.org/p/governor-of-virginia-clemency-for-a-mentally-disabled-teen-sentenced-to-78-years-in-prison>

#HochulBringThemHome Campaign Launch Across NY State Nov 9


CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: HOCHUL BRING THEM HOME!
November 9, 11 AM

Join community members across New York State for the launch of the #HochulBringThemHome Campaign. A campaign to demand Governor Hochul use her clemency power to grant clemency frequently, inclusively, and transparently.

LOCATIONS:

- Long Island: NY State Office Building (250 Veterans Memorial Highway, Happaugue)
- NYC: Outside the Governor's NYC office (633 3rd Avenue, Manhattan)
- Westchester: County Courthouse (111 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, White Plains)
- Albany: Outside the Governor's Mansion (138 Eagle Street, Albany)
- Buffalo: Niagara Square (39 Niagara Square, Buffalo)
- Zoom: bit.ly/clemency-rally-nov-9

“We and some of our partners are launching a new campaign for clemency in New York State:

#HochulBringThemHome. Please join the coalition of advocates across New York State in our collective call for Governor Kathy Hochul to grant clemency to incarcerated New Yorkers. We call on Governor Hochul to use her vast clemency powers to end mass incarceration with the stroke of a pen by granting clemency frequently, transparently, and inclusively. **Ways to get involved:**

1. Sign on letter: We're asking organizations, institutions, and groups to sign on to the campaign before the launch event on November 9. **SIGN ON HERE.** Please share this letter with your networks and encourage other organizations to sign on. ****Please do not publish this letter on social media, in the press, or anywhere else.****

2. Campaign Launch Rally: Please plan

to join us for our #HochulBringThemHome campaign launch rally on November 9 at 11 AM in person in NYC, Albany, Westchester, Long Island, and Buffalo. Or register for the Zoom [here](#). See flyer below for more details and please help us spread the word by sharing the flyer on social media. **3. Check out and share the website** We have [updated the website](#) (formerly called Cuomo Let Them Go) to reflect our current demands of Governor Hochul to grant clemency frequently, inclusively, and transparently. Check out [the new site](#) and share it on social media. If you have a loved one who is currently seeking clemency and you would like them to be featured on the [Faces of Clemency page](#) on the website, you can submit their information [here](#). If you have lost a loved one due to the cruelty of the New York prison system, [light a virtual candle](#) for them here and we will add them to the [Those We've Lost](#) section of the website.” (Source: Email)

DONATIONS: We're bringing the spirit of The Lumpen back on record! Nov 9



“CONTRIBUTE! THE LUMPEN "Seize The Time" 7" EP (1970) Reissue October 2022” We're bringing the spirit of The Lumpen back on record! THE LUMPEN (1970 - 1972) featured original BPP members Bill Calhoun, Clark (Santa Rita) Bailey, James Mott and Michael Torrance, was the official Black Panther Party house band, that paved the way for soul revolutionary music in the brief time of their performance history.

The band released only one single, the excellent 1970 EP featuring “Free Bobby Now” b/w “No More”. The title track relates to co-founder Bobby Seal’s incarceration from the riots in Chicago, and later as part of the Chicago Eight.

Our campaign is to reissue 1000 copies of the historic 7", to be released by the 2nd Annual Lumpen Community Service Awards in Oakland, October 2022. Check out the Kickstarter campaign to discover the tiered rewards for your support!

“Please contribute to reissuing a 7" vinyl of the historical 1970 recording of the original Black Panther Party singing group!” See

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/ap2tp/the-lumpen-seize-the-time-7-ep-1970-repress-2022>

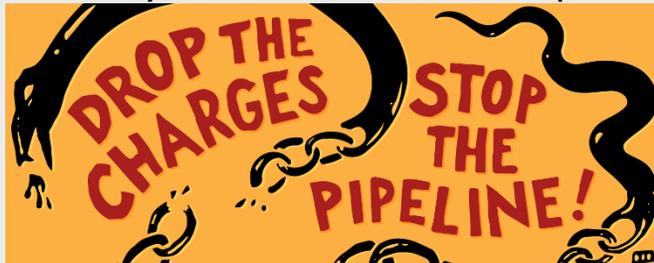
Join our 5K & Jazz Concert in Chicago on Nov. 12-13 for Keith LaMar, a Wrongfully-Convicted Death Row Prisoner in Ohio Nov 12 & 13



“In just 2 short years, the state of Ohio intends to execute an INNOCENT Black man. Together with supporters in Chicago, we intend to fight them! We will be holding a series of Actions in Chicago from Friday, November 12 - Saturday, November 13, 2021 as a fundraiser in support of Keith LaMar, who is #stillbreathing—let's together raise our voices in protest

and help his legal defense. We welcome all in-person supporters to join us in Chicago for: **Evening of Friday, November 12th:** Public Talk: "Wrongfully Convicted: Organizing a Campaign for Justice", as we hold a conversation with Freedom First jazz musicians and campaign organizers for Justice for Keith LaMar. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/re-envisioning-justice-jazz-protest-organizing-dialogue-music-tickets-190691532507> **Morning of Saturday, November 13th:** 2nd Annual Justice for Keith LaMar Rally & 5K Solidarity Walk, Run & Bike, as we welcome all in-person runners, walkers, and bikers in Chicago, as well as supporters in other cities to join us virtually. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-justice-for-keith-lamar-rally-5k-solidarity-walk-run-bike-tickets-179535424287> **Evening of Saturday, November 13th:** Freedom First: A Jazz Tribute & Benefit for Justice for Keith LaMar, featuring jazz greats Salim Washington, Albert Marquès, Marc Ayza, Caroline Davis, Erin Corine, & Freddie Quintero.” Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freedom-first-a-jazz-tribute-benefit-for-justice-for-keith-lamar-tickets-190449659057>”

Tell Attorney General Ellison & Gov. Walz: Drop the Charges of Water Protectors! Nov 14



“Hundreds of water protectors are currently facing criminal charges in Minnesota for standing in defense of the water, the climate, and the treaty rights of the Anishnaabeg people. Water protectors put their bodies on the line to stop Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline. Police forces – directly funded by Enbridge – have responded to this movement with surveillance, harassment, physical torture ("pain compliance"), and

trumped-up charges, including felonies. In this time of climate catastrophe, Attorney General Ellison and Governor Walz must listen to water protectors instead of criminalizing and prosecuting them. Send a letter to Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and Governor Walz today to tell them: Drop The Charges!" See <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/drop-the-charges>

(Ongoing Calls for Action)

FREE ED POINDEXTER FROM PRISON-NOW! (ongoing)



"Ed Poindexter is a US political prisoner, and member of the Omaha Two. Ed has been incarcerated since 1970 for a crime he did not commit-- because of his leadership of the local arm of the Black Panther Party. Ed is currently wheelchair bound and on dialysis but has never stop struggling for the wellbeing of his people. Ed has earned several college degrees, wrote courses for, and taught anti-violence classes to youth, and served as a role model to other prisoners. At age 75, he is at high risk for COVID related health complications. Ed's birthday is Nov 1st. PLEASE

send Ed a Birthday card. **Send a card or write to Ed in 20-inch font:** Ed Poindexter #27767--Nebraska State Penitentiary, P.O. Box 2500, Lincoln, NE 68542 And Remember to Free the Land." [PETITION: https://www.change.org/p/nebraska-board-of-pardons-free-ed-poindexter-from-prison-now](https://www.change.org/p/nebraska-board-of-pardons-free-ed-poindexter-from-prison-now)

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



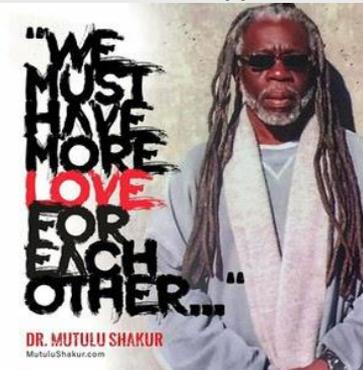
"As-Salaamu Alaikum, For 20+ years we've been fighting not just for the freedom of my father, H. Rap Brown/Imam Jamil, but also to prove his innocence. My Name is Kairi Al-Amin, son of Imam Jamil Al-Amin and before we go any further, on behalf of myself, my father and my family I would just like "As-Salaamu 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. 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 full 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>

Mutulu Shakur: Support Parole and Compassionate Release for Dr. Mutulu Shakur (ongoing)



" Dr. Mutulu Shakur is a political prisoner, sentenced to 60 years in prison because of actions motivated by his political beliefs. He was targeted and victimized by the FBI's now-infamous Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) as early as 1968. Dr. Shakur has served over 30 years in prison, and is currently suffering from multiple myeloma (advanced bone marrow cancer). He has been denied parole 9 times and was recently denied a compassionate release. Friends and Family of Dr. Mutulu Shakur has started a new campaign seeking Mutulu's release by President Biden. We will be submitting a legal clemency petition to the President on Mutulu's behalf, and this public petition is an important part of the campaign. We want to show the President that Mutulu has community — friends, family, and supporters —

who will welcome him home. Please sign the new petition for Mutulu's release via Presidential clemency." See <https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/grant-clemency-for-dr-mutulu-shakur-a-father-grandfather-healer-human-rights-activist>

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 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/>. 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”

Release or Home Confinement for Dr. Aafia Siddiqui (Ongoing)



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

The Freedom Campaign for Sundiata Acoli (Ongoing)



“Acoli has been consistently denied parole for more than twenty-five of those years, going all the way back to 1994. The Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign (SAFC) is the largest coordinated campaign to free Acoli since his incarceration and follows years of behind-the-scenes advocacy and legal filings. For more information visit our Facebook page or email Sundiataacolifc@gmail.com.” See: “The Freedom Campaign for Sundiata Acoli with Soffiyah Elijah” here:

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

We are calling on allied organizations and institutions to support Sundiata by signing and sharing this petition. We welcome collaborations and partnerships to help secure Sundiata’s release. Sundiata’s life depends on us. We must #BringSundiataHome now!” Please sign here:

<https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/bring-sundiata-home>

Free Leonard Peltier! (Ongoing)



“At Peltier’s request, lawyers will be working to get him transferred closer to his family on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. Second, his legal team will continue to work on a possible parole hearing for early summer. Third, the attorney in Peltier’s first-amendment case in Seattle, Wash., is prepared for trial this summer. Despite strong support by former U.S. Attorney James Reynolds, 55 members of Congress and international dignitaries including Bishop Desmond Tutu, the U.S. government refuses to release Peltier, whose health is rapidly failing after more than four decades of incarceration. To make a donation to Peltier’s legal effort

and to support his campaign for freedom, please go to the ILPDC FB Page (facebook.com/PeltierHQ/) and fundraiser (tinyurl.com/yxtkb77a) This is the year to free Leonard Peltier!" See https://fundrazr.com/e1lwxe?ref=ab_39woXa_ab_0RczzOepD4l0RczzOepD4l

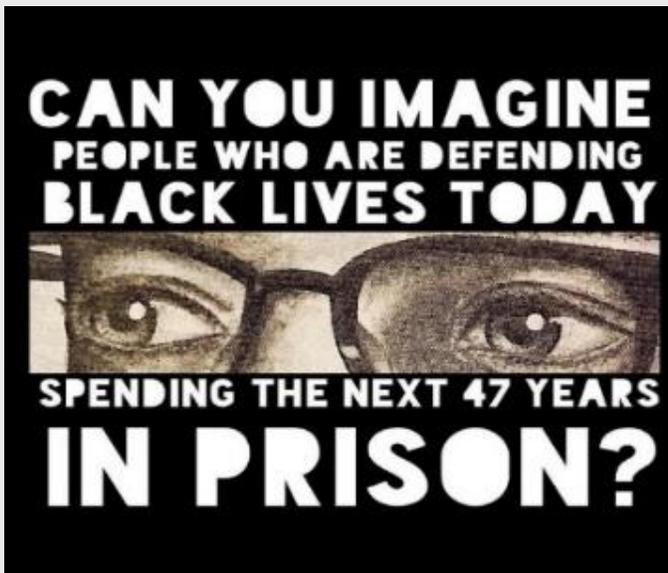
Free Ruchell Magee! (Ongoing)



“WORDS FROM RUCHELL & ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE COALITION” “Ruchell wanted to share some words to those of us on the outside: “I’m still fighting to get the truth to the real people, who want growth in the human race! Truth is the right medicine. We must fight to WIN!” On July 15, 2021, Ruchell “Cinque” Magee was denied parole for the 13th time. This December will mark 40 years since his first parole suitability hearing on December 17, 1981. Ruchell, who is currently 82-years-old and has been incarcerated for 58

years, will not be eligible for parole again until July 2024. The parole board’s decision to delay any chance of parole until after Ruchell’s 85th birthday is shameful. Cinque is continuing the fight, and so must we. We are encouraging everyone who supports Ruchell to sign and share our petitions (bit.ly/freeruchell + bit.ly/write4ruchell). TAKE ACTION! NEW: SIGN THE PETITION to Free Ruchell Magee: <https://bit.ly/freeruchell> NEW: WRITE THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE Requesting Commutation: <https://bit.ly/write4ruchell>”

MULTIPLE ACTIONS & RESOURCES: Take Action to Free Political Prisoners (Ongoing)



“Please go to this [Linktr.ee](https://linktr.ee/PoliticalPrisoners) to take **ACTION** for elder U.S. held Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. There are links to a lot of information, **but first are action items**. I urge you to sign the petitions, write emails, make calls, and spread this Linktr.ee around! (Even if you think you've signed or called or written before, it won't hurt to do it again!). Use and share the below link or QR code. Thank You.

~Created by Verbena from the NLG in Detroit. FREE THEM ALL <https://linktr.ee/PoliticalPrisoners>

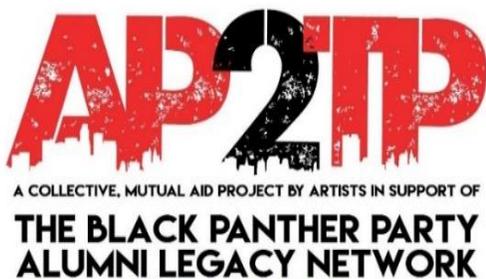
Support SF Bay View -PLEASE DONATE NOW (ongoing)

“The San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper is doing a fundraiser to keep Black media alive and keep our voices loud! Read and learn: www.sfbayview.com. Without Black media, there is no learning the depth and breadth of Black history to lead the charge forward to dismantling systems of oppression and envisioning what can take its place. Without funding, there is no Black media. We want to make sure you can get those tax deductions, so mark your donation as for our nonprofit organization HRIN and we will send you a donation acknowledgment letter. We need your help to make sure the voices of the people are heard and media stays independent! **DONATE TODAY!** Learn about us and the work we do at www.sfbayview.com.” See <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-for-the-bay-view-newspaper>

Support the Black Panther Black Panther Party Alumni Legacy Network! (Ongoing)



“The Black Panther Party Alumni Legacy Network is composed of original Black Panther Party members and other passionate individuals, elected official’s community organizations, educational institutions, and community-oriented businesses that not only have their own well-being at heart but also have a passion for



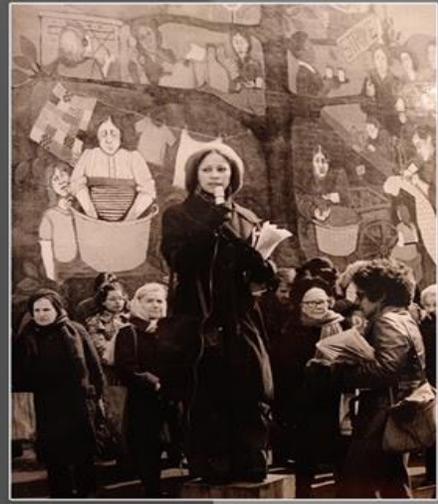
every member of the community to live long prosper and grow educationally, socially, and economically from generation to generation. Together we embrace the legacy of the 65 documented social service programs created and implemented by original Black Panther Party members that grew out of the 10-point platform and program of the Party. Now is the time to come together to use our knowledge and collective resources to lay the foundation for self-determination and generational prosperity that will only be established thru our efforts. JOIN US! See bppaln.org.” “In a historic rare collaboration, **Destroy Art Inc.** is granted access to sell Black Panther merchandise by artist John Yates aka Stealworks. 50% of all sales is donated back to the Black Panther Alumni Legacy Network. To purchase the All Power to the People collection and support the Black Panther Alumni Legacy Network go to:

<https://ap2tp.bigcartel.com/>. (Photo below retrieved from <https://bppaln.org>):

Community Events & Resources

(October 15-November 22, 2021)

ProLibertad: El Comité MINP Photo Exhibit Oct 16-Nov 12

EL COMITE

**The struggle for social change
The photographs of
Maximo Rafael Colón**

Social movements in the 1970's led to the birth of many radical organizations to create social change. El Comité-MINP was one of those organizations that by 1982 was recognized as one of the leading organizations of the Puerto Rican Left.

Maximo Colon joined El Comité in its early period. The political and social struggles that led to the creation of El Comité-MINP also inspired Colon to undertake documentary photography as a weapon to bring to light political resistance that he was witnessing and creating.

**OPENING RECEPTION
ON VIEW
WHERE**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 @3:00PM
OCTOBER 16 - NOVEMBER 12
THE PEOPLE'S FORUM - 320 WEST 37TH ST.,

We urge all attendees to respect The People's Forum policies to safeguard yourself and others from spreading COVID-19.

“The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign www.ProLibertad.org ProLibertad@hotmail.com
Facebook.com/ProLibertadFC Twitter: @ProLibertad Instagram: @ProLibertadFC
ProLibertadTV/YouTubeChannel Telephone: 718-601-4751”

REPORT BACK: Protests Gather Steam for the Release of MIT-Educated Neuroscientist Aafia Siddiqui Oct 18

“The series of events which led to the sentencing of MIT-trained Dr. Siddiqui draw attention to the fumbling efforts of American and Pakistani counterintelligence to target Muslims who oppose U.S. imperial ambitions. On October 8, protesters in Karachi brought traffic to standstill in parts of District South in marching from the Karachi Press Club to the U.S. Consulate. Political leaders and social activists addressed a growing crowd, including Dr. Aafia Siddiqui’s sister Fauzia Siddiqui, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf MPA Saeed Afridi, Pasban leader Altaf Shakoor, retired Justice Wajihuddin Ahmad, Jamaat-e-Islami former MPA Younas Barai, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Organisation Restoration Committee chief Dr. Farooq Sattar, the Pak Sarzameen Party’s Shamshad Siddiqui and the Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam-Faz’s Aslam Ghouri. The Karachi mobilization follows successful protests in Texas at Pakistan’s Houston Consulate and the Fort Worth prison. In October 2021, mobilizations in support of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui hit the road again with New York City on October 20, Boston on October 23, and Washington, D.C. on October 27. The Dallas mobilization resulted in her release from solitary confinement. Since August 2021, such mobilizations have picked up steam demanding the release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist who maintains she is innocent of charges that she tried to kill U.S. military officers while in custody in Afghanistan. In 2010, Siddiqui was convicted in federal court in New York and is now serving her 86-year sentence at FMC Carswell in Texas. Over 200 protestors gathered at the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, in September 2021 following another lively rally at the Pakistan Consulate in

Houston. The controversy, which has dragged on for almost two decades, casts the long shadow of the global war on terror over Muslims at home and abroad. Caught in the underworld of military intelligence between the United States and Pakistan, Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians have been subjected to torture and imprisonment without due process based on secret evidence. The Dallas protest was part of a five-city mobilization to raise awareness of the plight of Dr. Siddiqui and others wrongfully incarcerated stemming from the War on Terror.” See laprogressive.com

Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET Oct 19

“TODAY'S SHOW-PART 1: Haiti As You Have Never Seen or Heard-SPECIAL GUESTS: DAHOUD ANDRE-- [Komokoda]- DR. KELLY HARRIS-[Black Scholar]-NELLIE BAILEY [BAR]. SPECIAL GUEST: -PART 2- MARK TORRES, PEOPLE PUEBLO PARTY- COVID 19/EDUCATION UPDATE.”

“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, Nellie Hester Bailey, Gil Obler, Henry Hagins, Dolores Cox.

2. UPDATES -- Political Prisoner Death Camps - Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho)

3. Liberation Poetry – Prof. Louie Returns & NZINGA – in remembrance of Sister Lynne”

DJ Free Leonard: Shade45 & FNX! Oct 20

“Tune into Shade45 XM Radio between 4-6pm as DJ Free Leonard’s International Hit Single “Freedom” with the Legendary Ras Kass airs on the DJ Kay Slay Show! 🍌🍌 (Every Wednesday Pacific Time). This Friday the broadcast Word Premier of “Dances With Wolvez” on First Nations Network! Watch FNX on Friday! See https://www.instagram.com/tv/CVOsz-1JeMI/?utm_medium=copy_link”

Demystifying the Black Panther Party on its 55th anniversary Oct 21

“As numerous events commemorating the party’s 55th anniversary approach in the coming days—including an unveiling ceremony for a bust of co-founder Huey Newton, an anniversary gathering in DeFremery Park, a tribute to the San Francisco chapter members at the Bayview Opera House, an art exhibit at the Joyce Gordon Gallery, and a remembrance of the Panthers’ singing group, The Lumpen—that mystique has again come to the fore. Veteran Black Panthers say Hollywood and mainstream media portrayals of the party have often been misleading, focusing on a brief period of time when militant activism was at its peak, and not on the 65 community-oriented “survival programs” they say are the true measure of the party’s legacy and impact. “All those films and movies we’ve seen, they always depict that particular origin period, with the berets and jackets, which only lasted up until mid-1970. After that, we were addressing the community,” said **Dr. Saturu Ned**, a former member of The Lumpen and educator at the Oakland Community Learning Center who’s currently a member of the Black Panther Party Legacy Alumni Network. Fredrika Newton, Huey’s widow and the executive director of the Huey P. Newton Foundation, notes that the foundation published a book a few years ago documenting the survival programs...” See <https://oaklandside.org/2021/10/21/demystifying-the-black-panther-party-on-its-55th-anniversary/>

Into the Archives: An evening with legendary Black Panther, Mama O’Neal Oct 21

“Damien McDuffie is hosting an in-person conversation with Charlotte Hill O’Neal, a former Black Panther who fled to Tanzania in 1970 with her husband, Pete O’Neal after local authorities sought to arrest Pete for his role as the chairman of the Black Panther’s Kansas City chapter. McDuffie will also talk about how he introduced his app at the United African Alliance Community Center in Tanzania, a nonprofit founded by O’Neal. Thursday, Oct. 21, 7:00 p.m., \$8-\$10, The New Parkway, 474 24th St., Oakland.” See <https://oaklandside.org/2021/10/19/this-week-in-oakland-brookdale-parks-family-halloween-and-films-at-the-new-parkway/>

Please join us for Leonard Peltier: 46 Years of Injustice! Oct 22-24



“Please join us on Saturday October 23rd at the Amnesty International Virtual Activism Conference for Leonard Peltier: 46 Years of Injustice in conversation with esteemed panelists Jean Roach, Lenny Foster and Judge Kevin Sharp. The theme of the 2021 Virtual Activism Conference is Together for Our Future – 60 years of uniting action-takers and change-makers. The theme of this session is to unite, ignite and connect as many action-takers and change-makers to call on President Biden to save beloved Native American activist, Leonard Peltier while he still can. Leonard Peltier has been incarcerated for over 44 years, including time in solitary confinement. In September Leonard turned 77 and he suffers from multiple chronic health ailments including diabetes and an aortic aneurysm. Amnesty International considers Leonard to be a political prisoner due to the unfairness of his trial. Amnesty along with many human rights advocates have been advocating for Leonard Peltier for decades. Please join us this Saturday for historical background on Leonard as told by his dear friends and spiritual advisor and recent updates from his lawyer. Please join us together in community as we take action to help save Leonard Peltier while we still can. #FreeLeonardPeltier 2021 Register by Tuesday October 19th 11:59pm Eastern.” See <https://www.amnestyusa.org/vac2021/>

Solidarity Center Tribunal Musical Rivera Family Oct 23

“INDIGENOUS TAINO SONGS SEMINO & BOMATUM” See <https://youtu.be/rQ76ucXIOA>

Huey P. Newton sculpture unveiling Oct 24

“The first permanent public sculpture honoring the Black Panthers will be unveiled in West Oakland this weekend. The bronze bust of Huey P. Newton is the work of East Oakland artist and former journalist Dana King. Fantastic Negrito will perform at the unveiling along with DJ sets by Nina Sol and DJ Mario X Prins, and a performance by the Prescott Circus Theatre. Sunday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., free, corner of Mandela Parkway and Huey P. Newton Way.” See <https://oaklandside.org/2021/10/19/this-week-in-oakland-brookdale-parks-family-halloween-and-films-at-the-new-parkway/>

Black Panther Party All Power to the People Oct 24

“This dinner fundraiser for the Black Panther Party Alumni Legacy Network, hosted by artist and educator Kev Choice, will include performances by the Black Panthers’ Revolutionary Funk Band, The Lumpen. The night will also honor Dr. Melvin Newton, brother of the late Huey P. Newton. Also being honored, author, filmmaker, and attorney Lise Pearlman. Your ticket purchase includes a commemorative t-shirt, an open bar, and sounds by DJ Tabu. Dress warm as rain is in the forecast for the weekend. Sunday, Oct. 24, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., \$50, Rocky’s Market, Brooklyn Basin, 288 9th Ave.” See <https://oaklandside.org/2021/10/19/this-week-in-oakland-brookdale-parks-family-halloween-and-films-at-the-new-parkway/>

REPORT: Huey P. Newton bust unveiled in West Oakland Oct 24

“The rain didn’t dampen Sunday’s celebration for the unveiling of the bronze bust in honor of Dr. Huey P. Newton, co-founder and leader of the Black Panther Party. “The rain is very symbolic of the struggle and the obstacles that become our fuel,” said Oakland native and musician Fantastic Negrito, who performed during the ceremony. In West Oakland at the intersection of Mandela Parkway and Huey P. Newton Way on Sunday, Oct. 24, an assemblage of

Black Panther members, family, and neighbors—a mixed group but predominantly Black—gathered in the rain to share remembrances and stories at the statue unveiling, a culmination of events in Oakland celebrating the Black Panther Party’s 55th anniversary. Mingling in the crowd were many artists including musician Dwayne Wiggins of Tony! Toni! Toné!, musician and Oakland arts commissioner Kev Choice, developer of augmented-art applications Damien McDuffie, and Bobby McCall, a Black Panther member and the father of Digital Underground co-founder Money B. “You are all here today to witness history,” said Gina Belafonte, the event emcee and daughter of actor Harry Belafonte, a longtime financial contributor and supporter of the Black Panthers. Belafonte shared the origin story of the Black Panthers as an organization. “Public art is incredibly important. It is a way in which we can build a dialogue around telling accurate history.” The Huey P. Newton bust, Belafonte noted, is one of the first permanent pieces of art honoring a member of the Black Panther party on public land in the city where the organization was founded...” (Photo Credit: “Artist Dana King unveiled her sculpture of Huey Newton in West Oakland on Sunday, Oct. 24, as part of the Black Panther Party’s 55th anniversary celebration. Credit: Amir Aziz” Retrieved from <https://oaklandside.org/2021/10/25/huey-p-newton-bust-unveiled-in-west-oakland/>) See <https://oaklandside.org/2021/10/25/huey-p-newton-bust-unveiled-in-west-oakland/>

Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, October 26, 2021 Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET Oct 26

- “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, Nellie Hester Bailey, Gil Obler, Henry Hagins, Dolores Cox,
2. UPDATES -- Political Prisoner Death Camps - Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho)
3. Liberation Poetry – Prof. Louie Returns & NZINGA – in remembrance of Sister Lynne”

VIDEO: Rome is Burning (by Mistahi Corkill) Oct 27

“This song goes out to all those people who have gone into action to end state organized racist violence and oppression and all forms of racism.” See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oZA23ahKfs&t=2s>

WBAI 99.5 FM, 10/28, 9 am EST: Free All Political Prisoners & Abolish the Carceral State Oct 28



99.5 FM
New York
WBAI

Equal Rights & Justice
Educate, agitate and organize for Power to the People!

Mimi Rosenberg



Tune in this Thursday, October 28, 2021, 9 AM, EST

**Carrying On The Spirit of Mandela International
Tribunal 2021: FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!
ABOLISH THE CARCERAL STATE !**

Jalil Abdul Muntaqim, co-founder of the National Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners, granted parole in 2020, after serving nearly 50 years in prison.



Oscar López Rivera, Puerto Rican Independentista, one of the longest held political prisoners in the world, convicted of the thought-crime of "seditious conspiracy," and never accused of causing anyone harm or of taking a life.



Saleem Holbrook, Executive Director of the Abolitionist Law Center, a law project dedicated to ending race and class based discrimination in the criminal justice system and all forms of state violence. Released from prison in 2018 after spending over two decades incarcerated for an offense he was convicted of as a child offender.



streaming @ www.wbai.org/playernew.html smartphone
streaming @ <https://www.wbai.org/listen.php> & to
listen, or download archived shows
<https://www.wbai.org/archive.php>

Mimi Rosenberg
mimiwbairadio@gmail.com

BLACK SOLIDARITY DAY-BKLYN: Nov 1

“Following the Black Graves Matter candlelight vigil, stay in Brooklyn and head to the 7pm Unity Meeting at Sista's Place, 456 Nostrand Ave (at Jefferson Ave), Brooklyn, NY 11216 <http://d12m.com> (Announcement courtesy of Dahoud Andre "Haiti: Our Revolution Continues".) Celebrate Black Solidarity Day, Mon. 11/1, with African Graves Matter at the Flatbush African Burial Ground, Bedford & Church Avenues, near Erasmus HS, Brooklyn, NY 11226. The gathering begins 3:30pm and will end at 5:30pm with a candlelight vigil. More on the work of observing the humanity of Black folk by protecting the places where their bodies were buried:

<https://bkreader.com/2021/10/07/fight-to-protect-flatbush-african-burial-ground-gains-momentum-at-borough-hall-rally/>

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-greene-african-burial-ground-20211011-wrhxqvtkrhpdzmgmvpk2xpoq-story.html>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-opinion-black-graves-matter-jill-lepore-new-yorker-20211019-t6576pkxmnga3abf7vc7twh3q-story.html>

Ralph Poynter: What's Happening Blog Talk Radio Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET Nov 2

“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, Nellie Hester Bailey, Gil Obler, Henry Hagin, Dolores Cox,

2. UPDATES -- Political Prisoner Death Camps - Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho)

3. Liberation Poetry – PROF. LOUIE & NZINGA – in remembrance of Sister Lynne”

The Certain Days 2022 calendar is back from the printer! Nov 2



“Back from the printer!!!! It's the 2022 Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar! If you ordered already, they will be going out ASAP. Now is your chance to order them. Here is how: U.S. Orders: Burning Books: <https://burningbooks.com>, AK Press: <https://akpress.org/certaindays2022.html>. Canadian Orders: Kersplebedeb: <https://www.leftwingbooks.net/product/certain-days-freedom-political-prisoners-calendar-2022-creating-new-world-shell-old> Canadian orders (10 or more) <https://www.certaindays.org/order/>, Prisoner orders: <https://certaindays.org/order/prisoners/>. Your favorite

intercontinental, inside/outside collective has produced our SECOND calendar during the COVID-19 pandemic and despite major obstacles, we think you will love it. **This year's theme is "Creating a New World in the Shell of the Old"** and features art and writings by Alanna Kibbe, Comrade Z, David Gilbert, Daniel McGowan, Eric King, Hanif Bey, Jesus Barraza, Leila Abdelrazaq, Martha Hennessy, Montclair Mutual Aid, Oso Blanco, Peter Railand, Roger Peet, Shukri Abu-Baker, Tauno Biltsted, Wendy Elisheva Somerson, Windigo Army, Virginia Lee, Xinachtli and Yumigou." See <https://www.certaindays.org/>

Teach In and Support Dr. Mutulu Shakur Nov 3



“Sharing an Important Request to support the commutation of Dr. Mutulu Shakur through an event co-hosted by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and other networks!: "We, the undersigned, demand President Biden, the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Prisons to immediately commute the sentence of Dr. Mutulu Shakur, a father, grandfather, healer, and human rights activist. Mutulu has imprisoned by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) for over 35 years and has served his time. Dr. Shakur is 71 years old, has suffered 2 strokes, glaucoma, and has been battling Stage 3 bone marrow cancer for the last 2 ½ years. Despite being diagnosed with life-threatening bone cancer and catching COVID, was denied compassionate release and has been denied parole nine times. We must win his immediate release and the freedom of all political prisoners and prisoners of war. For more information on Dr. Mutulu Shakur's, visit <https://mutulushakur.com/>

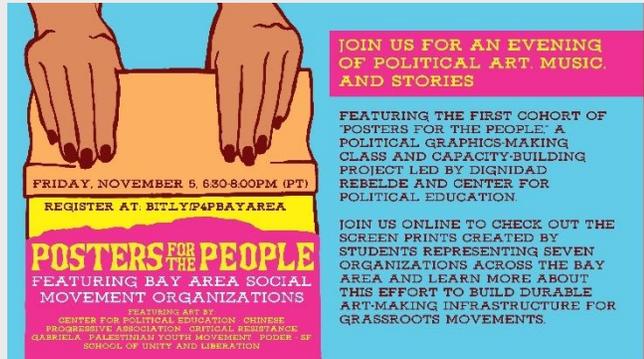
1. **Sign and Share the petition:** <https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/grant-clemency-for-dr-mutulu-shakur-a-father-grandfather-healer-human-rights-activist>
2. **Write Dr. Mutulu Shakur:** Dr. Mutulu Shakur #83205-012 | FMC Lexington | P.O. Box 14500 | Lexington, KY 4051
3. **Donate:** in multiples of \$35 to mark the 35 years Mutulu has been held at <https://www.cadnational.org/> For More info: bit.ly/FreeMutulu”

A Series of Programs Focusing on Themes of Black Radical Pedagogy. Part II Black Radical Pedagogy in Chicago Nov 3

“Join co-founder of New Concept and Betty Shabazz Schools and past president of American Educational Research Association Dr. Carol Lee aka Safisha Madhubuti; founding executive director of the Chicago Sexual Assault Services Network, director of Youth Services (YSP) and former member of the Black Panther Party (BPP) Mary Scott-Boria; director of wellness, culture and action, Chicago Freedom School Jacquelyn Hamilton; and principal at Village Leadership Academy Dayo Harris for a conversation with a group of Black woman who have made important contributions to the educational landscape of Chicago through their work in radical teaching, leadership and organizing. Moderated by Crown Family School Senior Lecturer and the director of the Master of

Arts in Social Work and Social Welfare Program Lisa Lynelle Moore, PhD, LICSW. These programs are co-presented by Logan Center Exhibitions, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago, and Logan Center Community Arts. All events are free and open to the public.” For more info and to Register see: <https://uchicagogroup.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtdeyqgT8sE9PPhkHAet2z2GXcZNL8OIBT>

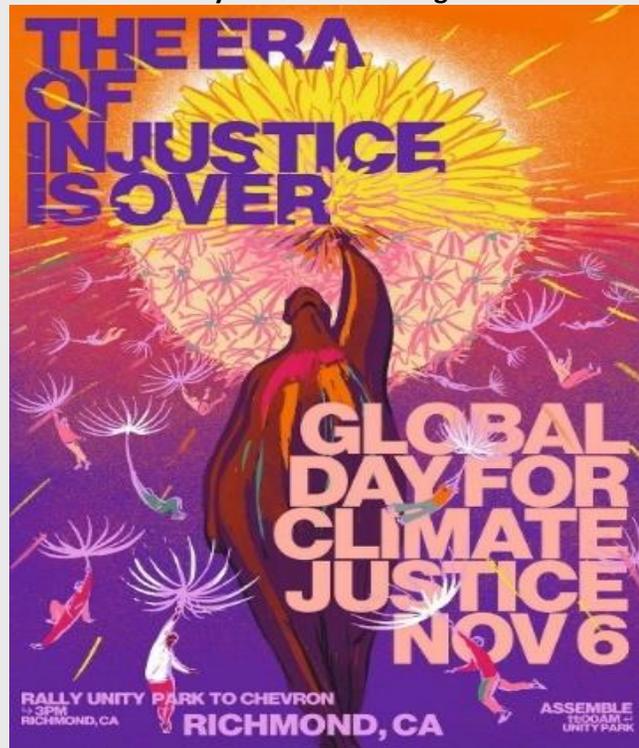
Posters for the People: An Online Exhibit and Celebration Nov 5



“Nov 5, 2021 06:30 PM in Pacific Time (US and Canada). Don't miss your chance to join us for an evening of political art, music, and stories featuring the first cohort of “Posters for the People,” a political graphics-making class and capacity-building project led by Dignidad Rebelde and Center for Political Education. Check out the screen prints created by students representing seven organizations across the Bay Area and learn more about this effort to build durable art-making infrastructure for grassroots movements!

Featuring art by: Center for Political Education, Chinese Progressive Association, Critical Resistance, GABRIELA, Palestinian Youth Movement, PODER – SF, School of Unity and Liberation, and a special music offering by Kiwi Illafonte!” See https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-fZWdyESQSG0agod3Cepxw

COP26 Global Day for Climate Change Nov 6



“We will be speaking in solidarity of our comrades who are attending the COP26. Red, Black and Green New Deal (RBGND), Climate Justice Alliance (CJA), and Grassroots Global Justice. Share your thoughts in-person or via zoom through our democratic process round robin process called Universidad Sin Fronteras/ University Without Walls. COP26 Unity Park Saturday, November 6th: Richmond People's Movement Assembly (RPMA). Contact us at 707-857-6455. Here is the Environmental Racism testimony below from this week's **International Tribunal Spirit of Mandela** which will steer our democratic round robin. International Tribunal Executive Summary Verdict: **Environmental Racism**. Testimony was received arguing the impact of environmental violence. They asserted that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples constituting environmental violence. The Prosecution contended that there is a deliberate and callous poisoning of land, water, air, and soil, reflecting the valuing of profits over peoples which threatens the survival of the planet and impacts most

devastatingly the lives of Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples.” See

<https://www.facebook.com/WesternMovementAssembly/photos/a.181051499954402/713314336728113>

Video: Jalil Muntaqim Interview and Biography (Video) Nov 7

“Jalil Muntaqim was a member of the Black Panther Party and its more militant, clandestine offshoot, the Black Liberation Army, and paid one of the highest prices spending 49 years in prison as a political prisoner in direct retaliation for standing up to the racism, oppression and White Supremacy of the US government. Jalil despite being a target of not just law enforcement, the FBI and Cointelpro, but the White House (President Nixon),

never stopped and continues to organize, advocate and support the liberation of oppressed people domestically and across the world. (Recorded on 11.7.21)" See <https://youtu.be/Xied9dTm1Gg>

VIEW THE OFFICIAL BPPALN PHOTO GALLERY Nov 9

"Black Panther Party 55th Anniversary of the Free Breakfast Program, San Francisco - October 22, 2021"
See <https://bppaln.org/photo-gallery>

Ralph Poynter: Happening BlogTalkRadio Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET Nov 9

"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-SPECIAL UPDATE, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Nellie Hester Bailey-SPECIAL UPDATE, Gil Obler, Henry Hagin, Dolores Cox-SPECIAL UPDATE
2. UPDATES -- Political Prisoner Death Camps - Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho)
3. Liberation Poetry – PROF. LOUIE & NZINGA – in remembrance of Sister Lynne"

Pacifica Radio this week: Highlights of Tribunal on US Human Rights Abuses Nov 10



In the spirit of Mandela

International Tribunal on US Human Rights Violations

An International Tribunal indicting the United States government with genocide and high human rights violations against Black and Indigenous people, followed by clear remedial, redemptive, and reparative action steps.

Oct. 22-24, 2021
Virtual/New York
spiritofmandela.org

"Please scroll down to find the air time if you're in one of the 4 listed signal areas. **Otherwise, check out the audio archive on Wed., Nov. 10."**

"Last month in New York City, the International Tribunal on U.S. Human Rights Abuses Against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples, with an esteemed global panel of jurists, was convened by the Spirit of Mandela Coalition. **Tune into Pacifica's COVID, RACE AND DEMOCRACY show this week** to hear highlights of the testimony and the verdict. This edition will be hosted by Akua Holt of KPFT in Houston and Bob Lederer of WBAI in New York. Learn the truth about government involvement in racist police killings, hyper-incarceration, political imprisonment, and systemic environmental and public health racism against Black, Brown and Indigenous Peoples.

This 55-minute episode will air on 4 Pacifica-owned stations (and another 10 affiliates - ask your local noncommercial station if they take this syndicated weekly show; if not, encourage them to do so):

- WBAI in NY/NJ Mon. 4pm ET (99.5 FM, <https://wbai.org/listen-live/>)
- KPFT in Houston Tues. 8am CT (90.1 FM, <https://kpft.org/#hd1>)
- WPFWM in DC Tues. 2pm ET (89.3 FM, <https://wpfwfm.org/radio/listen-live/listen-live-other-players>)
- KPFK in LA Wed. 4pm PT (90.7 FM, <https://www.kpfk.org/player/>)

The program will be archived at <https://covidtaskforce.pacifica.org/>. If you miss it live, or want to promote it to friends, please send everyone to the site, and suggest they subscribe! (If a programmer wants to obtain an original file for your use, please email me.)

MORE INFO ON THE TRIBUNAL

Full text of the Tribunal verdict is at: <https://spiritofmandela.org/guilty-on-all-counts/>

For more information on the Tribunal, go to <https://www.tribunal2021.com> and <https://spiritofmandela.org> and for an outline of follow-up steps to distribute and organize around the verdict, visit

<https://spiritofmandela.org/internationaltribunal/>, For background on the 2021 Tribunal, prior efforts to internationalize the issue. and major victories and losses in recent years for U.S. political prisoners, see <https://covertactionmagazine.com/2021/10/18/in-the-spirit-of-mandela-international-tribunal-seeks-to-charge-u-s-government-with-crimes-against-humanity/>

Bob Lederer, WBAI/Out-FM & Spirit of Mandela Coalition ledererbob@gmail.com

Oakland Jericho Monthly Political Prisoner Writing Events Nov 11 & Dec 9th (Ongoing)



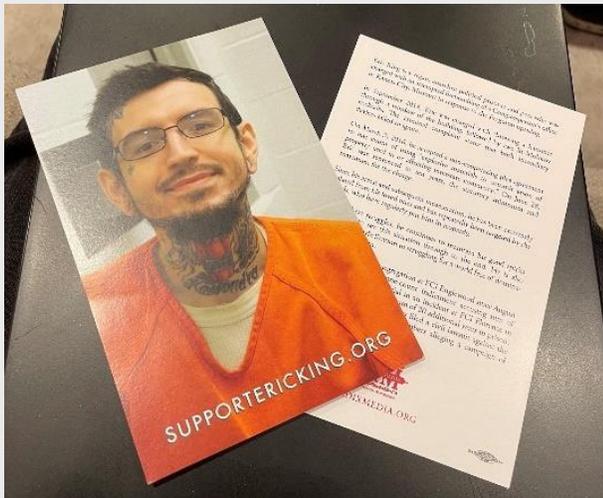
Oakland Jericho's Monthly Political Prisoner Writing Event will take place on the **2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm PT via Zoom**. This upcoming session in Nov we will be writing **Bill Dunne** and **Haki Malik Abdullah**. December TBD. Each month we will be presenting two Political Prisoners (PP). Basic information and links for further info will be provided about each PP so we can write them letters of support. If you would like to attend, please email oakland.jericho@gmail.com with your name and email address. We will send you the Zoom link for the session within 3 days and a reminder the day before. Please check pinned posts for specific information each month. Thank you for your interest and participation! Please note: If a session needs to be cancelled (holiday, tech issues, etc.,) it will be announced on FB and you

will receive an email if you signed up. See <https://www.facebook.com/oaklandjerichowritingsessions>

The Effort to Free Imam Jamil Al-Amin Nov 11

“The live discussion will provide background on the unjust trial of civil rights and Muslim leader Imam Jamil Al-Amin aka H. Rap Brown, his relationship with Imam Luqman Abdullah who was killed by the FBI, and the ongoing effort to free him from unjust incarceration. The speakers will include Attorney Kairi Al-Amin who is the son of Imam Jamil, and Attorney Maha ElKolalli who serves as legal counsel for Imam Jamil. For more background information, read the recent Time magazine article “The Many Lives of H. Rap Brown.” <https://time.com/6111614/h-rap-brown-jamil-al-amin/>. Streaming live at: <https://www.facebook.com/CAIRMICHIGAN>”

Support Poster for Political Prisoner Eric King Nov 11



“Eric King is fighting a court case in Colorado right now and faces up to 20 more years in prison for being assaulted by a Bureau of Prisons Lieutenant at FCI Florence two years ago. He has been in segregation for over 1,000 days and is on a renewed mail restriction which allows him to only communicate with his wife and mother. While Eric has good representation, there are significant costs with defending him including airfare to court, depositions, transcripts, copies, phone calls, housing and more. One way you can help with this is by buying a Support Eric King poster from Radix Media. Funds will go to help with legal expenses and they make pretty good holiday gifts too! Check them out and order at

<https://radixmedia.org/product/eric-king-support-letterpress-broadside/> **From Radix Media:** To support Eric King, we are releasing a limited edition of 35 posters carrying one of his revolutionary poems. All profits generated from the sale of the broadside will be sent to Eric’s support fund. The print is approximately 12.5” x 20” and was letterpress printed in multiple passes on our vintage Vandercook proofing press. These posters are beautiful. One of Eric’s poems on top of a montage of a burning building from the Floyd Uprising in Minneapolis. More ways to help Eric King are at <https://linktr.ee/supportericking>

Join our 5K & Jazz Concert in Chicago on Nov. 12-13 for Keith LaMar, a Wrongfully-Convicted Death Row Prisoner in Ohio Nov 12 & 13



“In just 2 short years, the state of Ohio intends to execute an INNOCENT Black man. Together with supporters in Chicago, we intend to fight them! We will be holding a series of Actions in Chicago from Friday, November 12 - Saturday, November 13, 2021 as a fundraiser in support of Keith LaMar, who is #stillbreathing—let’s together raise our voices in

protest and help his legal defense. We welcome all in-person supporters to join us in Chicago for: **Evening of Friday, November 12th:** Public Talk: "Wrongfully Convicted: Organizing a Campaign for Justice", as we hold a conversation with Freedom First jazz musicians and campaign organizers for Justice for Keith LaMar. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/re-envisioning-justice-jazz-protest-organizing-dialogue-music-tickets-190691532507> **Morning of Saturday, November 13th:** 2nd Annual Justice for Keith LaMar Rally & 5K Solidarity Walk, Run & Bike, as we welcome all in-person runners, walkers, and bikers in Chicago, as well as supporters in other cities to join us virtually. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-justice-for-keith-lamar-rally-5k-solidarity-walk-run-bike-tickets-179535424287> **Evening of Saturday, November 13th:** Freedom First: A Jazz Tribute & Benefit for Justice for Keith LaMar, featuring jazz greats Salim Washington, Albert Marquès, Marc Ayza, Caroline Davis, Erin Corine, & Freddie Quintero.” Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freedom-first-a-jazz-tribute-benefit-for-justice-for-keith-lamar-tickets-190449659057>”

Root and Branch Collective: Virtual panel this Friday 6pm! "Liberation from the Open-Air Prison: Women Fight Dispossession" Nov 12



Liberation From the Open Air Prison: Women Fight Dispossession

Field Marshall George Jackson referred to the extension of prison slavery to the broader Black and Oppressed community as an "open-air prison." Join us in an online discussion as we hear from three women fighting for liberation what is needed to deliver freedom to all.

Friday, Nov. 12th, 6:00PM ET
Hosted by Root & Branch NYC, Jericho Movement, and In the Spirit of Mandela
Register at: bit.ly/OpenAirPrison

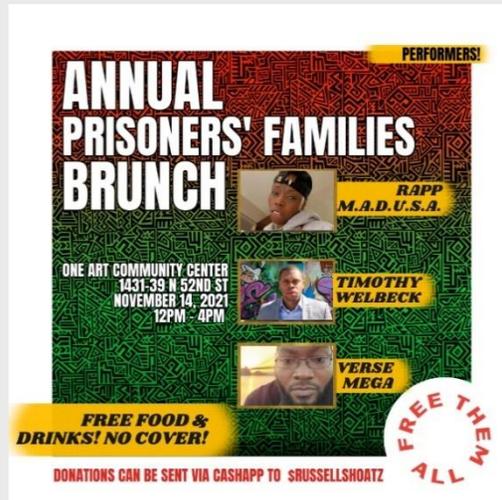
"This Friday at 6pm EST Root and Branch is hosting a discussion with three women fighting for liberation from this extended prison plantation. REGISTER HERE: <http://bit.ly/OpenAirPrison> Field Marshall George Jackson referred to the extension of prison slavery to the broader Black and Oppressed community as an "open-air prison." The extended prison plantation gains its opulence, land, and resources by dispossessing entire families and communities from homes, livelihood, and connections with their loved ones. Ms. Jones, Ms. Basir, and Ms. Stewart continue to fight back even as they face homelessness, hunger, mental and emotional trauma, and health complications as a direct result of the incarceration of their loved ones. Join us in discussion as we hear from them what is needed to deliver freedom to all Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Oppressed peoples who are fighting against legalized slavery on and off the plantation grounds. All are welcome, and we particularly invite those similarly impacted by the system to speak and strategize. In solidarity, Root & Branch NYC"

Women Speak this Saturday! Preorder pies + get ready for some panels, too Nov 13 & 19

"This Saturday we're thrilled to host WHEN WOMEN SPEAK, woman-centered spoken word with featured readers Kiara Marie, Stephanie Conley-Webb, Kareemah Brent Williams, and Mariah Ayscue. Come and hear them speak powerful truths as they share their voices. You can read more here, and RSVP here: https://withfriends.co/event/12966267/when_women_speak#. Saturday Nov. 13, 6:00PM in the Café. We're giving early notice for next week's jam-packed panel, coinciding with the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting: Right to the City: Baltimore Activists Talk Back to the Field. The panel includes some of our most cherished Baltimore-based speakers, thinkers, and activists: Eric Jackson, Meleny Thomas, Eddie Conway, Bilphena Yahwon, Marisela Gomez, Lenora Knowles, and Jamal Jones. You can read more about the panelists and the event's sponsors, and also RSVP here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/right-to-the-city-baltimore-activists-talk-back-to-the-field-tickets-176342785017>. Friday Nov. 19, 6:30PM in the Café." See <https://www.ameerahsangles.com/when-women-speak>

Please support the FREE Brunch for Prisoners Families!! Nov 14

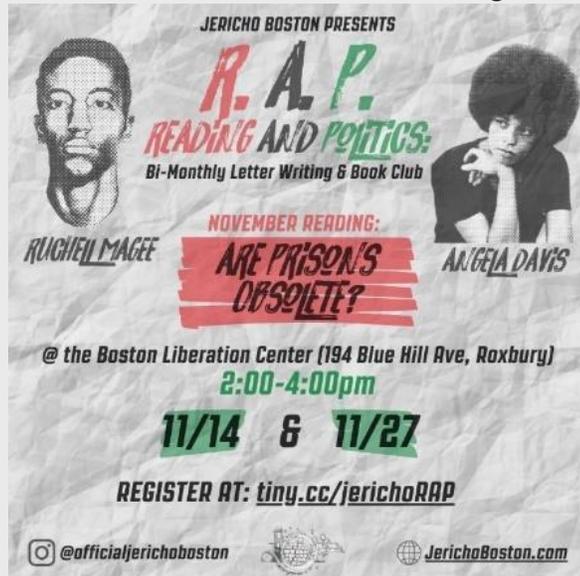
"Peace and unconditional revolutionary matriarchal maroon love comp@s we are reaching out regarding the Annual Prisoners Dinner hosted by RS III. We are quickly approaching the Annual Prisoner Families' Dinner (Brunch) this Sunday, November 14th from 12pm - 4pm. If you are making a donation, please send it right away. You'll find ways to give below. If you will send a representative to table, please complete this simple form. All current promotional graphics can also be found below - please share widely! We are very excited to be having performances by Blak Rapp Madusa, Verse Mega, Timothy Welbeck, And Words From Arthur Cetewayo Johnson, Movita Johnson-Harrellm, Kempis Songster, Eric Riddick. As usual, this event is completely free to all attendees! We are serving free brunch, providing education and resources while we enjoy live performances and a dj party at the beautiful One Art Community Center at 1435 N. 52nd St. (www.oneartcommunitycenter.com).



The families of prisoners join me in thanking you in advance for your presence and contribution. Ways to give Please send checks or money orders to 1409 S. 32rd Street Phila., PA 19146, co Russell Shoatz-Cash App-\$RussellShoatz.

Thanking you again. RSIII & the Annual Prisoners Families' Organizing Team."

Jericho Boston Presents: R.A.P.—Reading & Politics: Bi-Monthly Letter Writing & Book Club Nov 14 & 27th



Ralph Poynter: What's Happening BlogTalkRadio Tuesday, November 16, 2021 Call in 1 (347) 857-3293 @ 9-10pm ET Nov 16

"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-SPECIAL UPDATE, Joel Meyers, Gwen Goodwin, Nellie Hester Bailey- SPECIAL UPDATE, Gil Obler, Henry Hagin, Dolores Cox- SPECIAL UPDATE
2. UPDATES -- Political Prisoner Death Camps - Anne Lamb (NYC Jericho)
3. Liberation Poetry – PROF. LOUIE & NZINGA – in remembrance of Sister Lynne"

Parole Prep Welcome Home Party on Nov. 18th - Get Tickets Today! Nov 18

"[Parole Preparation Project's](#) 8th Annual Welcome Home Party is coming up on November 18th at 7pm! The program will be virtual and online. [Get your tickets today!](#) This joyous event is an opportunity for us to welcome home and celebrate all those who were released from prison this year. It's so important that we commemorate this moment in the lives of so many of our friends and colleagues. We'll also be raising funds to support the work of Parole Prep. Proceeds from ticket sales will help cover the costs of prison visits, postage, commissary funds and so much more. [Purchase tickets here!](#) Tickets are sliding scale, starting at \$25. Sponsorships are available for \$5,000 for large organizations and \$2,500 for nonprofits. Sponsorships include 10 tickets and an acknowledgement during our virtual program."

Shakir Stewart Ascot Awards & Gala Nov 27

“Shakir Stewart Ascot Awards & Gala. Saturday November 27th, 2021. 8:00 PM-12:00 AM.

All guest will have to show proof of vaccination or negative test 72 hours to event.

Mask will be required when not eating and drinking.”

Location:

Geoffrey’s Inner Circle
410 14th Street
Oakland, CA 94612

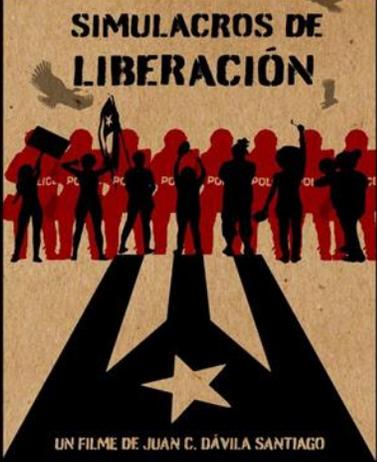
Get Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shakir-stewart-ascot-awards-gala-tickets-177412915807>

3rd Annual Ratcliff Awards! Liberate our Elders. Dec 7

The Puerto Rican Resistance Documentary-New York Premier of Simulacros de Liberación, A Puerto Rico Documentary by Juan Carlos Dávila Dec 17

¡QUE VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE! FREE PUERTO RICO!



SIMULACROS DE LIBERACIÓN

UN FILME DE JUAN C. DÁVILA SANTIAGO

Join El Frente Socialista- NY and The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign for the New York premiere of the documentary: Simulacros de Liberacion.

After experiencing a ten-year economic crisis and facing the threats of climate change, the people of Puerto Rico no longer trust the state. Activists go out to reclaim the streets to demand that the government assume its responsibilities and organize mutual support centers to make sure they survive as Puerto Ricans. In this epic documentary directed by Juan C. Dávila Santiago, Puerto Rican youth build their own path to liberation, as we observe the faces of survival and resistance.

This documentary has a unique point of view that is born from the social movements of Puerto Rico. The director captures a series of historical events as they unfold on the front lines, including: protests against a Fiscal Control Board appointed by the US Congress (2016), life after Hurricane Maria (2017-18) and protests of the Combative Summer (2019).

Panelists:

Juan C. Davila, Director/Producer/Screenwriter of Simulacros de Liberacion
 Jocelyn Velasquez Rodriguez, La Jornada: Se Acabaron Las Promesas
 Rogelio Maldonado, La Jornada: Se Acabaron Las Promesas

Friday, December 17th, 2021 @ 6pm

The People's Forum 320 W. 37th St. (Between 8th-9th Avenue)

You must wear a mask and provide proof of vaccination.



For more information call: 718-601-4751



“¡Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre! Free Puerto Rico! Friday, December 17th, 2021 @ 6pm. The People’s Forum, 320 W. 37th St. (between 8th-9th Aves.). Join El Frente Socialista-NY and The ProLibertad. Freedom Campaign for the New York premiere of the documentary: Simulacros de Liberación: After experiencing a ten-year economic crisis and facing the threats of climate change, the people of Puerto Rico no longer trust the state. Activists go out to reclaim the streets to demand that the government assume its responsibilities, and organize mutual support centers to make sure they survive as Puerto Ricans. In this epic documentary directed by Juan C. Dávila Santiago, Puerto Rican youth build their own path to liberation, as we observe the faces of survival and resistance. This documentary has a unique point of view that is born from the social movements of Puerto Rico. The director captures a series of historical events as they unfold on the front lines, including: protests against a Fiscal Control Board appointed by the US Congress (2016), life after Hurricane Maria (2017-18) and protests of the Combative Summer (2019). Panelists: Juan C. Dávila, Director/Producer/Screenwriter of Simulacros de Liberación, Jocelyn Velasquez Rodriguez, La Jornada: Se Acabaron Las Promesas, Rogelio Maldonado, La Jornada: Se Acabaron Las Promesas. You must wear a mask and provide proof of vaccination. For more information call: 718-601-4751” (source: email).

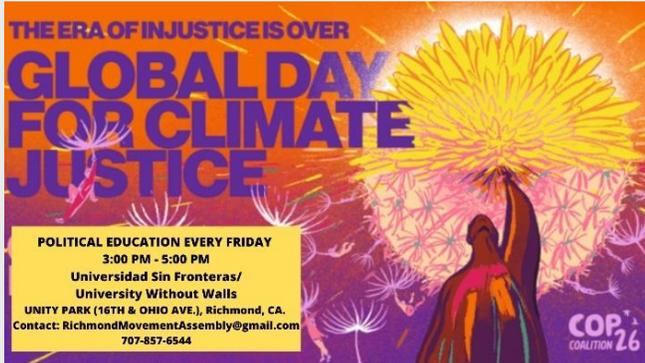
Oakland Jericho Info Sessions Dec 30



Oakland Jericho will host an informational session once a month to learn more about our history and current missions, our work with Political Prisoners as well as our projects in the community. Please check out our page monthly! Every month, specific information will be posted and pinned at the top of the page. **Oakland Jericho will host monthly Information sessions which will be conducted on zoom the last Thursday of the month at 7pm PT.** Sessions will last about an hour. After our info presentation, we will have a question & answer period. It is our hope that after learning about our missions and community projects you will join us in this most important work of advocating for and Freeing our Political Prisoners as well as serving the Community! If interested,

please send an email including your name and contact email to: oakland.jericho@gmail.com. You will receive a confirmation email with a Zoom link within 3 days and a follow up email the day before the info session. If a session needs to be cancelled (holiday, tech issues, etc.,) it will be announced on FB and you will receive an email if you signed up. **Next date Dec 30th 7pm PT.** See <https://www.facebook.com/Oakland-Jericho-Info-Sessions-108826421597091>

Join us now for Weekly Universidad Sin Fronteras/ University Without Walls (USIF/UWW) 3 - 5 pm Unity Park, Richmond, CA. Feb 26-2022



(Please note: Flier says “2021” but it is 2022)

NOW BOOKING! BLACK PANTHER ALUMNI LEGACY CITY WALKING TOUR (Ongoing)

**BLACK PANTHER PARTY
LEGACY CITY TOUR**



OAKLAND

TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Walk with an original Panther Elder in downtown Oakland. Listen to the truth, learn the history, & hear the stories.

BOOK YOUR SPOT!
BPPALN.ORG

SUNDAYS. 11am - 1.30pm

eventbrite

“BLACK PANTHER ALUMNI LEGACY CITY WALKING TOUR. Meet original members of the Black Panther Party & walk with them through the historical sites in the birthplace of the Party, Oakland CA. Listen to their stories and learn the truths behind the world's most famous revolutionary organization for the liberation of Black and oppressed communities. Book a Tour Now <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-panther-party-legacy-city-tour-tickets-160249200673>”

BLACK PANTHER LEGACY CITY TOUR



EVERY SUNDAY
DOWNTOWN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
eventbrite BPPALN.ORG

OSO Blanco 4 pack greeting cards 100% native art C.A.P (children's art project) proceeds go to the children of Chiapas in the Zapatista zone-ETSY (Ongoing)



“Oso Blanco CAP project featuring 100% native art by enrolled native tribal members to benefit children of Chiapas in the Zapatista zone. Oso Blanco is a citizen of the Cherokee nation. 4-pack of greeting cards made by political prisoner, activist and artist Oso Blanco includes the following 4 designs in 5"x7" with white envelopes:

Hummingbird: Hummingbird and sun pacific northwest style Washington state area... this is to honor my friend Moses from Tullulip nation, in Washington state. They carve totum poles. they are fishermen. **Four directions:** Earth fire wind water with water spider mother was done to honor mother earth's defenders, Earth First!ers and tree-sit warriors worldwide.

Coiled serpent: It looks like a Serpent in a round symbol over the top of an ancient Cherokee town in the southeast woods with pine trees.. its red... round... he came down in ancient times to teach Cherokees the sacred knowledge, and how not to lose it. **KOKOPELLI, Spirit of fertility:** Kokopelli, ancient spirit, playing flute notes of his song go into the clouds everywhere he travels he leaves flowers behind, in his steps in my view of him he is petroglyphic all over the southwest on rocks out in the desert. THANKS TO TEAM GADUGI FOR THE ART AT THE MONUMENT TO THE DRAGGING CANOE WARRIORS IN CHATTANOOGA TN, Cherokee art ... Byron Shane Chubbuck OB/Oso Blanco, Cherokee Nation Citizen. **See Etsy page to purchase”**

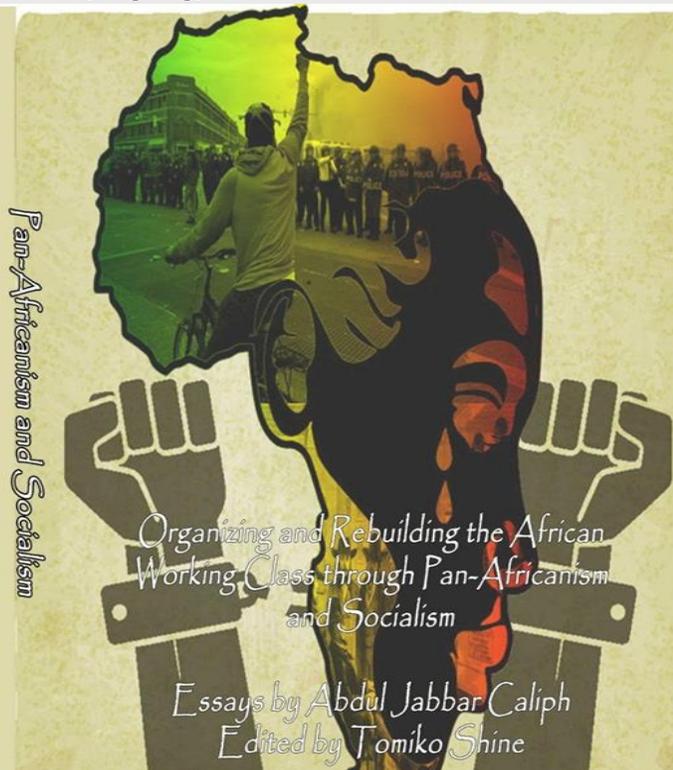
https://www.etsy.com/shop/OSOBLANCOCAPROJECT?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing_id=991583048

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



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

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



Order your Book Now! Email: abduljabbaessays@gmail.com

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/booksforthemovement>

Cost: \$20 book, \$5 Shipping

News, Articles, and Updates

(Political Prisoner Specific)

Pennsylvania Superior Court rejects Mumia Abu-Jamal's latest appeal Oct 26

"We regret to share with you some alarming news on the continued case of Political Prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal. The Pennsylvania Superior Court has challenged Mumia Abu-Jamal's latest effort for an overturned conviction and new trial — nearly 40 years after he was convicted of killing Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. The high court said Abu-Jamal's appeal was untimely, adding that the lower court shouldn't have reinstated any part of his appeal because it lacked jurisdiction. This fifth appeal attempt — filed in 2016 — was based on a federal ruling involving former Philadelphia District Attorney Ron Castille, who later became a state Supreme Court justice and ruled on a death penalty appeal. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Castille had an "unconstitutional risk of bias" as the district attorney..." See

<https://www.audacy.com/kywnewsradio/news/local/pennsylvania-superior-court-rejects-mumia-abu-jamal-appeal-ron-castille>

Former Black Panther Russell "Maroon" Shoatz Freed From Prison After 49 Years Oct 26

"Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, the Black liberationist long respected as a political prisoner and freedom fighter by friends and supporters, was granted a medical transfer on Monday to leave a Pennsylvania prison for treatment and hospice after five decades of imprisonment. A former member of the Black Panther Party and a soldier in the Black Liberation Army, Shoatz organized inside prisons for decades to abolish life sentences without parole, inspiring activists and attorneys to take up the cause. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is now considering whether a legal challenge to the state's practice of denying parole hearings to people serving life sentences for certain second-degree murder convictions can proceed. All life sentences in Pennsylvania excluded the possibility of parole, and the state has the highest per-capita rate of people serving life sentences in the nation and the world, according to the Center for Constitutional Rights. The 78-year-old Shoatz, who remains highly influential within the Black liberation and prison abolition movements, is reportedly terminally ill after being diagnosed with cancer. In social media posts, activists and family members who spent years fighting for his release celebrated on Monday after a judge in Philadelphia agreed to transfer Shoatz from a prison to a hospital..." See <https://truthout.org/articles/former-black-panther-russell-maroon-shoatz-freed-from-prison-after-49-years/>

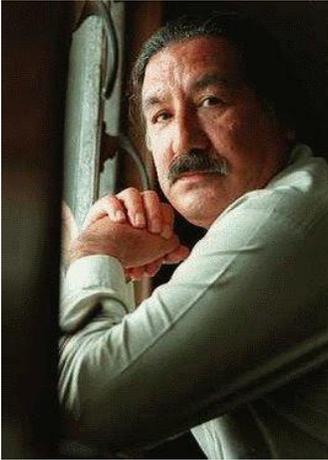
Russell "Maroon" Shoatz is Free, But Other Political Prisoners Languish Oct 27

"The demand for freedom of political prisoners must be consistently made for their sakes and for all at risk of joining them in the future. Russell "Maroon" Shoatz has been granted compassionate release after 50 years in prison. The length of his sentence is outrageous but it is hardly unique. The United States not only has the dubious distinction of being the country with the largest population of incarcerated people, but it also has political prisoners held longer than anywhere else in the world. Shoatz is now 78-years old and suffering from cancer. Of course there is deeply felt happiness that Shoatz will be freed for whatever time remains in his life, but no one should forget the tortures he suffered, including 29+ years in solitary confinement. No one should forget the other prisoners such as Mumia Abu Jamal, Ruchell Magee, Sundiata Acoli, and Dr. Mutulu Shakur. They are the best known, but there are hundreds of people imprisoned since the days of the liberation movement. That movement was crushed in part because its most committed fighters were locked away. As the late Glen Ford pointed out, we must say their names while they are still alive. We must say their names because they still live, instead of only remembering those who are dead at the hands of the police. Our remembrance should not be restricted to those who have passed but should be expanded to include the men and women whose lives were taken from them by imprisonment under brutal conditions..." See

<https://www.blackagendareport.com/russell-maroon-shoatz-free-other-political-prisoners-languish>

Native Lawmakers Ask Biden to Release Leonard Peltier Oct 31

“On Tuesday, October 26, a group of lawmakers sent a letter to President Biden advocating for the release of Turtle Mountain Chippewa member Leonard Peltier. The group of lawmakers are all members of federally recognized tribes and represent 10 separate state governments.



Native lawmakers have asked President Biden to release Leonard Peltier. The effort was largely organized by North Dakota Representative Ruth Buffalo (D-Fargo). Buffalo is a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations and is the first female Native American Democrat elected to the North Dakota Legislature, in December 2018. “Leonard is an elder of very poor health and is from a Tribal Nation located within my home state of North Dakota,” said Rep. Buffalo to Native News Online. “He is housed in a facility with inhumane living conditions, where COVID-19 runs rampant and the water is contaminated.” The letter of support for the Turtle Mountain Chippewa activist and political prisoner comes weeks after 11 members of Congress sent a letter to President Joe Biden, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, Director of Federal Bureau of Prisons Michael Carvajal, and Southeast Regional Director of Federal Bureau of Prisons J.A. Keller, requesting the expedited release and clemency for Peltier. He suffers from diabetes and an abdominal aortic aneurysm. He is 77 years old.” See nativenewsonline.net

Time Magazine on Jamil Al-Amin Nov 1

“It seemed like a fool’s errand to send Jamil Al-Amin a letter, expecting a response. But there I was, in the summer of 2019, reading his reply, sent from the U.S. Penitentiary in Tucson, Ariz.

Peace be unto those who do Good, Rembert. May The Creator Reward you for your kind thoughts and words. Though this part of our journey is defined by danger, and the goal seems distant, no roads are without endings ...Hope this is a happy day, with sunshine, some quiet, and the feeling that you are being thought of and wished happiness ... because you are ...I am enclosing a piece from my book I’m working on, called Holy-Cost ... give it a critical reading, and let me know what you think ...

At this point in the letter, his note took a more personal turn. **You still playing ball?**

He signed the letter “Coach.” It was the only thing I knew him by, as a 9-year-old, in 1996, staring up at his sinewy 6 ft. 5 in. frame. The location was Adams Park, in a gym on the southwest side of Atlanta. Leaving my first practice with my new team, I sat in the car and listened as my mother explained that Coach Al-Amin was a trailblazer of a Black man. I took that to heart and could tell she was serious by the tone of her voice, but my primary focus was (always) the two-part question of “Where are we eating?” and “Do they have banana pudding?” Also, meeting an important Black elder was part of growing up in Black Atlanta—the trailblazers were everywhere...” See <https://time.com/6111614/h-rap-brown-jamil-al-amin/>

Leonard Peltier Is America’s Longest-Serving Political Prisoner. Biden May Be His Last Hope. Nov 12

“The FBI put the Native American activist behind bars 44 years ago based on lies, threats and no proof he committed a crime. Why is he still there?” “Leonard Peltier has been in prison for 44 years for a crime he says he didn’t commit. His trial was riddled with misconduct that would never hold up in a U.S. court today. Prosecutors hid key evidence. The FBI threatened and coerced witnesses into lying. A juror admitted she was biased against Peltier’s race on the second day of the trial, but was allowed to stay on anyway. There was never proof that he murdered two FBI agents during that 1975 shoot-out on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. But the FBI needed someone to take the fall. The agency had just lost two agents, and Peltier’s co-defendants were acquitted based on self-defense. This was happening as the FBI was fueling tensions on the reservation as part of a covert campaign to suppress the activities of the American Indian Movement, or AIM, a grassroots group of activists focused on drawing attention to federal treaty rights violations, discrimination and police brutality targeting Native Americans...” See https://www.huffpost.com/entry/leonard-peltier-prison-clemency-biden_n_618049f3e4b059d0bfc19e5c

#FreeJessica: NLG and WPLC Submit Amicus Brief In Support of Water Protector, Jessica Reznicek Nov 14

“The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and Water Protector Legal Collective (WPLC) have filed an amicus brief urging the Eighth Circuit Court to vacate the sentence against Water Protector, Jessica Reznicek, in *United States v. Reznicek*. In June of 2021, Reznicek was sentenced to 8 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to acts of property damage she caused the Dakota Access Pipeline. The federal judge applied a “terrorism” sentencing enhancement that increased Reznicek’s prison time several times over. Sentencing Reznicek under a federal terrorism enhancement for acts of civil disobedience targeting private property, sets an alarming and dangerous precedent for climate justice movements and endangers Indigenous and front-line defenders most impacted by worsening climate conditions.”

See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XVypxHeMwVmPagoFNT9WPxs1m9Hd8--S/view>

(General)**Netflix Launches New Palestinian Film Collection – Check Out Full List** Oct 14

US-based streaming service Netflix launched a new Palestinian film collection on Thursday, Reuters reported. The collection, titled ‘Palestinian Stories’, consists in 32 films that are “either helmed by Palestinian filmmakers or about Palestinian stories,” Netflix said in a statement released on Tuesday.

“Featuring the works of prolific and critically-acclaimed directors like Annemarie Jacir, Mai Masri, Mahdi Fleifel, Susan Youssef, May Odeh, Farah Nabulsi and many more, the collection is a tribute to the creativity and passion of the Arab film industry as Netflix continues to invest in stories from the Arab world,” the statement reads. The collection includes award-winning titles, such as ‘The Crossing’, directed by May Odeh, who expressed her satisfaction with Netflix’s choice to make “alternative Palestinian films accessible to wide audiences”. See

<https://portside.org/2021-10-19/netflix-launches-new-palestinian-film-collection-check-out-full-list>

Wisconsin, worst in nation, incarcerates one out of every 36 Black residents Oct 18

“A new report by the Sentencing Project is casting a damning light on Wisconsin’s incarceration of Black and Latino people. The report, drawing on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, found that one out of every 36 Black Wisconsin adults is incarcerated within a state prison — giving the state the highest incarceration rate of Black Americans in the country. To put that into perspective, the national rate of incarceration for Black American adults is one in every 81. Wisconsin is also one of just seven states that maintains an incarceration disparity between white and Black residents that is higher than nine to one. In Minnesota, one in every 98 Black adults is incarcerated — among the lowest rates in the country — but like Wisconsin, Minnesota has among the highest disparities in incarceration between Black and white adults.” See

<https://minnesotareformer.com/briefs/wisconsin-worst-in-nation-incarcerates-one-out-of-every-36-black-residents/>

Potential jurors in Ahmaud Arbery case asked: Is U.S. Confederate flag racist? Oct 19

“Jury selection begins in the Ahmaud Arbery murder case. The trial judge ruled Monday that potential jurors could be questioned about their views on race. The case involves three White men accused of killing Arbery, a Black man, after chasing him down in a residential neighborhood in February 2020” See

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/jury-selection-start-trial-over-killing-black-jogger-georgia-2021-10-18/>

Tiny wrists in cuffs: How police use force against children Oct 19

“Royal Smart remembers every detail: the feeling of the handcuffs on his wrists. The panic as he was led outside into the cold March darkness, arms raised, to face a wall of police officers pointing their guns. **He was 8 years old.** Neither he nor anyone else at his family’s home on Chicago’s South Side was arrested on that night two years ago, and police wielding a warrant to look for illegal weapons found none. But even now, in nightmares and in waking moments, he is tormented by visions of officers bursting through houses and tearing rooms apart, ordering people to lie down on the floor.” See <https://news.yahoo.com/tiny-wrists-cuffs-police-force-050845212.html>

Tuberculosis, Like Covid, Spreads by Breathing, Scientists Report Oct 19

“Upending centuries of medical dogma, a team of South African researchers has found that breathing may be a bigger contributor to the spread of tuberculosis than coughing, the signature symptom. As much as 90 percent of TB bacteria released from an infected person may be carried in tiny droplets, called aerosols, that are expelled when a person exhales deeply, the researchers estimated. The findings were presented on Tuesday at a scientific conference held online. The report echoes an important finding of the Covid pandemic: The coronavirus, too, spreads in aerosols carried aloft, particularly in indoor spaces — a route of transmission that was widely underappreciated as the pandemic began to unfold.” See <https://portside.org/2021-11-01/tuberculosis-covid-spreads-breathing-scientists-report>

SPEECH: Frederick Douglass on John Brown, 1860 Oct 20

“On December 3rd, 1860, Frederick Douglass was set to address an anti-slavery rally at Boston’s Tremont Temple Baptist Church, held to commemorate the death of the radical abolitionist John Brown and to mark the one-year anniversary of his ill-fated raid on the federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry Virginia. Boston being Boston, the gathering was attacked by what Frederick Douglass’ Paper described as a “gentlemen’s mob.” The mob was not composed of “practiced ruffians.” Instead, as the paper wrote, its “rank and file, not less than its leaders, claim position with the upper classes of Boston society. They were gentlemen of the ‘DOLLAR STAMP,’ well dressed, well-conditioned, well looking, and doubtless, on occasions, pass very well for gentlemen.” Joined by the city’s mayor and supported by the Boston police, they were determined “to preserve the union of Boston pockets with Southern money” by shutting down any anti-slavery activities...” See <https://portside.org/2021-10-23/speech-frederick-douglass-john-brown-1860>

Preserving Black Women’s Stories as a Labor of Love Oct 21

“Stories about the lives of Black women often do not get preserved in the historical record. Anthropologist Irma McClaurin knows this all too well. Around two decades ago, McClaurin started digging into the archives for a research project on Zora Neale Hurston, an acclaimed writer, poet, and playwright active during the Harlem Renaissance. Hurston’s career as a trailblazing anthropologist is less documented than her literary persona—likely because her fieldwork centered on her own community in Eatonville, Florida, and other Afro-descendant peoples and traditions throughout the Americas at a time when these issues were largely disapproved of in academic spaces. In researching and writing about Hurston over the years, McClaurin found huge gaps in the archival record—but the documents that were preserved gave her invaluable insights into Hurston’s life and career that other scholars had missed...” See <https://portside.org/2021-10-24/preserving-black-womens-stories-labor-love>

Why Fannie Lou Hamer’s definition of freedom still matters Oct 21

“We hear the term “freedom” bandied about rather loosely in this country. It’s one of those things people say they love, but are we really free? In many instances, “freedom” feels more like America’s consumer brand than one of its core principles — mostly because we see those principles violated with regularity. The late Fannie Lou Hamer understood this all too well. The youngest of 20 children and born to Mississippi sharecroppers, Hamer didn’t begin her human-rights activism until her 40s. After picking cotton for most of her years, Hamer was fired from her sharecropping job in 1962 for trying to register to vote. The following year, even after passing a discriminatory “literacy test,” she was still denied access to the ballot. And later in 1963, after attempting to register some of her fellow Mississippians, she was beaten by police and left with a limp, a blood clot behind her eye, and permanent kidney damage...” See <https://www.vox.com/2021/10/21/22732924/why-fannie-lou-hamers-definition-of-freedom-still-matters>

October 21: how prison short staffing can lead to violence and dysfunction Oct 21

“The Marshall Project is holding an exclusive online briefing this Thursday, October 21 at Noon ET. I hope you can join us for a candid conversation with two of our intrepid reporters: Joe Neff and Keri Blakinger. The Marshall Project published a special Life Inside — Dispatch from Deadly Rikers Island: “It Looks Like a Slave Ship in There.” — on the current crisis unfolding at New York City’s Rikers Island jail complex. Many commenters

point to short staffing as an explanation — and not just at Rikers. It's an issue that's leading to violence and dysfunction in prisons and jails around the country. But what has it really meant for the people who live and work on the inside?" See https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gBksGFHvQMq4s_NnF_s8uQ

Demystifying the Black Panther Party on Its 55th Anniversary Oct 21

"The Black Panther mystique is a powerful and complex one. Along with the Southern Civil Rights Movement, it transcended Black history to become American history, with all the gravitas that implies. As numerous events commemorating the party's 55th anniversary approach in the coming days—including an unveiling ceremony for a bust of co-founder Huey Newton, an anniversary gathering in DeFremery Park, a tribute to the San Francisco chapter members at the Bayview Opera House, an art exhibit at the Joyce Gordon Gallery, and a remembrance of the Panthers' singing group, The Lumpen—that mystique has again come to the fore. Veteran Black Panthers say Hollywood and mainstream media portrayals of the party have often been misleading, focusing on a brief period of time when militant activism was at its peak, and not on the 65 community-oriented "survival programs" they say are the true measure of the party's legacy and impact. "All those films and movies we've seen, they always depict that particular origin period, with the berets and jackets, which only lasted up until mid-1970. After that, we were addressing the community," said **Dr. Saturu Ned**, a former member of The Lumpen and educator at the Oakland Community Learning Center who's currently a member of the Black Panther Party Legacy Alumni Network..." See <https://portside.org/2021-10-23/demystifying-black-panther-party-its-55th-anniversary>

Pennsylvania Supreme Court to weigh in on Death-by-Incarceration lawsuit Oct 22

"A lawsuit brought by six people serving mandatory Death-By-Incarceration sentences, commonly known as Life Without Parole, will go before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which will decide if a lawsuit challenging the practice can proceed. Represented by the Abolitionist Law Center, Amistad Law Project, and Center for Constitutional Rights, they seek an end to the prohibition on parole for those serving life sentences under the state's felony murder rule. The felony murder rule, which exists in forty-four states, holds a person liable for murder if the person participates in a felony that leads to a death, even if the person plays no direct role in the death or does not intend or anticipate it. In Pennsylvania, people found guilty are automatically sentenced to life, and a separate provision of state law prohibits parole eligibility for anyone serving life. Learn more on our case page: Scott v. PA Board of Probation and Parole, filed in July 2020. And continue reading about this latest development on our website." See <https://ccrjustice.org/home/what-we-do/our-cases/scott-v-pbpp>

This Louisiana prisoner thought he'd only have to serve a decade. 57 years later, he's free- 'The forgotten men' Oct 25

"The "10/6 law," which set the minimum penalty for a life sentence at 10 years and six months, was established in 1926 by Louisiana lawmakers. For 46 years, it was common practice to release people with life sentences after they'd served the 10 years and six months, as long as they showed good behavior during incarceration. But in 1973, when legislators established different classes for murder (i.e. first degree, second degree), they also raised the minimum sentence for people serving life to 20 years. Three years later, they changed it to 40 years, then they eliminated any chance of parole for people with life sentences in 1979. The men, often referred to as "the forgotten men," who had pleaded guilty before 1973, were left in prison, despite the deals they agreed to. It wasn't until New Orleans' new DA, Jason Williams, was elected in 2020 that the issue resurfaced." See <https://www.wwno.org/news/2021-10-25/this-louisiana-prisoner-thought-hed-only-have-to-serve-a-decade-57-years-later-hes-free>

82-Year-Old Black Woman Seeks End to Probation From 1955 When She Refused to Move on Bus Oct 26

"Before Rosa Parks, there was Claudette Colvin, a Black teenager convicted of assaulting a police officer after she refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in 1955 in Alabama. Now, the 82-year-old Colvin is asking the court to officially terminate her probation and expunge her record. Colvin said she has never received notice that she finished her probation and it has followed her her whole life. As a 15-year-old high school student on March 2, 1955, Colvin and another Black girl were sitting too close to two white girls, and Colvin

refused to move when asked to move to the back of the bus. Her refusal prompted the bus driver to call the police. When police officers removed Colvin from the bus, she was kicking and scratching an officer, the police report said, leading to an assault charge. The case was sent to juvenile court and a judge found her delinquent, so they placed her on probation "pending good behavior." It ended there, with Colvin never hearing another word about it, she said. Fifty-five years later, Colvin and her lawyer, Phillip Ensler, are requesting expungement from the Montgomery County court system. "My conviction for standing up for my constitutional right terrorized my family and relatives who knew only that they were not to talk about my arrest and conviction because people in town knew me as 'that girl from the bus,'" Colvin said. Although Colvin moved out of the state, "relatives always worried what might happen when she returned for visits since no court official ever said she had finished probation," according to Ensler. "Her family has lived with this tremendous fear ever since then," Ensler said, adding that even though Colvin had told her story many times, nothing was ever done to clear her record." See <https://www.newsweek.com/82-year-old-black-woman-seeks-end-probation-1955-when-she-refused-move-bus-1642824>

Oklahoma executes inmate who dies vomiting and convulsing Oct 28

"Oklahoma administered the death penalty Thursday on a man who convulsed and vomited as he was executed for the 1998 slaying of a prison cafeteria worker, ending a six-year execution moratorium brought on by concerns over its execution methods, John Marion Grant, 60, who was strapped to a gurney inside the execution chamber, began convulsing and vomiting after the first drug, the sedative midazolam, was administered. Several minutes later, two members of the execution team wiped the vomit from his face and neck. Before the curtain was raised to allow witnesses to see into the execution chamber, Grant could be heard yelling, "Let's go! Let's go! Let's go!" He delivered a stream of profanities before the lethal injection started. He was declared unconscious about 15 minutes after the first of three drugs was administered and declared dead about six minutes after that, at 4:21 p.m. Someone vomiting while being executed is rare, according to observers. "I've never heard of or seen that," said Robert Dunham, executive director of the nonpartisan Death Penalty Information Center. "That is notable and unusual." See <https://news.yahoo.com/oklahoma-asks-us-supreme-court-172735612.html>

New details of torture at CIA "black sites" Oct 28

"On Thursday, a man who was disappeared and tortured at secret CIA prisons, or "black sites" for three years read aloud a lengthy public statement in a courtroom at Guantánamo. Although many aspects of Majid Khan's torture were described in portions of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report declassified in 2014, he disclosed new details Thursday, the first day of his sentencing hearing before a jury at a military commission, providing a fuller picture of his experience in the U.S. government's post-9/11 torture program. "I have a story that I have waited almost two decades to tell, so I want to start by thanking you for taking the time to listen to my statement," Mr. Khan told those assembled in the courtroom. "I want to be clear that my intention today is simple. I have one purpose. To tell my story with the hope that you better understand who I was and who I have become. I want you to know what I did, what happened to me, and what I hope for the future." See <https://ccrjustice.org/home/press-center/press-releases/new-details-torture-cia-black-sites>

"If Black Women Were Free": An Oral History of the Combahee River Collective Oct 29

"Last year, fierce protests erupted across the US out of rage against austerity, a botched Covid-19 response, and the brutal murder of George Floyd. Demonstrators blocked traffic, occupied public spaces, and destroyed police property. At the same time, there was an upswell in mutual aid, rent strikes, and labor organizing. This surge of activism and organizing built upon the history and analysis of radical Black feminism, especially the Boston-based Combahee River Collective, who in 1977 authored the landmark Combahee River Collective Statement. The collective recognized the necessity of working across race, gender, sexual orientation, and class while emphasizing the contributions of queer Black feminists to Black liberation and feminism." See <https://portside.org/2021-10-31/if-black-women-were-free-oral-history-combahee-river-collective>

Men In California Prisons Continue Fight To End Unconstitutional Use Of Solitary Confinement Oct 29

“Men who spent a decade or longer in solitary confinement charged that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is violating a landmark settlement agreement and continuing to undermine their constitutional rights in a court hearing Thursday. As part of the case *Ashker v. Governor of California*, the men’s attorneys asked a district court judge to extend the monitoring period of the settlement for a second time and to order remedies for continued rights violations. “I suffered through decades in solitary confinement. The trauma we endured continues to impact the mental, emotional, and physical health of all the men California tortured for so long, even those like me who are now out of prison. This court must prevent more torture and also must end the abusive use of confidential information, because there is undisputed evidence showing officials have misused it at disciplinary proceedings, classification hearings, and parole hearings, etc.,” said Paul Redd, a plaintiff in the case who suffered decades of solitary confinement and was released from prison last year.” See blackstarnews.com

Comm. Members and Drs/Med Workers Demand Access to Jail Population: COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS DEMAND ACCESS TO PATIENTS IN VERNON C. BAIN CENTER Oct 30

“Today at 9:00 a.m. EDT, a group of community members and community-based healthcare providers demanded entry to Vernon C. Bain Center (VCBC, commonly referred to as “The Boat”) in order to assess and treat patients inside. Over the past 10 months, the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Correctional Health Services (CHS) have overseen 14 reported deaths and ongoing human rights violations in NYC jails. Urgent independent intervention is needed to save lives. The activists, many donning white coats, brought medic bags filled with pens and paper, bandages, and personal protective equipment and carried signs demanding “Let Us In! Let Them Out!” and “Care, not Cages!” See “Eyes on You”, “a committee dedicated to the liberation and protection of Black and Brown people through the abolition of white supremacist structures of policing, surveillance, and confinement.” (Source: Email)

Killed in seconds: why did the FBI shoot Jonathan Cortez in an Oakland corner store? Oct 30

“Jonathan Cortez was buying a packet of beef jerky, a bottle of Gatorade and a Snickers bar at his local corner store in Oakland, California, when an FBI agent stormed in, gun drawn. Seconds later, the officer opened fire, fatally shooting the 31-year-old. The shooting on 13 September, a rare killing by an FBI agent, has left Cortez’s shattered family with many unanswered questions. Federal authorities said Cortez was killed as officers were serving warrants for his arrest, and local officials have claimed Cortez was armed. But, Cortez’s relatives say, it remains unclear how a trip to the store for snacks turned deadly in an instant. Why were federal agents involved in serving local warrants? Why did the officer run in with his gun drawn? And what exactly happened in those few seconds? Cortez’s friends and relatives have demanded that the agent involved be named, fired and arrested, and that police release the security footage they seized from the store during the investigation. They’ve decried the response of local and federal police, which the family says has included harassment, during the investigation.” See theguardian.com

Arizona’s failed prison health care on trial-Arizona Privatized Prison Health Care to Save Money. But at What Cost? Oct 31

“In 2017, Walter Jordan wrote a memo to a federal judge from the Arizona State Prison Complex in Florence. “Notice of Impending Death,” it said in a shaky hand. Jordan told the judge that Arizona corrections officials and Corizon Health, the state prison system’s private health care contractor at that time, delayed treating his cancer for so long that he would be “lucky to be alive for 30 days.” Jordan, 67, had a common form of skin cancer that is rarely life-threatening if caught early, but said he experienced memory loss and intense pain from botched care. Other men in his unit were also denied treatment, he wrote, “all falling, yelling, screaming of pain.” Jordan was dead eight days later. Reviewing his medical records later, Dr. Todd Wilcox, a physician hired by lawyers for the state’s prisoners, agreed that Jordan’s death was likely preventable. Corizon’s treatment of Jordan’s “excruciating needless pain,” was “the opposite of how cancer pain should be managed,” he said.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/10/31/arizona-privatized-prison-health-care-to-save-money-but-at-what-cost>

A world without police is more possible (and necessary) than you think Nov 1

“The law enforcement-industrial complex ‘blackmails’ communities into believing that more police control is the only thing that will make them safe. As Geo Maher argues in his latest book, *A World without Police*, that’s just flat-out wrong.” “Calls to “defund the police” reverberated throughout communities across the US in the summer of 2020, when millions took to the streets to protest a brutal, unchecked, and racist system of police violence and control. Then came the backlash. Since the initial push by activists and protestors to get the public to consider alternatives to endlessly increasing police spending, a forceful chorus has pushed in the opposite direction, demanding more funding for more police who should be given more power over our lives. “Defund the police” has been criticized for being not only a “bad slogan” but a political pipe dream that fails to reckon with the messy realities of maintaining “public safety.” See <https://therealnews.com/a-world-without-police-is-more-possible-and-necessary-than-you-think>

Locked Up and Left to Die Nov 1

“In Texas, dying in jail is “par for the course.” “...Jail staff and people incarcerated with Danny said he seemed fine when he entered the lockup but eventually started spiraling—sobbing day and night, hallucinating, and babbling incoherently about threats against his family. Danny, who had been diagnosed with mental health and substance use disorders, had struggled in recent years—losing a sister and bouncing between lockup and halfway houses. His mother, who recently had brain surgery, had joined Armando to visit Danny that day but was detained by officers who uncovered an old theft charge when they screened her to enter. Guards said Danny became “belligerent” when she was taken away, then later swung at them when they stormed his cell to move him, striking one officer in the temple and another in the nose. Three guards then tackled Danny and pinned him to the floor, while a fourth stuck his knee into Danny’s back and a fifth shocked him with a stun gun. Nurses who arrived to check on him about 10 minutes later found him bloodied, without a pulse...” See <https://portside.org/2021-11-07/locked-and-left-die>

When police hurt Black teenage girls Nov 2

‘Police hurt thousands of teenagers every year. A striking number of them are Black girls. A review of data from six large police departments around the country reveals that nearly 4,000 young people ages 17 and under experienced police violence from 2015 through 2020. Almost 800 of the children and teens — roughly a fifth of the total — were Black girls. White girls were involved in about 120 cases, representing only 3% of use-of-force incidents involving minors.’ “On a warm September Sunday in 2016, a small Black teenager in a pink T-shirt biked through narrow city streets and rolled into an intersection. So did a Chevy Cruze, driven by an 85-year-old man heading home from church. The next thing 15-year-old Brianna Stuart knew, she was lying dazed on the pavement, she said in an interview. The driver alerted 911 about the accident. Her mom would be so mad at her, she thought. Her parents had warned her never to talk to police without them in this majority-White community — and told her not to bike in this part of town. She cursed at officers trying to question her and climbed back on her Huffy.

White officers pulled the 100-pound girl off her bike by her backpack straps, a police body camera video shows. As she struggled to get away, they shoved her against a building and locked her wrists into cuffs while she sobbed and cursed and screamed. “You let that badge go to your head,” a bystander called out. The police carried the increasingly hysterical teen to a patrol car, but she refused to put her feet inside, the video shows. The police on the scene lost patience. “I’ll spray her,” one said. He waved the pepper spray toward her face — then pushed down on the canister. It hissed, twice. Stuart shrieked and cried out, “I can’t breathe!” She continued to wail as the officers milled around outside the car...” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/11/02/police-hurt-thousands-of-teens-every-year-a-striking-number-are-black-girls>

‘We’re F*cked’: Cops Freak Out Over Plan to Punish Bad Apples Nov 3

“On Monday morning, Jeff Follmer, president of the largest police union in Cleveland, Ohio, held up a picture of Kareem Henton, a Black activist from the city. His T-shirt read: “No tears for dead cops.” “This is one of the petitioners that is for this campaign,” Follmer, who is white, told the cameras. He went on to argue that Issue

24—a city charter amendment that would create a civilian-led police commission to serve as final arbiter on police discipline and set policy for the department—was really about revenge, not accountability. “This group does not like the police,” Follmer told The Daily Beast in an interview on Monday. The union boss, who was re-elected as president of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen’s Association last November, was speaking about Citizens for a Safer Cleveland, an umbrella coalition of social-justice organizations in the city that helped get the amendment on the ballot.” See <https://www.thedailybeast.com/cleveland-police-union-freaks-out-over-plan-to-punish-bad-cops-with-issue-24>

Facing Months in Prison, Indigenous Activist Goes to Trial for Protesting Trump’s Wall Nov 3

“Fourteen months have passed since Amber Ortega, a 35-year-old member of the Hia Ced O’odham tribe, was arrested for blocking border wall construction that threatened a sacred desert oasis in southern Arizona. Ortega was taken into custody along with Nellie Jo David, another Hia Ced O’odham woman, at Quitobaquito Springs, a world-famous ecosystem on the southern edge of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument that has been a center of cultural and spiritual tradition for the O’odham for thousands of years.” See <https://theintercept.com>

Was the Bay View infiltrated by a ‘rock star’ informant? Nov 3

“As the editor of this beautiful newspaper and in all my short years as an activist in the Prisoner Human Rights Movement, having received hundreds of letters from prisoners, this letter you’re about to read from Bradley Barton was one I never anticipated nor imagined. In his pursuit of legal aid to help prove the illegalities of his case, Bradley Barton, caged in Texas, met fellow prisoner Keith Washington – the Bay View’s former editor with whom we have severed our ties. Bradley has since come forward with his account of what transpired between them. Through uncharted territory, we now present what we received, unsolicited and unaltered, and leave all of you to make your own determinations and come to your own conclusions. As Nube – woman and mother – I was stunned into disbelief and deeply disturbed by this information. I have difficulty finding the words for how I feel even now. But words I did have to find, as Bradley was taking his own personal and emotional risks and deserved a response. We believed Bradley from the start and had every intention of publishing his letter as requested, but we also needed the letter he referred to that had been written by Keith Washington (aka Malik Washington, Comrade Malik) to make it solid. Over two months and a series of letters and JPays back and forth, we built trust and understanding...” See <https://sfbayview.com/2021/11/was-the-bay-view-infiltrated-by-a-rock-star-informant/>

Choosing art over death behind bars Nov 4

“Rafael Rodriguez acknowledges that he was “acting like a wild horse” as he bucked around from one violent encounter after another in prison after prison. But then he landed in a federal penitentiary in Virginia, and into the cell of an older man called Memo, who encouraged Rodriguez’s interest in painting. Memo offered a challenge: “If you could stay out of trouble and leave that thug life alone, I will teach you how to paint,” he told Rodriguez. Soon it all clicked in. “It was Memo who taught me how to pause and think about what I might lose before making another bad brush stroke... And that’s how my mentor saved my life through art,” writes Rodriguez in the latest in our “Life Inside” series.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/11/04/ode-to-memo-the-cellmate-and-art-teacher-who-saved-my-life>

LAPD ended predictive policing programs amid public outcry. A new effort shares many of their flaws Nov 8

“Documents show how data-driven policing programs reinforced harmful patterns, fueling the over-policing of Black and brown communities. The Los Angeles police department has been a pioneer in predictive policing, for years touting avant-garde programs that use historical data and software to predict future crime. But newly revealed public documents detail how PredPol and Operation Laser, the department’s flagship data-driven programs, validated existing patterns of policing and reinforced decisions to patrol certain people and neighborhoods over others, leading to the over-policing of Black and brown communities in the metropole.” See <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/nov/07/lapd-predictive-policing-surveillance-reform>

Two strikes and you're behind bars forever. Nov 11

“More than 13,000 people in Florida are serving permanent life sentences, partly because of how the state punishes “repeat offenders” using a two-strikes law that disproportionately affects Black men. Life-without-parole sentences have increased across the country over the past generation, and Florida accounts for almost a quarter of the nationwide total.” See <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/11/11/two-strikes-and-you-re-in-prison-forever>

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. 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

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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"
M. Ashanti Alston
5 Stanhope Drive, Barrington, RI. 02806

For tax deductible receipt, send donations to:

Please make the check out to: IFCO/Jericho
Mail to: IFCO/Jericho, PO Box 1368
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Or visit our website at: <http://www.thejerichomovement.com/donate> and click our "donate" button.