



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for April 10th

20 Mar - Indybay Journalists Charged with Felony: Conspiracy to Make Media

District Attorney Bob Lee has embarked on a full frontal assault against independent media in Santa Cruz by including four regular contributors to the independent news website Indybay.org amongst the eleven people charged with multiple felonies and misdemeanors after the occupation of a vacant bank building on November 30th, 2011.

MORE:

District Attorney Lee apparently believes it is his duty to dictate how events such as the occupation of the vacant bank at 75 River Street should be reported on by the media, and if he does not approve of the coverage, then journalists risk the DA bringing charges against them.

Bradley Stuart Allen and Alex Darocy are Indybay photojournalists and Indybay editors who were reporting on the occupation. No charges nor arrests were made at the time, but warrants were issued over two months later on February 8th, 2012 — for Bradley, Alex, and nine other individuals. Alex was arrested at his home before he could submit to the surprise warrant. Bradley and Alex were originally charged with felony vandalism, felony conspiracy, and two counts of misdemeanor trespass, but after a three-day preliminary hearing starting March 13th the felony vandalism charge against both was dropped. Alex and Bradley remain out of police custody on their own recognizance.

Selective Prosecution

On the face of it, the misdemeanor trespass charges filed against both Alex and Bradley for documenting the occupation from inside of the building seem in line with a February 8th [press release](#) from the DA which declared that the "District Attorney's Office remains committed to enforcing the law." But the DA fails to mention that his office is not committed to enforcing the law consistently and that the charges against Alex and Bradley are clearly a case of selective prosecution. District Attorney Lee knows full well that a staff photographer for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* newspaper likewise shot [photographs from inside](#) of the occupied bank building, yet Lee has chosen not to file any charges against him. Why would a District Attorney pursue such a selective prosecution?

Viewpoint Discrimination

Upon reading court filings and hearing statements made by the District Attorney during the preliminary hearing for Bradley and Alex, it is apparent that District Attorney Lee believes he is entitled to dictate the terms of media coverage in Santa Cruz County. In a brief filed prior to the preliminary hearing, DAs Lee and Rebekah Young wrote this about Alex's and Bradley's coverage of the occupation: "Their postings contain no interviews (or even attempted interviews) with representatives from the police, with the property owners, or with members of the community who might not have been in favor of the group's conduct." This is clearly viewpoint discrimination on the part of the District Attorney. According to Bob Lee's logic, if journalists do not interview police for a story, then somehow those journalists' rights and privileges as members of the media no longer matter.

Conspiracy to Make Media

As for the most serious remaining charge, felony conspiracy, District Attorney Lee has offered absolutely no supporting evidence of a criminal collusion. The DA has not argued that Alex and Bradley had prior knowledge that the building would be occupied. The DA simply asserts that the mere act of newsgathering at an announced demonstration, which turned into an unannounced building occupation, constitutes felony conspiracy to promote trespass and vandalism. In the same preliminary hearing supplemental brief referenced above, the DA wrote: "The defendants' presence and postings... aided and abetted the organization's occupation of the property." From

this, District Attorney Lee takes another leap by claiming that Bradley and Alex "effectively serv[ed] as the media arm of the organization; the group's propagandists." The "conspiracy" is nothing more than reporting on a newsworthy event.

Ben Rice, who is representing Bradley, states, "As the control of 'news' is increasingly controlled by the '1 percent' we have to stop the government from deciding who or what sources may lawfully provide alternate sides to important stories. At Bradley's preliminary hearing, we presented evidence from expert witnesses that Indymedia and Bradley are legitimate news sources. We provided evidence that Bradley has been using his skill as a photojournalist for ten years to examine many of our world's most perplexing social problems. Bradley's focus on those issues is particularly important because so many of them are ignored by mainstream media. The judge's determination to keep the conspiracy charge alive should give all journalists pause."

Free Alex and Bradley! Independent Media Is Not a Crime!

The National Press Photographers Association (NPAA) and The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP) wrote a [Letter Brief](#) addressed to the court seeking dismissal of charges. In a related joint press release, the NPAA and RCFP wrote: "This is just the most recent case where journalists have been interfered with and arrested while covering Occupy Wall Street protests throughout the country. In almost every case, those charges — ranging from disorderly conduct and obstruction of governmental administration to trespass — have been dismissed or the defendant journalists have been acquitted." So why is Bob Lee pursuing these charges, at taxpayer expense, unless to unfairly promote one journalistic viewpoint over another by deterring independent journalists from closely reporting on social justice movements as they happen.

Stop the harassment and intimidation of independent journalists! Drop the charges against Bradley Stuart Allen and Alex Darocy now!

21 Mar - How Homeland Security Is Hiding the Feds' Role in Occupy Crackdown

A trove of documents released on March 21st by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in response to a FOIA request filed by the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, filmmaker Michael Moore and the National Lawyers Guild Mass Defense Committee reveal that federal law enforcement agencies began their coordinated intelligence gathering and operations on the Occupy movement even before the first tent went up in Zuccotti Park on September 17, 2011.

MORE:

On September 17, 2011, a [Secret Service intelligence entry in its Prism Demonstrations](#) Abstract file records the opening of the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement. The demonstration location that the Secret Service was protecting? The "Wall Street Bull." The name of the Protectee? The "U.S. Government."

American taxpayers might find it odd to learn that the Secret Service was on duty to protect the Wall Street Bull in the name of protecting the U.S. Government. But there it is.

The DHS's Game of Three Card Monte to Deflect Disclosure of Law Enforcement Operations

These documents, many of which are redacted, show that the highest officials in the Department of Homeland Security were preoccupied with the Occupy movement and have gone out of their way to project the appearance of an absence of federal involvement in the monitoring of and crackdown on Occupy.

On the street it would be called "Three Card Monte," a swindler's game to hide the ball -- a game of misdirection. The House always wins.

The DHS, as revealed in the newly released documents, has engaged in what appears to be a effort to avoid looking for Occupy related materials where it is likely to be found, including in **Fusion Centers** and DHS sub-

divisions such as the **Operations Coordination & Planning** sub-division which is responsible for DHS coordination with local and federal law enforcement partners.

On November 16, DHS Press Secretary Matthew Chandler transmitted an e-mail to top ranking DHS officials, including the Chief of Staff to Janet Napolitano, the Chief of Staff to the DHS General Counsel, among others, in which he reports:

“We’re getting inquiries from CBS, AP, Daily Caller and others on an un-sourced Examiner.com piece that says that DHS and FBI are collaborating with cities by providing tactics and information on removing Occupy protestors. A check of I & A [Intelligence and Analysis] and FPS [Federal Protective Services] shows that this type of outreach is not occurring in any wholesale manner.”

The Press Secretary is careful to couch the official statement, that such is not occurring in any “wholesale” manner, leaving the door open to possible future revelations of such conduct.

But this official statement was based solely on a mid-November inquiry to two DHS sub-sections: Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and Federal Protective Services (FPS). And **by the date of that statement, Federal Protective Services and apparently also the I&A Directorate had already purged, “restricted and/or rescinded,” any Occupy related intelligence products, as discussed further here.**

In other words, having looked into only two drawers - - which had already “restricted and/or rescinded” all Occupy related intelligence products - - it is not surprising that Press Secretary Chandler’s statement that no “wholesale” coordination of Occupy related actions is based on incomplete information.

The Press Secretary, following the script, conveniently avoided other likely DHS repositories and departmental components, including the personnel deployed to Fusion Centers or to the DHS Operations Coordination & Planning sub-division, which according to the DHS web site is “responsible for monitoring the security of the United States on a daily basis and coordinating activities within the Department and with governors, Homeland Security Advisors, law enforcement partners, and critical infrastructure operators in all 50 states and more than 50 major urban areas nationwide.”

DHS Monitoring, Megacenters and Misdirection

Before the first OWS action took place, the DHS Office Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) produced a series of NCCIC (National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center) alerts about the coming OWS demonstrations. When this was picked up by the media and it generated inquiry and press, the DHS learned its lesson: Misdirection.

In an email exchange dated September 29, 2011, DHS officials discuss the NCCIC alert and the fact that they will now need to respond to media inquiries about DHS monitoring and involvement in the response to the Occupy movement. The substantive discussion about how to handle the media is redacted, with one participant writing, “Here it is. That answer works-“ and the rest is redacted.

An October 5, 2011 document reflects that the DHS Philadelphia Megacenter was monitoring the OWS demonstration in New York, titled “Demonstration-Peaceful/Planned”, and reporting on assembly and movements “peacefully protesting union solidarity issues.”

An October 30, 2011 document shows DHS’ Battle Creek Megacenter also reporting that a “peaceful/unplanned” “Occupy Wall Street demonstration is taking place in Ilus W. Davis Park in Kansas City, MO.”

These documents appear to be the tip of the iceberg, carefully submerged by the DHS. While there is policy discussion as to the propriety of a threat assessment regarding Occupy Pittsburgh, other emails reference additional internal inquiries about OWS that were withheld from public disclosure in response to this FOIA request.

The Fusion Centers

Moreover, the DHS documents evidence the misdirection to avoid civil liberties issues by handing off OWS monitoring to DHS's project of Fusion Centers and then failing to make inquiry for information to the Fusion Centers or DHS personnel deployed to them, even though documents indicate that **a push-down of Occupy related information into the massive fusion center clearinghouses was already in play.**

By November 16, when the PCJF filed this FOIA request, and when the media was contacting DHS regarding its role in the Occupy crackdown one I&A analyst, following such guidance, reported that I&A "scrupulously avoided any connection with the Occupy movement/protests/dismantlings. **We cannot speak for any individual fusion center or other departmental component...**"

On October 17, 2011, the DHS Intelligence Coordination Branch wrote in an email titled "Guidance Requested: Occupy Wall Street" that in response to requests for OWS information, "we have recommended...that our intelligence Officers refer inquiries [i.e., requests for intelligence information] to Fusion Centers and avoid the topic altogether. That being said, given the number of requests that have appeared, we would like to equip the field with formal guidance..."

DHS Guidelines on How To Justify Intelligence Gathering on Free Speech Activities

The DHS then undertakes to draft policy guidance on OWS. Within days, however, the DHS concludes that formal policy guidelines are not going to go into effect. Instead, on October 24, 2011, a redacted email chain includes the recommendation that policy guidance changes have sought "to **take out language that indicates our guidelines are mandatory.** For instance replace 'personnel must' with 'personnel should'. I also recommend that we advise only the DHS people and remain silent on whether they should pass along our input to the Pittsburgh folks."

On October 28, 2011, further exchanges on the guidance draft discuss making the recommendations less specific, and that they should focus on the "**congruence concept.**" The "congruence concept" is the creation of a supposedly criminal pretext for investigation into First Amendment activities. It is so loosely applied that any unsupported, unsourced tip -- or agent provocateur statement on a website -- can create the basis for monitoring and investigation.

When the final guidance is produced, it has no mandatory language and states: "If you ever feel you are in put in a situation where first amendment rights could be potentially violated, please refer to the below guidance, which was created after we received a number of questions from around the nation in reaction to the Occupy protests."

The guidance then explains **how to "justify research into and creation of a product containing First Amendment protected activity..."** including the "congruence concept."

Subsequent discussion on October 31, 2011 regarding how and when DHS can "clear on any [intelligence] product on OWS" is significantly redacted as is the author.

Purging of DHS Files and the Carefully Constructed Media Response

A November 1, 2011 email reflects that following the internal guidance issued to I&A, all Occupy related materials had been "restricted and/or rescinded" including specifically by FPS. The email, from an FPS official,

reports that:

“FPS was notified of the guidance to the I&A representatives to restrict production of all Occupy products absent criminal activity and/or life safety issues, FPS has followed this guidance and **restricted and/or rescinded all products** (both internal and pass-through).”

By November 16, when the media was barraging the DHS with inquiries about its role in the Occupy crackdown, the responses to media were carefully crafted. “We’re getting inquiries from [various media] on an un-sourced Examiner.com piece that says DHS and FBI are collaborating with cities by providing tactics and information on removing Occupy protestors. A check of I&A and FPS shows that this type of outreach is not occurring in any wholesale manner.”

As we now know, checking with I&A and FPS by November 16 was not likely to lead to responsive information given that the DHS activity was being carried out by other components and that a purge, restriction and/or rescission of intelligence “products” had taken place.

At this point the DHS provided a prepared statement, given over and over to the press, which includes a quotable paragraph and then “background” points.

Documents show that in the drafting of that paragraph, which is disseminated repeatedly to the press, and shows up in numerous press reports from the time, **there is a second paragraph that is removed and appears not to be given to the press**. That sentence read: “We have held standard coordination calls and face-to-face meetings with our partners to ensure that the proper resources are available for operations such as street closures, etc.”

Showing the deficiency of response to the FOIA demands, there are no records produced that reflect those “standard coordination calls” and “face-to-face meetings.”

Evading a Complete FOIA Records Search

In addition to these efforts to misdirect the press and the public, the other tactic the DHS has used to stave off inquiry into DHS involvement is to evade a responsive search to this and other FOIA requests. As we stated previously, we had been told by the DHS that other media requestors agreed to narrow their FOIA requests to consist only of materials in the possession of select senior staff. We have not so agreed, and will be pursuing further disclosure of information from the DHS.

Highly conscious of the demand for public disclosure of DHS actions, one official wrote in November of their considered response to FOIA requests and urged the department to release their policy guidance regarding First Amendment activities. He wrote, “I understand we have already received some FOIA requests regarding our possible reporting of the “Occupy...” protests. I think should the FOIA experts find it appropriate to release information about the manner in which this issue was managed with DHS, it could only be perceived as a positive by those in the public who closely observe [sic] the Department.”

So for those of you who wish to “closely observe” the Departments responses, the PCJF is making the documents available in a searchable format. We will also be disclosing and uploading more materials obtained from our national campaign of federal and local FOIA demands as they become available.

Here’s a related article...

Protesters wearing a Guy Fawkes mask and maybe a black hat or cape have been a common sight at Occupy protests across the country. On the street, they were just another group of protesters, but on the Internet, the Anonymous hacker movement they represent was seen as a serious security threat during the first few months of

Occupy, according to internal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) documents and emails [released to Truthout](#) last week.

The Occupy Files reveal that DHS monitored Occupy Wall Street (OWS) and affiliated protests in the fall of 2011, but refrained from wholesale surveillance of the Occupy movement because of civil liberties concerns. The federal agency's cyber wing did, however, investigate Anonymous, a highly visible faction of the Occupy movement, after several successful hacks made headlines.

When [Anonymous](#) first announced its support for the OWS protests forming in September 2011, DHS sent out [three memos](#) with intelligence gathered from media reports and web postings on the "partnership" between Anonymous and OWS organizers and warned that "malicious cyber activity" may accompany the peaceful protests. A few months prior, the DHS cyber security communications arm had issued an unclassified bulletin informing law enforcement agencies about how Anonymous operates, what its future targets could be and how to deal with a hacktivist attack.

For federal law enforcement, it's clear that public protests are much different than online hacktivism - that's something the First Amendment does not protect. In an internal communication obtained by Truthout, one DHS spokesman drew a line in the sand for activists using social media, writing, "I'm thinking we just make it clear that using social media [to] organize protests is well within constitutional rights; when it becomes our business [is] if social media used to plan cyber attacks."

Unlike prolonged public camping and sign holding, hacking is almost always illegal. The DHS has reason to be concerned: Anonymous affiliates and other hacktivists stole 100 million online records in 2011, according to a Verizon report based on investigations conducted by the United States and other governments. Hacktivists were responsible for only 3 percent of reported hacks in 2011, but they took 58 percent of the records that were stolen during the entire year. The report declared 2011 "the year of the hacktivist."

Included in that long list of stolen records are thousands of names, addresses, personnel information, and other data taken from several law enforcement databases and sites on October 22, 2011. The Boston Patrolmen's Association, The International Association of Chiefs of Police and local Alabama law enforcement agencies were all targeted in solidarity with the Occupy movement and a national day of protest against police brutality. The hacker group AntiSec, an Anonymous affiliate comprised of experienced hackers, claimed responsibility for defacing the web sites and publicly releasing the stolen information in an online communiqué bearing the rhetoric of serious [Occupy class warriors](#):

We are attacking the police because they are the vicious boot boys of the 1 percent whose role in society is to protect the interests and assets of the rich ruling class. They are not part of the 99 percent - they are working class traitors who are paid to intimidate, harass, and repress political movements that would possibly stand a threat to the power structure of the 1 percent. We have no problem targeting police and releasing their information even if it puts them at risk because we want them to experience just a taste of the brutality and misery they serve us on an everyday basis.

The [DHS cyber security division](#) investigated the hacks, according to an internal document obtained by Truthout. The DHS sent out a similar internal communication a week later after Anonymous shut down the Oakland police department's web site in a revenge attack after the Oakland cops evicted the Occupy camp there. This time, the DHS cyber agents contacted the FBI.

The FBI, not the DHS, has made the majority of high-profile arrests of Anonymous-affiliated hackers, suggesting that federal authorities see hacktivists as politically motivated criminals, not cyber-terrorists. On May 6, the FBI announced the arrests of six high-profile hackers thought to be members of AntiSec and other [Anonymous-affiliated groups](#).

Hector Xavier Monsegur, who was known as "Sabu" online during his days as an Anonymous hacker powerhouse, pled guilty last summer to high-profile hacking conspiracies, including the well-publicized hack that embarrassed the HBGary security firm so much that its [CEO resigned](#). Information handed over by

Monsegur helped the FBI track down the other five hackers, including Jeremy Hammond, an AntiSec member who is facing a maximum sentence of ten years for stealing account information and more than five million internal emails from Stratfor, a private global intelligence security firm. The emails are thought to be the same currently being published by WikiLeaks in the "[Global Intelligence Files](#)."

2011 was the year of the "hactivist," but 2012 could be the year of the crackdown. Federal agencies like DHS seem content in leaving the eviction notice up to local law enforcement when it comes to communal protest campouts, but in the digital world that knows no state lines or border, hackers can expect Big Brother to be watching.

26 Mar - New Zine of Collected Writings by Eric McDavid

We wanted to let you know that a beautiful new zine of writings by Eric is now available from the good folks at Because We Must. You can order it online here:

<http://www.becausewemust.org/shop/toward-a-re-cognition-of-choice-writings-by-eric-mcdavid>

27 Mar - Tim DeChristopher Placed in Isolated Confinement

On the evening of Friday March 9th, Tim DeChristopher (climate activist currently serving a 2-year prison sentence for outbidding oil and gas companies at an illegitimate BLM auction in 2008) was summarily removed from the minimum security camp where he has been held since September 2011, and moved into the FCI Herlong's Special Housing Unit (SHU).

MORE:

BREAKING: Tim was moved back to the MINIMUM SECURITY CAMP— late on the night of Wed March 28th, after FCI Herlong, the BOP office in Washington, DC and members of Congress received thousands of phone calls... from YOU!

Thank you for the overwhelming outpouring of support and for such effective public pressure. **Peaceful Uprising will not stop investigating this situation because the most important questions remain unanswered:** Why was Congress involved in moving Tim into isolated confinement, and who ordered the investigation? Martin Luther King said, "An injustice to one is an injustice to all", and this abuse of power must be exposed in its entirety if we are to safeguard our own personal liberties.

Tim is still a political prisoner. Stand with us as we continue to pursue the truth.

Tune in for more at 1:30pm MST when Tim's Legal Team gives a press conference on the iconic steps of the Frank E. Moss Federal Courthouse in Salt Lake City, Utah.

FROM THE ORIGINAL PRESS RELEASE...

Tim was informed by Lieutenant Weirich that he was being moved to the SHU because an unidentified congressman had called from Washington DC, complaining of an email that Tim had sent to a friend. Tim was inquiring about the reported business practices of one of his legal fund contributors, threatening to return the money if their values no longer aligned with his own. According to Prison officials, **Tim will continue to be held in isolated confinement pending an investigation. There is no definite timeline for inmates being held in the SHU — often times they await months for the conclusion of an investigation.**

In the SHU, Tim's movement and communications are severely restricted. In the past two weeks, he has been allowed out of his 8 X 10 cell (which he shares with one other inmate) four times, each time for less than an hour. The SHU could have been designed by Franz Kafka. Tim is allowed one book in his cell, and four in his property locker. His writing means are restricted to a thin ink cartridge which makes correspondence extremely difficult. He can still [receive mail from the outside](#), but has **no other form of communication other than 15 minutes of phone calls per month.**

Peaceful Uprising found Tim's conviction and [sentence to two years of prison time](#) outrageous enough, and people all over the US demonstrated their dismay at this injustice through widespread solidarity actions. But now, Tim is being effectively thrown in the hole for no good reason we can see, other than to further restrict his communication. We are witnessing, once again, the **hidden power of public and appointed officials in**

Washington DC to inflict cruel and unusual punishment on Tim because of his courageous stand in confronting injustice and speaking truth to power.

We firmly believe the only way Tim will be returned to the minimum security camp he's been housed in for the last six months is to **place outside pressure on elected and appointed officials in Washington DC, specifically the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and members of Congress charged with overseeing the BOP.**

Peaceful Uprising wishes to express their solidarity with Tim by making this [national call to action](#), asking Tim's supporters to call officials at the Federal Correctional Institution in Herlong CA, the Bureau of Prisons in Washington DC, and members of Congress that sit on the subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security demanding that they **immediately return Tim to the minimum security camp from which he came.**

FOLLOW UP BY ROLLING STONE...

I [wrote yesterday](#) that the jailed climate activist Tim DeChristopher, who's serving a two-year sentence in the Herlong prison in California, had recently been moved to "isolated confinement" at the behest of an unidentified congressman. Soon after the post went live, Herlong, the Bureau of Prisons in Washington D.C. and members of Congress were flooded with thousands of calls protesting DeChristopher's treatment. As a result, last night he was moved out of isolated confinement and back to the minimum security camp where he's serving out his (outrageously disproportionate) sentence. "I got a call from him this morning," says Dylan Schneider at [Peaceful Uprising](#), the climate group co-founded by DeChristopher. "He was extremely happy." DeChristopher's lawyer, Patrick Shea, credits *Rolling Stone* with drawing attention to the story and helping to build public pressure for his release. "*Rolling Stone* got him out," he told me. Schneider cautions that this is not the end of the story, though: "There needs to be an investigation into how a call from a congressman got Tim thrown in isolation and what that says about the American justice system," he said this morning. "What would have happened to Tim if no one was watching?"

27 Mar – FBI Creepin' Around

As a heads up, we got the following message from a comrade here in NYC about the FBI coming to their apartment. Between this and the recent visit paid to a local anti-fascist, there's reason to review your strategy for how to deal with authorities. Remember, if you've been visited by cops, feds, or other nefarious authorities, get in touch with the NLG or the NYC Peoples' Law Collective. The latter are at info@nycplc.info

MORE:

I just wanted to let folks know that at around 7:30 this morning, my buzzer rang and at my door were two white men in fancy suits. They asked if I was my name, which I confirmed, and then told me they were with the FBI and that they wanted to know if they could ask me some questions. I said "No." Then I asked if they had a warrant; they replied that they didn't. Then I closed the door in their faces.

I have no idea why this happened or what they were trying to find out, but I wanted to pass the word on to folks in my circles in case this happens to you (because you never know with the state) with the reminder that we must NEVER TALK TO THE POLICE, FBI or any other iteration of the state.

If you got this message it just means I have you in my contacts and that you may be involved or at one point have been involved in some kind of activist/organizing work. Hope your projects are coming along marvelously, whatever they are, and that you're all well.

28 Mar – New Address for Chip Fitzgerald

We just got a letter from Chip (dated by him from February 23rd 2012) with an address update. It is pasted here below.

MORE:

**Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald #B27527
Kern Valley State Prison
Post Office Box 5101**

Delano, California 93216

28 Mar - Earth Liberation Political Prisoners Sadie and Exile Punished for Being “Unrepentant”

Earth Liberation prisoners Joyanna “Sadie” Zacher and Nathan “Exile” Block, who are a married couple, have been disallowed correspondence by their captors with the excuse that Sadie is “unrepentant” of her crimes.

MORE:

Sadie and Exile are nearing the end of their seven-year-and-eight-month federal prison sentences for two million-dollar arsons prosecuted under the FBI’s Operation Backfire investigation into the Earth Liberation Front. Specifically, the couple has been convicted of the the \$959,000 arson of the Romania Chevrolet dealership on March 30, 2001 and the \$994,412 arson of Jefferson Poplar on May 21, 2001.

For the past 4 years, the couple has been allowed correspondence between the Federal Correctional Facilities in Dublin, California (where Sadie is locked up) and in Lompoc, California (where Exile is imprisoned). However, shortly after Sadie released a public statement on her case, their correspondence ‘privileges’ were revoked. When Sadie’s lawyer wrote the sentencing Judge on the matter, the US Attorney’s Office in Portland, Oregon sent a rebuttal directing the Judge to an online video of the release of Sadie’s statement being read by former Earth Liberation Front Press Office spokesperson, Leslie James Pickering.

In the statement in question, Sadie wrote, “There have been some dark days in here, when the rage of being imprisoned boils over into tears of frustration – but never regret, not ever. Even knowing this would be the price to pay – seven years of my life here, I still would not change my actions in any way.”

This “unrepentant” tone is anything but new. Shortly after their sentencing, the two released a joint statement, which righteously criticized those of their codefendants who opted to cooperate with the state in their own prosecution.

It appears that what the government is really after is a 1984-style public apology, but when that isn’t forthcoming something less than repentance will suffice, so long as it is silent. However, when strong examples of outspoken resistance are set by prisoners they are punished for their thoughts and words. Daniel McGowan, the most vocal of the Operation Backfire targets, and who was the focus of the Oscar-nominated 2011 documentary *If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*, has been housed in a new, ultra-restrictive Communications Management Unit in response to his being continuously outspoken.

30 Mar - Jalil is out of the SHU!

We just got a message that Jalil Muntaqim is out of the hole! This is great news.

MORE:

He didn't know the specifics but was told that the charges were dropped and expunged from his record. He sends his regards and thanks everyone for the support! He is on regular visiting now. He was in good spirits looking ahead to his parole date.

30 Mar - Email addresses for correspondence with anarchist prisoners – Eat, Billy & Hidayat

It is now possible to send messages to Indonesian anarchist political prisoners and folks in the west are encouraged to do so. We’re including a message from comrades below.

MORE:

Now it is possible to write emails to Eat and Billy, members of [Long-Live Luciano Tortuga Cell – IRF/FAI](#), and also to [Hidayat \(AKA Yaya\)](#). Their friends/comrades will print them out and show them the messages of solidarity. Communication is vital to break the isolation of prison. Also reaching us at this time is the news that Hidayat is out of the isolation cells.

Eat and Billy have taken responsibility for the [destruction of an ATM bank in Yogyakarta](#) as an international solidarity action for Luciano Tortuga. They are both presently being dragged through the courts in a long trial process. You can email both of them here: [blackhammer\(at\)riseup.net](mailto:blackhammer(at)riseup.net)

Hidayat is a social combatant and anarchist who is accused of attacking a police outpost during a mass riot against brutal police repression which left several people dead, after people had occupied and blocked Sape port (Bima), to protest the presence of a hated mining company in the area. You can email him here: [swatantra\(at\)riseup.net](mailto:swatantra(at)riseup.net)

Wolves cannot be tamed!

Let's keep wild!

30 Mar - Letter from Abdullah Majid regarding Amsterdam News article on Assata Shakur

We're pasting an informative letter written by Abdullah Majid regarding an article in NYC's Amsterdam News.

MORE:

Mr. Townes,

I am writing you in regards to an article which your name is appended to concerning a very dear and close comrade of mine (Assata Shakur). It appears from the content and tenor of the article that you obtained your information from the "usual official sources," or perhaps something regurgitated off the wire services? It is apparent that there was no in-depth, investigative reporting done in order to provide your readers with an objective account of the events surrounding the sister's forced exile. So I have taken the liberty to clarify a few facts in addition to making a few comments of my own for the record.

In the early morning hours of May 2, 1973, while traveling on the New Jersey Turnpike, Assata Shakur, Zayd Malik Shakur, and Sundiata Acoli were ambushed (driving while Black) by trooper Werner Foerster (and another trooper whose name escapes me at the moment). With guns drawn, the troopers ambushed their car, ordering them out. While attempting to comply with hands raised, for no apparent reason one of the troopers opened fire on the three occupants, hitting Assata and Zayd who were seated in the rear seat of the car (killing Zayd instantly and wounding Assata) while their hands were still raised in the air.

Sundiata (who was driving) managed to exit the car without being hit by the fusillade of bullets entering the car. In the process of Sundiata exiting the car he encountered Foerster, who attempted to shoot him.

In the ensuing struggle over the gun, Foerster was shot in the face with his service revolver by his own hand. Sundiata was able to escape on foot but was apprehended a few days later. After emptying his gun into the vehicle, the second trooper fled the scene a short distance to the nearby barracks, leaving his partner behind and not immediately reporting what had just transpired to his superiors.

In fact, it was a civilian who first reported to the Turnpike Authorities what had taken place. Sister Assata was arrested and viciously beaten by the cowardly gestapos who converged on the scene while she lay bleeding from her gunshot wounds. And mortally wounded brother Zayd's body was desecrated by the "lynch mob" on the scene. Assata's treatment at the hands of the racist, fascist judiciary and law enforcement agencies of the "Garden State" should have come as no surprise to anyone living in amerikkka. Her legal lynching was a foregone conclusion in a state ranking third in the nation as being saturated with racist, right-wing hate groups, in particular its law enforcement agencies.

Sister Assata, like any captured freedom fighter, continued to struggle "by any means necessary" to liberate herself from enemy hands. Assata was eventually liberated from enemy hands with the help of her comrades and is now on liberated soil in Cuba (where she resides to this day, teaching and educating others about the true conditions in amerikkka (Al Hamidullah). This criminal regime in New Jersey that has placed the bounty on this

sister's life needs to be exposed for who and what they are and represent--the continued domination and exploitation of peoples of color and the poor and oppressed of the world. And what about the Black politicians in New Jersey who are supposed to represent our interests? Why have they been so silent? The Black / New Afrikan Community should be appalled and outraged by the new developments in New Jersey. The fact that hard-earned tax dollars are being squandered to pay for such a macabre act in their name! The assassination of a Black woman, mother, grandmother whose only crime was dedicating her life to the liberation of her people. How many hungry Black babies in New Jersey could be fed with that money?

At the very least, the Black and progressive members of the state legislature should introduce legislation to rescind this travesty of justice! And community organizers and activists should be in the streets educating and mobilizing the Black / New Afrikan community in ways to counter this act of terror perpetrated by the state. We must keep in mind the head negro down at the justice department has recently sanctioned these "mob hits" on amerikkkan citizens deemed to be "an enemy of the imperial empire". In fact Leonard Pitts, a Black / New Afrikan commentator, made some instructive comments in his nationally syndicated column (3/15/12) on the behavior of these negroes running amok down in Wash. D.C. of late.

It seems as though our community has fallen into a comatose and lethargic state in response to some recent political events of the last decade i.e. 9/11 and the first so-called Black president in "the big house." First we were sidetracked by the events of 9/11 with the "war on terror," and secondly, we were hoodwinked by the u.s.a. white power structures installing a Black face in "the big house" to guard the master's plantation in his temporary absence. Remember we were at a very critical stage of our struggle for true genuine self-determination i.e., reparations for the Black / New Afrikan people in amerikkka for the past exploitation (slavery) and other human rights violations committed by this criminal govt. against Black / New Afrikans. We must purge ourselves of this stupor and regain our focus on the big picture (self-determination).

We can no longer stand by silently and allow these racist thugs and negro collaborators in New Jersey to get away with this kind of cowardly act. Any more than we can allow for them to choose our Afrikan heroines: Harriet Tubman, Queen Azinga, Sojourner Truth, Sandra Ji Jaga-Pratt, Winnie Mandela, Rosa Parks, Fannie Mae Lou Hamer (to name a few) that have put themselves on the front line in the service of Black / New Afrikan people's freedom.

Remember, freedom ain't cheap and it don't come easy!

31 Mar - H.R. 4080 — 11/16/09 by Jalil Muntaqim + Updates

Jalil Muntaqim, fresh out of the SHU, has a new blog entry; we've pasted it below. We've also included information on harassment of his supporters of late.

MORE:

(What the Hell?!?)

- (1) A total of 2.2 million American adults are incarcerated in state and local prisons and jails, a rate of about 1 out of every 100 adults.
- (2) State spending on corrections has increased over the last 20 years from approximately \$12.6 billion in 1988 to more than \$52 billion in 2008. According to "Public Safety, Public Spending: Forecasting America's Prison Population 2007-2011," State and Federal prison populations are expected to increase by 192,000 over that 5-year period, at an additional cost of \$27.5 billion.
- (3) Between 2000 and 2008, jail populations increased from approximately 621,000 to 785,000 inmates. The 3,300 jails nationwide process approximately 13.5 million inmates each year, 4 million of whom are repeat offenders.
- (4) The number of persons on probation and parole in state correctional systems has been increasing. Approximately 5 million Americans, or 1 out of every 45 adults, are on probation or parole, an increase of nearly 300 percent since 1980.

(5) Policy makers have insufficient access to detailed, data-driven explanations about changes in crime, arrest, conviction, and prison and jail population trends.

(6) In the face of ever-increasing correctional costs, with bipartisan leadership, governors and legislative leaders in Texas, Kansas, Rhode Island, Vermont, and other states around the country have initiated data-driven criminal justice reinvestment strategies that increase public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control Corrections spending.”

The bill goes on to inform its purpose “... is to provide grants for criminal justice reinvestment strategies.” A data-driven program; however, it seems the \$35 million to be appropriated by the bill is sorely misappropriated. In fact, the above statistics offer sufficient data-driven information to inform any reasonably intelligent policy maker that the “prison industrial complex” is driven by high finance. It is a money-maker, an employment opportunity program, and a tool for social control of “minorities” and the poor.

Beyond that, there are a plethora of data-gathering institutions offering statistical information on the P.I.C., enough to prohibit this kind of wasteful duplication. For example, the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) consistently releases information dissecting every aspect of the P.I.C.; the Sentencing Project and the ACLU continuously make and issue reports on the P.I.C.; this includes the NAACP reports. The various states make statistical analyses of their prisons, if for no other purpose than budgeting and spending concerns.

Therefore, a closer look at this bill may conclude this is just another spending mechanism in support of the P.I.C.; essentially to fund another institution, statistics-gathering nonprofits and businesses in the service of the P.I.C. It is certainly obvious this bill is not seeking to lower minimum sentences, reduce impediments to the granting of parole, or the actual closing of prisons.

Rather, the greater probability is that this bill seeks to further refine the criminal justice mechanism to further target specific groups of Americans for incarceration, further refining the “New Jim Crow” laws, now that Michelle Alexander has raised the racist foundation of the P.I.C. into the national debate. Hence, we must be vigilant in opposing policy makers’ “double-speak” when they attempt to appropriate funding for data-driven studies that will ultimately target our communities and our youth. They are certainly NOT seeking solutions that serve to direct resources to our community that will lessen the incarceration of our youth and ultimately deny the P.I.C. the human resources its multi-billion dollar industry depends upon.

As Michelle Alexander warns: “It is fair to say that we have witnessed an evolution in the United States from a racial caste system based entirely on exploitation (slavery), to one based largely on subordination (Jim Crow), to one defined by marginalization (mass incarceration). While marginalization may sound far preferable to exploitation, it may prove to be even more dangerous. Extreme marginalization, as we have seen throughout world history, poses the risk of extermination. ...” (page 207)

If this thought is not diabolical enough, then consider the riders bill attached to the original H.R. 4080.

The second H.R. 4080 of 2/17/12, “The Unknown Slave” bill, is to “solicit bids and enter into an agreement for the creation of a statue of “The Unknown Slave,” which is “for permanent display in Emancipation Hall in the Capital Visitor Center.”

A statue to immortalize America’s inhumane history of African chattel slave trade fails to capture the reality that slavery has not been abolished; it has been institutionalized, pursuant to the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, in the prison system. Prisoners are slaves of the state in accord with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Ruffin v. Commonwealth*, 62 Va. 790, 796 (1871), a precedent which reads in part:

“For a time, during his service in the penitentiary, he is in a state of penal servitude to the state. He has, as a consequence of his crime, not only forfeited his liberty, but all his personal rights except those which the law in its humanity accords to him. He is, for the time being, a slave of the state. He is *civiliter mortuus*; and his estate, if he has any, is administered like that of a dead man.” (*The New Jim Crow*, page 31)

Therefore, there is no “Unknown Slave”; in fact, there are over 2 million very documented slaves across the United States. Rather than immortalizing the slave trade with a statue, let’s continue the fight to end slavery in the United States by putting an end to the new Jim Crow, demanding the abolishment of the Prison Industrial Complex. Call your Black Congressional Caucus representative and tell him/her “NO to the Unknown Slave statue” until all forms of slavery have been abolished in the United States!

Friends and Supporters of Jalil Muntaqim Harassed, Targeted, and Intimidated

Since Jalil’s arrival at Attica Correctional Facility in March 2011, a number of statements have been made about

the continued and frequent harassment of his visitors. Despite filing numerous official reports, Jalil's visitors have repeatedly endured undue questioning, inappropriate remarks, destruction of personal property, and denial of entry at the hands of Attica guards.

On June 5, 2012, this harassment was redirected toward Jalil when he had his cell searched and was charged with "unauthorized organization." Denied all of his witnesses, Jalil was sentenced to 6 months in SHU for the possession of two photographs of an academic event in which a Black Panther banner was hung in the background. These photos served as the sole evidence of his "unlawful" behavior.

On March 28, this sentence was reversed in an appeal, and Jalil was immediately taken to general population. He is there now, and considers this reversal a victory for all who stood in solidarity with him, and demanded his release.

However, it appears as if the harassment of Jalil and his supporters has not stopped. Just last week, a visitor was denied entry because he "smelled like marijuana"--which was impossible.

I have been visiting Jalil weekly for two years, and have been actively supporting the reversal of the SHU sentence and his release on parole. This past December, I experienced two car break-ins within only 3 weeks. The first time, there was no sign of forced entry, nothing of value taken (despite a digital camera being in my car), and every one of my envelopes and folders were opened and strewn throughout both front and back seats. Each compartment within the car, the gas tank, and the trunk were left open, and two photographs of me and Jalil were left face-up on my passenger seat.

The second time this happened, on Christmas morning, the car was left in the exact same condition, except that a back window had been smashed out, and a hubcap removed and put into my trunk. 3 lug nuts were visibly loose on a rear wheel, and the two photographs of me and Jalil were once again pulled out of the dash and placed on my passenger seat. Jalil was placed in SHU within weeks of this last break-in, and was released on March 29.

On Sunday, April 1, I moved into a new apartment in a quiet, residential neighborhood. On the morning of Tuesday, April 3, I found my car in the exact state I had seen twice before. Despite no sign of break-in and previously locked doors, my car was entirely ransacked. Mail collected from the day before was opened, all bags turned inside out, the underside of my seats dug out, and the photographs missing. My passport and computer were moved, but still not taken.

US law enforcement has a history of harassing the family, friends, and supporters of political prisoners. When it cannot continue to be done within prison walls, the intimidation often extends into our personal lives. And, it would come as no surprise to discover that these attempts at intimidation are being undertaken by people who wish to hinder and halt actions being taken to support Jalil and his release on parole.

This message is both a notification and a call: we know that this kind of targeting is not infrequent, and would like to reach out to other supporters or loved ones of political prisoners who have experienced similar attempts at intimidation—especially recently. The only way to stop illegal surveillance being carried out in the dark is to shine a light on it, Jalil said today, so we're asking that others with similar stories speak about them so that we can more carefully support one another.

1 Apr – Mandy Hiscocks Update

There's been some sort of hold up with Mandy's mail and as a result, her blog posts. We've pasted an explanation and her latest writing below.

MORE:

hi everyone,

so it seems there's been a bit of a hold up with the blog, and that it has been causing a bit of stress. don't worry! everything is still fine – i have just run into a logistical snag with the mail system here. i dictated this post over the phone.

on march 11 i sent out my 9th post, entitled *Women, the Police and International Days*, but it was never put in the mail. i know this because on march 23 i was given a large stack of letters – some of them had been received by the jail at the end of february! and a couple of them were addressed to leah – and there it was. so i sent it out again on march 23. i assumed it was an honest mistake, however as of today ali still hasn't received it.

According to the INMATE INFORMATION GUIDE FOR ADULT INSTITUTIONS (oct 2010) that is posted in full on the wall of the range:

Institution Staff may check letters you send or receive. The Superintendent can refuse to send a letter that affects the security of the institution, threatens someone or might upset the person it is being sent to. If this happens, the staff will tell you why your letter was not sent. The letter will be returned to you. You can either rewrite it or have it stored with your property.

on march 31 i put in a request for the mail room and/or security to look for any misplaced mail of mine, and to the superintendent to return any mail that has been withheld on purpose. i also sent out another post on march 30 so we'll see if that one makes it.

In other news, i got a hair cut! and i found Kim Stanley Robinson's *Red Mars* on the bookshelf. a second inmate on my range has successfully subscribed to a newspaper, and as of april 3 i have only 8 months to go.

i'm reminded everyday of the strength and resilience of people in very difficult situations, and i continue to be humbled and inspired by the solidarity our communities and our movements are capable of. i'm grateful and feel incredibly lucky, but to quote albert einstein:

for the most part, i do the thing which my own nature prompts me to do. it is embarrassing to earn so much respect and love for it.

women, the police, and international days

ok, i've re-sent this blog post twice through the mail and have waited over three weeks for it to arrive. it still hasn't arrived. here it is, dictated over the phone.

this post is going to be a bit of a downer, so i wrote myself a reminder to start it on a happy note. now what can i write about that's happy? i wondered, and immediately a whole lot of things came to mind – which made me realize that i am obviously doing pretty well. so while there are some honourable mentions- the bird making a nest above the light in the yard, the amazing book i just finished, the great visits i've had and have been looking forward to – the best thing of all is that two full months into my sentence i'm still feeling quite positive about this whole situation. In the words of a friend who knows what it's like - i appear to be winning at jail.

and now on to the important things.

thursday march 8th was International Women's Day. the newspaper was full of articles about how women are/aren't/could be doing better at gaining access to the corporate/government halls of power in canada, and how various charitable and/or development programs are helping to empower women in the majority world. without even going into the criticisms (of which there are many) of these approaches to gender equality, i doubt that they mean much to the women i've met here over the past two months. to illustrate, here are a few things that have been shared with me:

“I shouldn't be here, I need to be in a treatment centre. I didn't even do anything but to go through drug diversion court you have to plead guilty. Anyway there is nobody to bail me out and i can't sit here for months waiting for trial. It's fucked – the paedophiles get bail while the people they made into addicts have to sit in here.”

“The cops just brought me in because they hate my boyfriend and think that i will rat him out. They don't even have anything on me. That's what they do.” i hear this a lot.

“When you're poor, especially if you are struggling with drugs, there is nowhere you can go for help because as soon as you ask for help children's aid gets called in. We're scared to leave our kids when all we need is a little help.”

“They really need to fix these domestic assault laws. The guys are free to go around beating the shit out of whoever they want, and the women get stuck here and can't get out because they defended themselves.” i hear this a lot too, and i see the bruises and black eyes.

and speaking of bruises and black eyes, thurs. march 15th was the International Day Against Police Brutality. i asked an inmate who once told me a horrifying story, while we were doing laps of the range, if she would be interested in sharing it with you. she said yes and wrote this next part.

Cruelty At It's Best

who can we trust if we can't trust our own police?

Growing up as a little girl my parents always told me “if you are ever in trouble go to the police. They are there to help you.” Are they really? Why is it when I got in trouble and my charges came about, Peel Police officers thought it was okay to slap me in my head, push me around and call me many horrible names while they had me in a room questioning me?

On March 15th, ironically, three years ago Peel Police officers pulled over a taxi cab that just so happened to have the father of my son, 29 year old Jermaine Scott, in the back seat bleeding from two knife wounds and on his way to the hospital. They proceeded to yank him out of the taxi where his best friend was applying pressure to the wound, and to leave him on the side of the road to bleed to death. The officers refused to help him, saying they did not have any gloves. They would not allow his friend to continue to apply pressure because they felt it was more important to question them and wait on an ambulance than to help a dying man or let him proceed on to the hospital in the taxi. I often wonder, if Jermaine were white would he have gotten the same treatment? I believe that because he was known to Mississauga police they looked at it as one less bad nigger on the street.

My twelve year old son lost his daddy on that day, all because these men who are supposed to serve and protect us, decided it was better to let a man lie there to bleed out on the side walk and die, than to help him. If that is not a case of brutality then I am not sure what is. One thing I do know for sure is my little boy does not know who to call when he is in trouble because he does not trust the police. How can a little boy trust the same men who just stood by and watched his Daddy die?

Jermaine and myself are far from perfect, but did we deserve this kind of treatment from the very people who are paid to help us? I don't think so. Someone is gone forever due to negligence and police brutality. It needs to end and it needs to end right now.

Always remembered, never forgotten.

Sincerely,

Jodie Burke

two other people heard about this post and wanted to write about their own experiences at the hands of the police, but they are involved in the complaints process and didn't want to jeopardize it. I have no doubt that if id' asked around there would be many more stories – after all, the criminal “justice” system and police brutality affect the same targeted communities.

well, i started this post on a happy note and i am going to end on one: peter has been released! half of the “guilty” G20 Main Conspiracy group are free (well, freer anyway) and soon enough we all will be. :)

1 Apr - After ALF Action, New Bill Targets Stockyard Arsons

After the Animal Liberation Front set 14 trucks on fire at the Harris Ranch stockyards in January, Senator Anthony Cannella introduced Senate Bill 1302, which would give prosecutors the power to file aggravated arson charges — rather than simple arson — for arsons of animal abuser’s property.

MORE:

Damages in the January arson was estimated at \$2 million. In a communique, the Animal Liberation Front took credit.

Under existing state law, a person is guilty of aggravated arson if they intentionally set a fire with the intent to hurt or kill somebody, or that causes losses in excess of \$6.5 million. Although the ALF adheres to a strict code of not injuring human or non-human life, the law would put Animal Liberation Front actions in the same legal category as those who set fires with the intent to kill.

This continues the post-9-11 trend of characterizing activists who damage property or rescue animals as terrorists, and assigning false motives to those whose only intention is to save animals.

The legislation was reportedly introduced at the request of the dairy industry.

The proposed law specifically targets fires which are set at stockyards. In passed, any fire set “with the intent to disrupt the commercial operations of a feedlot or livestock salesyard,” and causes in excess of \$100,000 in damage, will qualify as aggravated arson.

The difference between arson and aggravated arson are the prison sentences for anyone arrested. Someone convicted of aggravated arson can face a possible sentence of 10 years to life. Simple arson involving property has a range of prison time between 16 months and three years.

The bill comes in response to the January arson in which incendiary devices were placed under 14 trucks at Harris Ranch, a large stockyard located on I-5 in the California central valley.

In undefeatable logic, the senator who authored the bill stated this about the Animal Liberation Front: “They purposely act to try to disrupt the flow of food to these animals, which is animal cruelty.”

2 Apr - Dick Hill and Gene Johns, Six Nations Land Defenders, Statement to the Court

Dick Hill and Gene Johns, Rotiskenekete of Six Nations of the Grand River, were charged with mischief in relation to housing developments protected by an injunction granted to the City of Brantford. They were both arrested and released by the Brantford Police on conditions preventing them from going within 1.5 kilometers of any “land claim protest.” Through a year long Charter challenge, they fought that condition and Justice K.G. Lenz reduced the zone to 100m. In a criminal justice system that would silence Onkwehonwe (native) voices, these are their words.

MORE:

Today, we are telling the court that – yes, we attended at development sites and caused a delay in construction. We appreciate that a judge will find us “guilty” of mischief under Canadian law. At the end of this long court process, we are affirmed that there is no justice.

When a Canadian judge recognizes that there is development happening on treaty land and there has been no negotiation or consultation prior to shovels in the ground, we are the criminals for attending at the site and demanding pause to allow for some discussion to occur with Six Nations? This is not justice. This is more of the same. This is the reason why Onkwehonwe people cannot trust the police, the courts or the Canadian governments.

Our experience shows us that we cannot trust the words offered to Onkwehone people. Stephen Harper’s Apology on behalf of Canadians for the Indian Residential Schools system, Canada’s commitment to United

Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – these are recent examples of words that fly in the face of how the government is actually treating our people.

We hear these words spoken in court – that the “honour of the Crown” is always at stake when dealing with Onkwehonwe people. Treaties were made because the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) chose to be Allies with the Crown. The City of Brantford, the Province and Canada behave like these treaties never happened. In our case, the judge recognized that no negotiations or consultations have occurred on any of the sites listed in the City of Brantford’s injunction. Every one of these sites has been recognized by the federal government as part of a legitimate “land claim” and the jurisdiction, ownership and interests in the land is unsettled. No reconciliation, no benefit or consideration whatsoever to Six Nations – only arrest, jail and the appalling experience of being prosecuted in a criminal court. Where is the honour in this?

We know directly from City officials, including former councillor James Calnan and sitting Mayor Chris Friel, that the City of Brantford has a strategy to use criminal law to stop any Onkwehonwe protests. That strategy, developed with the direct participation of the Brantford Police Service, came to a head with bail conditions preventing anyone who was arrested from coming within 1.5 kilometres of any “land development site...in which a land claim protest is taking place”. You forced us to go into a Canadian court to have this condition challenged knowing that your side is chewing up the land with no regard for treaties, no good faith efforts at negotiations and consultation, and no options for us but to sit back and watch the land destroyed.

When Canada and Ontario play games instead of negotiate in good faith, when our land and our future is bargained away without the slightest courtesy to our inherent rights – what options are we left with?

In our lifetimes, we have seen the size of Brantford double and Caledonia grow from a bunch of houses on the river. Despite the fact of our treaties, this development goes ahead without any involvement from Six Nations. Canadian law says that there must be negotiation to settle the long-standing issues and consultation before anything. Who holds Canada accountable for failing to live up to their legal promises? No one.

There is no justice for us in any Canadian court, only towers of lawyers and bottomless pockets ready to use the club of Canadian law to continue your assumed jurisdiction over our land and our people.

We have no voice in the Canadian criminal justice system; we could sit in court talking until we are blue in the face but no one is listening because the Onkwehonwe voice does not fit into Canadian law. Growing up native is about looking over your shoulder because a justice system says “we are going to getcha”.

We are not against development, we are against the all out attack on our children and the future of our people as we get more and more land-locked on the “reserve”. As Haudenosaunee men, we live by our responsibilities under the Kaianereh’ko:wa (Great Law of Peace) and we understand what needs to be done. We will protect this land until such time that the sun does not shine, the rivers do not flow and the grass grows no longer. There is no judge, no court that will ever stop us from doing our duty to our people and the Creator.

2 Apr – Roger Clement Denied Parole

Roger Clement, the only person convicted for participation in the 2010 firebombing of a Royal Bank Branch in Ottawa, has been denied day parole.

MORE:

He was hoping to be released into a half-way house in Ottawa in early April. It is now likely that he will be released in early 2013. Please write him, let him know that he isn’t alone or forgotten, and that there are lots of people who support him. Let the authorities know that we haven’t forgotten him, and that we care about him and how he is treated.

You can write to Roger at:

Joseph Roger Clement (FPS-666866F)
Pittsburgh Institution

Highway 15, No. 3766
Post Office Box 4510
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 5E5

2 Apr - Herman Bell Again Denied Parole

For the fifth time, political prisoner Herman Bell has been denied parole.

MORE:

Despite an unblemished institutional record for nearly 40 years, a viable release plan and even support for release from the family of one of the deceased officers, the panel rejected release as “incompatible with the welfare of society” because it “would deprecate the seriousness of the offense.”

The three-person (two white, one Black) panel consisted of a former prosecutor, a former police detective and a victims’ rights advocate.

Herman is of course disappointed but is otherwise in good spirits. He plans to appeal the decision. Most importantly, he thanks all those who supported his release and urges everyone to support parole release for New York State PPs Jalil Muntaquin and Robert Seth Hayes both of whom go before the Board in June 2012.

2 Apr - Judge orders testing of evidence in Judi Bari bombing

Almost 22 years after Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were car-bombed during a campaign to save old-growth trees, a federal judge has ordered the FBI to turn over evidence from the bombing for forensic testing.

MORE:

In an order dated last Friday but released Monday, Claudia Wilken, United States district judge of the Northern District of California, affirmed a March 21, 2011, order by Magistrate Judge James Larson, directing the United States, through the FBI, to turn over the remnants of two pipe bombs, cardboard signs and other evidence connected to the bombing. The items have never been tested for [DNA](#) evidence or other identifying characteristics that could provide leads in the bombing case, which has never been solved. The items have been in FBI possession since the bombing two decades ago.

“I predict that we are going to solve the case as to who bombed Judi Bari this year, and this court ruling takes us one giant step closer,” said Cherney. He is currently screening his new [documentary film](#) about the case, “Who Bombed Judi Bari?,” which premiered March 2 and played last week in Santa Monica.

On May 24, 1990, Bari and Cherney were gearing up for a campaign that came to be called Redwood Summer, which brought thousands of activists to the timberlands of Northern California to slow the clear-cutting of commercial forests and to protect a few last stands of old-growth trees, some of which were thousands of years old. As they drove through Oakland en route to a Santa Cruz rally that day, a powerful bomb exploded directly under Bari’s seat in her Subaru wagon, leaving Cherney injured and Bari seriously wounded.

Her pelvis shattered and spinal cord damaged, Bari woke up in the hospital to find that she and Cherney were also under arrest for carrying explosives – essentially, for bombing themselves. Despite a steady stream of statements released to the press by the FBI and Oakland Police Department about the wealth of evidence leading to this conclusion, those charges were never filed. Cherney and Bari, a single mother of two young girls, filed a civil rights case against the FBI and Oakland police in 1991.

The pair won their case in 2002 and were awarded a judgment of \$4.4 million for false arrest and violation of their 1st Amendment rights. Bari died of [breast cancer](#) in 1997.

Speaking about the order released Monday, Ben Rosenfeld, who helped litigate the 2002 case, said, “It’s historic, it’s momentous, it means we have a real chance to find an answer to this attempted murder of Judi and Darryl.”

Authorities never made any search for the real bomber. Police and federal law enforcement told the press in 1990 that they refused to look at suspects other than Bari and Cherney, and when charges were not forthcoming the case essentially went cold. The two pipe bombs – the one from Bari’s car and another that was laid at a lumber mill in Cloverdale a week or so earlier that failed to go off, and which all investigators agreed was made by the same bomber – were put in storage, along with a hand-lettered sign left at the Cloverdale mill.

Cherney, Rosenfeld and others point out that the bombs were wrapped in as much as 6 feet of duct tape, and that a hair or skin cell left on those materials could be an important break.

“The Cloverdale bomb barely exploded; it duded more than it detonated. So it remains mostly intact,” said Rosenfeld. “And bombers didn’t know to cover their DNA tracks back then the way they do today. So there is potentially a wealth of DNA and other forensic evidence associated with those materials. And if anybody still harbored any doubt that the government has no intention of finding out who bombed Judi Bari, and worse, that they’re trying to cover that up, the fact that they’re out to destroy this evidence without ever testing it lays those doubts to rest.”

The recent twists in the case began in September 2010 when the FBI announced, as required by law, that it would be destroying this evidence. Two judges have now intervened, both ordering the testing to be done, but the wrangling might not be over yet. Cherney and his attorneys must now present the judge with a plan to bring the materials to a suitable lab, and then the U.S. attorney on the case has 14 days to file any objections.

3 Apr – Sekou Odinga in Keep Lock

We received a note from Sekou Odinga’s partner that he’s been put in keep lock. We’ve pasted the important part below and will keep folks updated as we learn more.

MORE:

Some time during the week preceding March 10th, Sekou was called down to medical. He was down there for a while waiting, while several brothers came in after him and were seen before him.

He approached the booth to ask the c.o. why he was there, and the officers yelled for him to get away from the window. Sekou simply replied, i have a right to know why i am here; i may not want to stay. The c.o. repeated his demand that Sekou get away from the window, when the 2nd officer, who was in the booth, answered Sekou's question, letting him know he was there for vision.

Sekou returned to his seat ... The hostile officer was visibly perturbed that the other officer saw the ridiculousness of the exchange, and answered Sekou's simple question. the next day, Sekou received a Tier 2 ticket for several charges; amongst them was failure to obey a direct order.

This exchange took place in front of witnesses who testified on Sekou's behalf. This pissed the officer off, but it resulted in all the other charges being dismissed.

The hearing officer gave him the harshest penalty he could: 30 days in keep lock, which he will complete on april 18th.

Write to Sekou and let him know he has our support!

3 Apr - Pennsylvania Supreme Court Denies Jamal Petition

On Monday, March 26, 2012 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court rejected Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal of his capital murder conviction.

MORE:

With a one-page Order, the Supreme Court agreed with a lower court decision denying, without a hearing, Mr. Abu-Jamal's claim that a 2009 report by the National Academy of Science -- exposing serious flaws in forensic

evidence routinely introduced in criminal trials -- demonstrated that the forensic evidence relied upon by the Philadelphia County District Attorney's Office in its 1982 prosecution of Mr. Abu-Jamal was unreliable. Because the forensic evidence that was presented at Mumia's trial was untrustworthy and because reliable and potentially exculpatory forensic evidence was never secured or presented by the state, the accuracy of the jury's first degree murder conviction is seriously undermined.

Although this decision concludes all of Mr. Abu-Jamal's pending appeals, the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. and Prof. Judy Ritter are actively researching and investigating all options for future legal challenges to Mr. Abu-Jamal's conviction.

4 Apr – Please Help Find Daniel McGowan a Job

Daniel McGowan has an out date! He's heading to a halfway house in mid-December 2012 and will need a job. We've pasted the call from his support crew below.

MORE:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In a nice change of pace from the usual tenor of our communications, we are happy to report some really good news: **Daniel McGowan's stay in the CMU is coming to an end!** Despite many punitive measures over the course of the years, Daniel has maintained a sterling record in prison and has accrued enough "good time" to take 1 year off his 7-year sentence. What is even more exciting is that **he has qualified to serve the last 6-months of this time in a halfway house in Brooklyn, beginning in December 2012!** After so many years, and so much antagonism from Federal authorities, we are overjoyed to welcome Daniel back home, where he belongs.

The support you all have shown over these past 5 years has helped Daniel get through what are undoubtedly the hardest years of his life. Now that he is on the verge of rejoining us, the focus of support for the Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan is in assisting him in his re-entry and securing him meaningful employment. Not only is finding a job an important condition of Daniel's being in the half-way house — in addition to his supervised release once he is done with his sentence — but it is also extremely important to Daniel himself, who joins thousands of other ex-prisoners who struggle to find employment because of their prior records.

Lots of people are looking for work these days, and it's a daunting task for anyone. However, while Daniel is as highly-motivated and hard-working as many others seeking employment, it is obvious that he faces serious hurdles in getting a job because of his conviction. Daniel is a warm, intelligent, passionate, and dedicated person and he would love to find employment at a place that is doing work he cares about and finds meaningful. Over the years many of you have asked how you can help — **helping Daniel find such a job would be the most important thing you could ever do for him.**

In addition to having a Bachelor's degree, Daniel completed a paralegal course as well as every continuing education and vocational course available (over 25!) while in prison despite limited opportunities for education, as well as frequent moves. He is extremely driven and has a broad skill-set that he is looking to utilize at a NYC-based, non-profit organization. Much of Daniel's career experience from 1997 onward is within the non-profit world. He has ample experience in development/fundraising, communication and IT positions. He has a particular interest in working as a paralegal for civil liberties organizations but would welcome and appreciate work in any of these fields/areas:

- *Civil liberties/Free speech
- *Social justice
- *Prison reform
- *Food justice/security
- *Urban agriculture

- *Recycling
- *Reproductive rights
- *LGBT issues
- *Anti-war
- *Climate change
- *Harm reduction/Drug policy
- *Prisoner re-entry
- * "Green-collar"
- *Alternative energy
- *Legal
- *Sustainable transport
- *Environmental justice
- *Domestic violence

If you work for a NYC-based non-profit, have a close friend, partner or contact at one, or have a specific organization in mind that might be open to hiring Daniel, we'd love to hear from you!

All emails can be directed to friendsofdanielmcg@yahoo.com. Please put "jobs" in the subject line.

His resume will be made available upon request.

Thanks and please spread the word!! <http://supportdaniel.org/blog/?p=43>

5 Apr - Sundiata Acoli Wins Appeal and is Up for Parole Again

Attorney Bruce Afran's appeal of Sundiata Acoli's parole-denial and 10 year hit resulted in the New Jersey Appellate Court's remand to the NJ Parole Board that its 10 year hit be cut to 2 years.

MORE:

It was done and Sundiata has become immediately eligible for a parole hearing again. The Appellate Court must still rule on Sundiata's 2010 denial of parole but meanwhile he's preparing to go before the parole board again for his newly won 2012 parole hearing. In that regard he would greatly appreciate any and all letters sent to the parole board urging that he be released.

Sundiata is 75 years of age and has been in prison 39 years resulting from a stop of his car by state troopers on the NJ Turnpike in 1973, which erupted in gunfire that resulted in the death of his passenger, Zayd Shakur, and a state trooper, Werner Foerster. The other passenger, Assata Shakur, was critically wounded and captured on the scene where another trooper, James Harper, was also wounded. Sundiata was wounded at the scene, captured in the woods 40 hours later and subsequently sentenced to life in NJ State prison.

Sundiata is now the longest held prisoner in New Jersey's history of similar convictions. He has maintained an outstanding record in prison and has had only a few minor disciplinary reports over the past 30 years and none during the last 16 years. He's also maintained an excellent work and scholastic record and has always been a positive influence in prison, particularly in mentoring prisoners toward becoming crime-free benefactors to the community upon return to society and thereby break their cycle of recidivism.

Sundiata is a 75 year old grandfather who has long been rehabilitated, has long satisfied all requirements for parole and has no or "little likelihood of committing another crime:" which is the main criterion for parole in New Jersey. Sundiata is an old man, in declining health, who wishes to live out the rest of his days in peace tending his grandchildren.

Send letters urging the board that "39 years is enough! Release Sundiata Acoli! NJ #54859/Fed #39794-066"
Address the INSIDE LETTER to: The New Jersey State Parole Board, P.O. Box 862, Trenton NJ 08625, BUT

ADDRESS/MAIL THE ENVELOPE TO:

Florence Morgan, Esq.
120-46 Queens Boulevard
Queens, New York 11415

The letter will be forwarded to the parole board after a copy is made for SAFC files.

Thank you for your support. Please keep in touch with SundiataAcoli.org at The Sundiata Acoli Freedom Page to stay abreast of Sundiata's parole situation and additional ways you can express support/solidarity with his parole effort. Sundiata and his Freedom Campaign, SAFC, send their sincerest condolences to the family and comrades of Christian Gomez, the prisoner who died in the California Prisoner's Hunger Strike - and we send our warmest shout out of solidarity and strength to all those participating in or supporting the California Prisoner's Hunger Strike.

5 Apr - May Parole Hearing for Hugo Pinell, in Solitary for 42 Years

Hugo "Yogi Bear" Pinell, the last of the San Quentin Six behind bars, has been in solitary confinement (San Quentin, Folsom, Corcoran) for at least 42 years, the last 22 in Pelican Bay. A new parole hearing has been scheduled for May 2012, at which Yogi anticipates a 15-year hit.

MORE:

He was 19 when incarcerated in 1964 -- in prison 48 years altogether, in solitary confinement at least 42, despite 32 years of clean time (no write-ups). He would return to Board in 2027 at age 82! In November 2008, voters passed Proposition 9, under which people serving indeterminate life sentences could be denied parole and another parole hearing for 3 to 15 years, instead of the established 1 to 5.

Prop 9 argued that people convicted of serious crimes were being released from prison too frequently. This simply is not the case. About 30,000 people were serving life sentences, and about 4,000 applied each year to appear before a two-member panel for a parole recommendation. Less than one percent received release dates in a given year. In 2006, e.g., only 23 lifers were granted parole, less than 0.5 percent of those eligible for release.

The California Parole Board held a hearing for Hugo Pinell (Yogi Bear) on January 14, 2009, at which they denied him parole and scheduled him to return to the board in 15 years! However, since Prop 9 wasn't in effect in 2009 when his hearing was scheduled and postponed, the decision had to be rescinded.

A new parole hearing has been scheduled for May 2012, at which Yogi anticipates a 15-year hit. If this happens, he would return to Board in 2027 at age 82!

Hugo Pinell has been in Pelican Bay SHU -- no windows or natural light, very restricted possessions, no phone calls, 24/7 lockup unless permitted to exercise alone for an hour in an outdoor enclosure; no-contact visits of less than an hour only on weekends or holidays.

Pelican Bay is isolated in the Northwest corner of California, a very long trip by car (the only means). His mother, in her 80s with health problems has continued to make that long trip to visit her son, now 67 years old. Can you even imagine not being able to hug your own son for over four decades?

Yogi has been in solitary confinement (San Quentin, Folsom, Corcoran) for at least 42 years, the last 22 in PBSHU. He was 19 when incarcerated in 1964 -- in prison 48 years altogether, in solitary confinement at least 42, despite 32 years of clean time (no write-ups).

Yogi earned the enmity of the prison officials back in the 1960s when he was part of the "Black Movement" behind California prison walls led by George L. Jackson, W. L. Nolen, and many other conscious, standup brothers who made it safe for Blacks to walk the yards of California's extremely racist gulags.

On August 21, 1971, in what has been deemed a setup, Soledad Brother George Jackson was murdered on the yard of San Quentin by prison guards. During this orchestrated escape attempt, however, three guards were also killed, along with two inmate “trustees.” This set the prison officials on fire and they’ve been exacting revenge ever since on Hugo Pinell (Yogi), the only defendant in the “San Quentin Six” case still in prison. The only defendant convicted of murder in the case, Johnny Spain, was released in 1988.

Clearly Yogi is a political prisoner although the U.S. rarely if ever admits to holding any political prisoners. Our revolutionary hero is still strong of mind and body, has maintained his health with a strictly vegetarian diet and a grueling exercise program. His character and personality are evident in the following missive to Terry Collins (reprinted in full at the end of this article).

Please write letters to Editors, to Governor Jerry Brown, the Parole Board, and anyone else who might influence the Board to make a humane decision to stop this senseless ongoing torture of Hugo Pinell.

7 Apr - Dynamite in Omaha Two case kept in Iowa shed by detective Jack Swanson

Omaha detective Jack Swanson controlled a secret dynamite depot in rural Iowa. This revelation adds another layer to the overwhelming body of evidence suggesting that the Nebraska Two, Ed Poindexter and Mondo We Langa, have been framed as a part of the United States governments COINTELPRO.

MORE:

Standard Omaha Police Department practice is to log evidence into the property room where it is stored in a secure manner and any transfer is recorded. Such protocol is necessary to establish a chain of evidence that will hold up in court.

However, those standard procedures were ignored in the [Omaha Two](#) case with the critical dynamite evidence. More importantly, the chain of evidence was also breached in another case involving three men arrested in possession of dynamite.

The Omaha Two, [Ed Poindexter](#) and [Mondo we Langa](#) (formerly David Rice), were leaders of a Black Panther affiliate chapter in the summer of 1970 and were personal targets of J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hoover had declared war on the Black Panthers and directed a huge, clandestine counterintelligence operation nationwide code-named [COINTELPRO](#).

Hoover had taken an interest in the Omaha Two because Paul Young, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Omaha FBI office, had not met his quota of COINTELPRO actions to “disrupt” the Black Panthers. Hoover had pressured Young for results.

On August 17, 1970, an anonymous 911 caller lured police to a vacant house where a bomb waited taking the life of Patrolman Larry D. Minard, Sr. and injuring seven other officers.

Hoover gave an order to withhold a report requested of the FBI crime laboratory on the identity of the 911 caller in order to make a case against Poindexter and Mondo we Langa.

A search was conducted of Mondo’s house and Sgt. Jack Swanson claimed to have found dynamite in the basement, a purported discovery that another Omaha police sergeant, Robert Pfeffer, now claims he made instead of Swanson. The first time the dynamite showed up in a police evidence photo was on a table in police headquarters and not at Mondo’s house.

Supporters of the Omaha Two have accused Swanson, now dead, of planting the explosives but have been unable to explain where Swanson, who continued to be promoted until he became Chief of Police, got the dynamite. Marvin McClarty, a policeman on duty that night assigned outside Mondo’s house, said the search was conducted in an unusual manner. McClarty said in a filmed interview, “To this day, I still believe it was planted in that house.”

“I was on duty; we saw them bringing items out of the house. The thing that was so striking to me and those two officers I was with was the fact the police had blocked off 29th to 30th on Parker Street, and they blocked that off to vehicular traffic and to pedestrian traffic. Then they said they found something in the house. To me and the other police officers, the first thing that strikes you that maybe something is wrong here because of the way that the search was conducted.”

A little known supplementary report by Swanson on August 23, 1970, written at 6:00 p.m. on a Sunday evening, reveals that Swanson stored the dynamite, he claimed to have found, at a shed in rural Iowa near Council Bluffs instead of the police property room. Swanson disclosed he also stored the dynamite from another case in his unorthodox evidence locker, outside the official chain of custody.

“On Sunday 23 August 70 at 1600, I along with Sgt. VOLCEK, transported this Dynamite to the home of RANNEY, Joe Jr., who lives on R.R. #4 west of Council Bluffs, Iowa. RANNEY is currently storing the other dynamite we have recovered, and he is to keep all of it together, in case of future court needs.”

Swanson was in charge of dynamite seized on July 28, 1970, from Conway Gray, Lamont Mitchell, and Luther Payne who all still remained in jail. The three men were arrested with stolen dynamite traced to a Des Moines, Iowa theft from Quick Supply Co. There were no news media reports of the arrest of the trio in Omaha and there are conflicting police statements on the amount of dynamite seized.

The Quick Supply stolen dynamite was not mentioned to the Omaha Two jury. The only public accounting of the dynamite under Swanson’s control was in Congressional testimony. Captain Murdock Platner testified to the House Committee on Internal Security on October 6, 1970. Platner discussed the trio with stolen dynamite, “We eventually did buy about 60 sticks of dynamite from them.”

Platner made another trip to Washington, D.C. a week later and testified to a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee but by then the amount of dynamite shrunk to 51 sticks. A police informer bought ten sticks before the squad cars closed in on the vehicle the three men were in. Platner told the Senate subcommittee, “In their possession they had 41 sticks of this same type of dynamite.”

An accounting of the explosives Swanson had stashed in his dynamite depot might have come from the trial of the three men caught red-handed with the dynamite but the men kept quiet and had their charges all dismissed shortly after the conclusion of the Omaha Two trial.

With Swanson controlling access to an unspecified amount of dynamite stored in a cache on private property in rural Council Bluffs, the charge that Swanson planted dynamite in Mondo’s basement cannot be ruled out. Swanson was the detective heading the police intelligence unit and had been working closely with the FBI on surveillance of the Black Panthers, sharing information with agents assigned COINTELPRO duties.

Before his death Swanson was interviewed by a British film crew making a documentary about the case. Swanson stumbled over his words giving a confusing contradiction of his own trial testimony:

“I was there, I found it. I didn’t personally discover it but I was there when it was discovered and went right to where it was. It was there.”

Swanson closed his interview with the film crew with a vague and cryptic remark, “I still think we did the right thing.”

J. Edgar Hoover ordered an end to COINTELPRO ten days after the Omaha Two were convicted making them Hoover’s last prosecuted victims. Hoover died in May 1972 without ever acknowledging his role in withholding evidence in the Omaha Two case.

Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa remain imprisoned at the maximum-security Nebraska State Penitentiary serving life sentences. Both men continue to maintain their innocence.

13 Apr - Roses & Bread Women's Poetry & Performance

Resistance in Brooklyn's 17th annual, women and transgender only poetry and performance event is this week. This year's benefit raises money for WORTH, an association of currently and formerly incarcerated women.

MORE:

WHAT: Roses and Bread, featuring Nana Soul

WHEN: 7-9pm, Friday, April 13th

WHERE: The Commons - 388 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, New York

COST: \$10, \$15, \$20 more if you can, less if you can't

To reserve seats and/or confirm childcare, please contact Danielle Jasmine at powerinsisterhood@gmail.com. Dinner will be served.

13 Apr - Come See MACHETERO!

April is Freedom Month for the Pro Libertad campaign to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners. We'll be sending the prisoners cards at the next letter-writing dinner. In the meantime, go see the film "Machetero!" this week.

MORE:

WHAT: Avelino Gonzalez Claudio Film Night

WHEN: 6:30pm, Friday, April 13th

WHERE: Casa de las Americas - 182 East 111th Street

COST: \$10 (suggested donation)

MACHETERO is a meditation on violence as a means toward liberation. Post 9/11 definitions, ideas and notions of terrorism are challenged in this highly controversial and experimental film. Machetero is an allegorical narrative that follows French journalist Jean Dumont, played by Isaach de Bankolé (The Keeper, Ghost Dog, Manderlay, Casino Royale, The Limits Of Control), to a New York prison where he interviews Pedro Taino, a so-called "Puerto Rican Terrorist" played by Not4Prophet (lead singer of the Puerto Punk band RICANSTRUCTION). Pedro is a self-described Machetero fighting to free Puerto Rico from the yoke of United States colonialism. He is obsessed with freedom, freedom for his country, his people and for himself. Jean questions Pedro about his decisions to use violence as a means to achieve that freedom. Jean utilizes a global perspective in questioning Pedro, referencing examples of achieving his goals through more peaceful means. However Jean soon finds that Pedro is well versed in liberation struggles from around the world and their debate over the use of violence as a catalyst for change escalates.

21 Apr - FREEDOM RIDE for the Cuban FIVE to Washington, DC!

WHAT: White House Rally for the Cuban 5

WHEN: 6:00am-11:00pm, Saturday, April 21st

WHERE: Freedom Bus Locations for Participating Boroughs To Be Announced

COST: \$5

MORE:

THE RALLY IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE IS PART OF THE "5 DAYS FOR THE CUBAN 5 IN WASHINGTON DC, INITIATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE CUBAN 5.