

Updates for October 25th

6 Oct – Bradley Manning Tops "The Guardian" Poll for Nobel Peace Prize

According to a reader's poll taken by UK newspaper "The Guardian," Bradley Manning tops the field of desirable candidates for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

MORE:

Private [Bradley Manning](#) should win the [Nobel peace prize](#), according to our readers.

Following a poll in which we asked readers to vote [from a selection of main contenders](#), the US soldier accused of leaking more than 250,000 secret diplomatic cables to [Julian Assange's](#) WikiLeaks received almost 40% of the votes, relegating Assange himself to second place.

Manning, who has spent the past sixteen months in custody, received just under 2,500 votes in our poll. Assange received the support of over 1,000 voters, while Burman political activist Aung San Suu Kyi, was in third place, with 11.3% of the votes. The winner of the Nobel peace prize will be announced tomorrow.

Readers were invited to share the reason for their choices in the comments section, and were also encouraged to nominate candidates that did not appear on the list of main contenders.

alaysica was one of many who voted for Manning. She wrote:

"If Bradley Manning is responsible for allowing the world to see the shennanigans that have been going on in the name of western democracy and responsible government , then he must be the first on the list. Those "shennanigans" include horrifying acts of murder and torture . (and it is an IF, because this young man has STILL not received a trial after nearly a year and a half of imprisonment in the US in conditions suspected to be those considered worldwide as torture.

He is one of those men and women who tried to show the ordinary people of the world the truth of what is done in their name.

He should receive the Prize for having suffered torture and imprisonment without trial for trying to show the world the truth, irrespective of personal risk.

SteB1 added:

Aung San Suu Kyi is probably the most deserving conventional candidate. However, I think the selection of Bradley Manning would have the greatest impact on changing things for the better. The US has lost it's moral compass, and the US diplomatic cable releases did more than anything to expose the hypocrisy and sham of their moral position.

richard1980 had this view:

No to giving it to Assange. If you must reward Wikileaks and the impact they've had then give it to Bradley Manning. He's the one who did everything and crucially he is the one paying the cost. Assange's ego does not need further inflating. Manning and his actions though need to be remembered and praised.

Snusmumriken felt Aung San Suu Kyi would be a more productive choice:

I think Aung San Suu Kyi. Her release and the recent scrapping of the dam project in Burma indicates that there may be some readiness, however small, for the Burmese government to start listening to the wishes of its people. it is therefore a crucial time to remind the junta that the world is still watching and still cares and supports the cause of democracy and freedom for Burma.

Clunie explained her choice of Israa Abdel-Fatah, who received 1.9% of the votes:

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I think they're all exceptional, but I voted for Israa Abdel-Fatah because she's an ordinary person who very literally risked her life to help change (or take a step towards changing) her country's history. Also, she'd be a great inspiration to other women in the Middle East who still face daunting barriers beyond the usual, as well as showing that you don't need to be an academic, politician, campaigner or high-up official to help overthrow a tyrant.

Finally, **Abhinav** used the comments section to offer this alternative suggestion:

I would vote for a posthumous award to Mohamed Bouazizi, the man who set himself on fire in Tunisia and sparked the biggest non-violent freedom struggle in recent times.

7 Oct – Jalil Muntaqim: When Food Becomes A Weapon

Supporters of Black Panther political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim have posted his latest blog entry and we've pasted it below.

MORE:

Over the last several decades, governments have used food as a bargaining chip to secure power and authority. They have stored food, they have subsidized farmers, telling them what to grow or destroy, and they have set tariffs inflating the price and expense of food. Governments have used food as a weapon to determine who will be fed and who will starve. There is no greater example than how many sub-Saharan African peoples suffer at the hands of Western nations' control and genetic engineering of agriculture seeds subject to African governments' adherence to Western style democratic demands of governance. While here in the U.S. farmers are told what and when to plant a crop, or how many cattle to bring to the market in order to influence and control the commodity markets. As a political and economic weapon, those who control food dictate the course of humanity.

But what is to be said of those who forego the taking of food, who voluntarily deprive themselves of food? They are also using food as a weapon. Not a weapon of government aggression, control or oppression. Rather, for them food becomes a reminder to the rich and powerful of their oppression and greed. It speaks to avarice and corruption. So is the course of the California prisoners' hunger strike originating at the Pelican Bay Special Housing Units.

The hunger strikers are taking the power into their own hands and defining how food will be used as a tool of salvation and liberation. I remember in the 1980's myself and 5 other prisoners in Comstock, New York prison went on an 11-day hunger strike to change conditions in its Special Housing Unit. After 7 days on nothing but water, we were moved to the hospital for observation. When the prison authorities saw we were serious, they relented and ensured that our demands for changes in the conditions in Comstock SHU would be met. It was our unity and steadfastness that served to inform and instruct prison authorities that they had taken everything they possibly could from us except our human dignity. When we collectively decided not to take in food, it became our weapon to fight back.

The Pelican Bay and California prisoner hunger strikers must be supported in every conceivable way possible to ensure their sacrifice is not in vain. They must be empowered by California political activists to demand the government stop using food as a weapon in the SHU's to maintain prison authorities' capacity to oppress and repress prisoners' humanity. While I am not in a position to instruct California activists on how to support the prisoner hunger strikers, it is obvious California prison authorities are irreconcilable to the demands of the prisoner strikers. Hence, the California activist supporters must be just as resolute; in fact, they must become more adamant in exposing the lies, alibis and excuses of prison authorities for not recognizing their own inhumane treatment into a formidable anti-racist prisoner support movement, supporting the prisoner hunger strikers, ensuring their demands are granted.

There must not be a single prisoner's death as a result of this protest. Which ultimately means that time is the enemy of the prisoner hunger strikers and California activists. These activists must become extremely vocal,

establish a constant presence in numbers, and be adherent in principle to the demands of the prisoner hunger strikers.

In closing, permit me to say to all California activists in support of the Pelican Bay hunger strikers, here, food is a weapon, and none deserve the right to enjoy any of it for as long as the Pelican Bay hunger strikers suffer and sacrifice. So, let the hunger of freedom swell in your bellies, knowing that with every morsel you will be liberating a prisoner from the racist tyranny of the California Department of Correction.

7 Oct – FBI Investigates Raid on Iowa Mink Ranch, Gets Videotaped in the Process

There has been a LOT of activity by Earth and animal liberationists over the last month. And the federal government has noticed. They've been investigating actions throughout the country and in one example, they were videotaped in the act. Watching the video that is linked to below is useful and Will Potter's analysis (below) is useful regardless of the context.

MORE:

It's not often that we get to see the FBI in action as agents harass activists. This video is of two FBI agents visiting the owner of [Best Place Ever](#), a video store, and questioning him about last night's release of mink from a [fur farm in Jewel, Iowa](#). The agents suspect the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) was behind the raid, and question the man about any communication he may have with former ALF prisoner [Peter Young](#). The FBI is investigating the [mink release as "domestic terrorism."](#)

The video is pretty funny and worth a watch (and kudos to the gentleman at the store for taping it!). But I think it's really important to point out that, if you are ever visited by the FBI, for any reason, the best thing to do is to say absolutely nothing. **Not a little bit, not a sentence or two — nothing.**

I'm not saying this because of what the person in the video says (I actually can't make out anything he says, because it has been dubbed over) but because it is always, without a doubt, the best way to protect your rights and the rights of those in your community. As a lawyer friend of mine noted, anything you say could be twisted against you: "If, for instance, this gentleman said he knew nothing but actually did, they could get him on lying to a federal officer. So, like the overdubbing says, just say you're not interested in talking to them."

<http://youtu.be/ZJzhDwA5CyQ>

7 Oct - Congressional Letter to BOP Regarding the CMUs

On October 7, 2011, Members of Congress wrote to the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) with questions and concerns about the policies and practices at the Communications Management Units (CMUs), and the circumstances under which they were established. Members outlined their concerns regarding the extraordinary communications restrictions, the lack of due process, and the disproportionate number of Muslims in the CMUs in the letter.

MORE:

The letter was signed by Bobby Scott, John Conyers, Jr., Gregory Meeks, Bob Filner, Judy Chu, Keith Ellison, Hank Johnson, Jr., Sheila Jackson Lee, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Dennis Kucinich, and Michael Honda. We've attached a copy of the letter.

10 Oct – Spirit of Freedom October 2011 Out Now

ELP is an international eco-prisoner support network founded, in Britain, in 1993 to support jailed eco-activists. "Spirit of Freedom" is ELP's international monthly prisoner listing which is circulated by e-mail.

MORE:

"The whole experience has been tough, but all the kind and strengthening words and wise thoughts from strangers made it much easier!" (Former Swedish Animal Rights Prisoner)

Welcome to the October 2011 edition of Spirit of Freedom. First off ELP has some good news. The final three British prisoners of the Newchurch Guinea Pig Prisoners, have been released. Jonny Ablewhite, Kerry Whiteburn and John Smith were all sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for conspiracy to blackmail the farmer involved in this trade following a successful campaign which saw the closure of the farm.

Staying with fantastic news on prisoner releases, after nearly 27 years inside, American Ploughshares & eco-activist, Helen Woodson has been released from prison. This is fantastic news and we wish her all the best for her retirement from direct action.

However despite the good news of these release we sadly have a new prisoner, Ali Alishah, a Tasmanian forest defender. Ali was due in court at the end of last month. Can we please ask his supporters to let us have an update on him.

As this brief editorial demonstrates, animal & earth liberation occur around the world. Remember, prisoner support is international. Support all the eco-prisoners wherever they are in the world. And no compromise in defense of Mother Earth!

If anyone notices any of ELP's prisoner details is out of date or we do not list a prisoner who we should list, please let ELP know as soon as possible. ELP is run by a small group of volunteers and although we try to ensure our lists are accurate, we admit we do make mistakes. So help us help keep the lists accurate by letting us know of any changes we need to make.

10 Oct - Two Arrested For Attempted Break-In at Iowa Fur Farm

Likely unrelated to the other Iowa mink ranch raid mentioned above, two alleged animal activists were arrested at Circle K Fur Farm in Sioux City, Iowa, for supposedly trying to break into the place. Initially attempted burglary charges were dismissed and then several days later more serious felony charges were added. We're pasting the three initial articles to give a better picture of what's going on.

Victor Vandoren
Woodbury County Jail
Post Office Box 3083
Sioux City, Iowa 51102

Kellie Marshall
Woodbury County Jail
Post Office Box 3083
Sioux City, Iowa 51102

MORE:

Little information is available, but local media is reporting two “animal activists” have been arrested at a fur farm in Sioux City, Iowa. The arrests were made October 10th, just three days after 1,200 mink were released from the Palmer Erickson fur farm in Jewell, Iowa, approximately 3 hours away.

Arrested were Kellie Marshall, 29, and Victor Vandoren, 24, both of Austin, Texas.

Police captured the pair after they allegedly cut into a fence and “tried to free some of the animals” at the fur farm. Police used a K-9 dog and discovered the two dressed in black. They were charged with 2nd Degree Criminal Mischief, Attempted Burglary and Possession of Burglary Tools.

Although the media has not yet named the farm, I know from personal experience the farm in question is the Circle K Fur Farm. I was charged for the release of 5,000 mink and 100 fox from the same farm in 1998. These are the details of the farm, from [The Blueprint fur farm list](#):

Circle K Fur Farm
3701 Memorial Drive
Sioux City, Iowa 51104
Phone: 712.252.2202
Owner: Steven Krage
Status: Confirmed open, 2009.
Species: Mink & fox.
Notes: Approximately 5,000 mink & 100 fox.

Strangely, the arrests of October 10th have received very little attention in the media (as of this writing), and the event somehow escaped mention in the media entirely until a full three days after the incident.

FIRST UPDATE

In a positive development, attempted burglary charges against two people arrested at an Iowa mink farm last week were inexplicably dropped. Kellie Rose Marshall, 21, and Victor Vanorden, 24, still each face a charge of possession of burglar's tools, a misdemeanor, and a charge of second-degree criminal mischief, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. Vanorden also faces a misdemeanor charge of carrying a weapon.

The pair were arrested at the rear of the farm late on the night of October 10th, where police claim to have found several holes cut in the chicken wire fence. They also claim to have found maps, hiking equipment, police scanners, a machete and more than \$700 cash in a vehicle parked next to a gate behind the property.

The media has been unable to agree on whether any animals were released the night the pair were arrested, with some reports stating a small number of animals had been released but recaptured.

In 1997, approximately 5,000 mink and more than 100 silver foxes were released from the same farm.

SECOND UPDATE: Charges switched to include more serious Felonies

Victor and Kellie had their court hearing this past Thursday (October 20th). The next arraignment has been set for October 31st, where they will make a plea.

As of Thursday, their charges are now ANIMAL FACILITY-DESTRUCT OF PROP/INJURY TO ANIMAL (Class D Felony), BURGLARY 3RD DEGREE (Class D Felony), POSSESSION OF BURGLAR'S TOOLS (Aggravated Misdemeanor), and CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE (Serious Misdemeanor).

Note that in Iowa, a Class D Felony carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a potential fine of \$750 to \$7,500. That means that Victor and Kellie are facing a sentence of approximately 10 years imprisonment due to the two Class D felonies.

Victor has hired a lawyer and Kellie seems to understand the charges against her are pretty serious. The two are each being held in the Woodbury County Jail on \$5,000 bond. Right now they are getting some mixed messages from the bail bondsmen about how they can get out. One said they have to have a local address, the other said someone in Iowa has to put up collateral. Right now this is currently getting figured out, and we'll have more updates once we talk to them later today.

To stay up -to-date, visit <http://supportkellieandvictor.blogspot.com>

11 Oct - Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign Update

Many of you know, after serving over 38 years in prison, former Black Panther member Sundiata Acoli was denied parole for the third time on March 4, 2010. But he was also given a ten year hit by the New Jersey State Parole Board. Last December, an administrative appeal was denied by the New Jersey Parole Board and a letter affirming the denial of Sundiata's parole was received. Sundiata's support committee are now seeking to

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appeal his repeated denial of parole.

MORE:

Considering Sundiata's age and his right to freedom, Sundiata's legal team is focused on pursuing his appellate remedies through the courts, seeking to appeal his repeated denial of parole. His legal team has expanded over the years and currently in the process of raising the 10 thousand dollars needed to file the appeal.

The good news is, the Appellate Court is ready to set a briefing deadline in spite of the State's improper delays and callous disregard for Sundiata's rights. Keep in mind, Sundiata will be 74 years old in January.

People who are interested in the parole and release efforts should contact SAFC @ thesafc@gmail.com to inquire about ways to assist us with this urgent fundraising need. We believe the film, A Power Sun, is important and should be supported. Monies raised on Sundiata's behalf should go towards his appeal. We still believe that he can and will receive his freedom with the right support.

The SAFC is a 501c3 organization. All contributions go directly towards Sundiata's legal fees. Volunteers of SAFC are not paid and do not request or receive any of the contributed funds.

If you would like to write Sundiata please send your letters to:

Clark Squire #39794-066
FCI Otisville
Post Office Box 1000
Otisville, New York 10963-1000

Funds supporting his legal defense can be sent to:

SAFC
c/o Florence Morgan
120-46 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

(Florence Morgan has served as one of Sundiata's legal advisors for over 20 years and is the Chairperson of the New York City Chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers)

Checks and money orders should be made out to The Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign.

11 Oct – Mexican Eco-Prisoners Released!

From the Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, we have some great news. The Mexican eco-prisoners, Fermín Gómez Trejo and Abraham López Martínez, who were both accused of ELF style activity, have been released from prison.

11 Oct – New Sentencing for Mumia Abu-Jamal

The Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from the Philadelphia DA's office in the racially charged case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, bringing an end to nearly thirty years of litigation over the fairness of the sentencing hearing that resulted in his death sentence for the 1981 shooting of a police officer, the Washington Post reports. The case will now return to the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas for final sentencing.

MORE:

While his case has been famous among anti-death penalty activists and social justice advocates for decades, this new development is no doubt even more poignant for many in light of the recent execution of Troy Davis.

Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther, has spent almost 30 years on death row after being convicted in 1982 for killing Daniel Faulkner.

A federal appeals court this year upheld his conviction, but agreed that the jury received the potentially misleading death penalty instructions, and ordered a new sentencing hearing. Because the Supreme Court has left in place that ruling, Abu-Jamal will be now automatically sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole unless the District Attorney seeks another death sentence from a new jury.

The Supreme Court's decision represents the fourth time that a federal court has found that Abu-Jamal's sentencing jury was misled about the constitutionally mandated process for considering evidence supporting a life sentence.

"At long last, the profoundly troubling prospect of Mr. Abu-Jamal facing an execution that was produced by an unfair and unreliable penalty phase has been eliminated," said John Payton, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which, along with Professor Judith Ritter, represents Abu-Jamal. Professor Ritter said, "Our system should never condone an execution that stems from a trial in which the jury was improperly instructed on the law."

US Supreme Court Confirms 3rd Circuit Ruling Lifting Mumia Abu-Jamal's Death Penalty

Here's a prediction: Seth Williams, the district attorney of Philadelphia, will decide not to seek to reimpose the death penalty on Mumia Abu-Jamal, the world-famous journalist, former Black Panther and condemned prisoner who has spent the last almost 30 years of his life on Pennsylvania's overcrowded death row.

The choice belongs to Williams, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has decided, today, on its second time around dealing with the issue, not to overturn the decision of a three-judge panel of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which had, on orders of the Supreme Court, reheard, reconsidered and reaffirmed its earlier decision upholding the tossing out of Abu-Jamal's death sentence by a lower federal district court.

For years since the dramatic 2001 decision by Federal District Judge William Yohn overturning Abu-Jamal's death sentence on grounds that the trial judge's instructions to the jury had been faulty and that the jury verdict form was dangerously misleading, Abu-Jamal has remained stuck in brutal solitary confinement at SCI-Green. That's the super-max facility that houses Pennsylvania's condemned prisoners, where Abu-Jamal and the others who are actually facing death are denied any human contact either with each other or with close relatives and friends (visits are conducted through heavy bullet-proof plexiglass, with the inmate in chains, for no good reason beyond simple gratuitous cruelty, since escape is impossible). He was kept there for the last decade through the machinations of a vindictive DA's office, which argued that as long as the lifting of his death sentence was on appeal, he should have to stay put as if he were facing imminent death.

There remains no reason or lame excuse to keep him in that hell hole now, and he should be immediately moved out.

The only way he could face a death penalty at this point would be if the DA, within the next 180 days, were to order up a new trial on the penalty phase of his case, with a new jury hearing arguments for and against sentencing Abu-Jamal to death all over again for the crime he was convicted of back in 1982: the shooting death of white Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. (There is no easy avenue for appeal of Abu-Jamal's conviction at this point, as all his habeas claims of constitutional violations and trial errors have been rejected by the highest federal courts.)

Already, the wheels are turning against a penalty retrial.

Filmmaker Ted Passon just discovered this footage of the shooting scene in a local ABC Channel 6 archive, with no taxi. Newly discovered film footage of the shooting scene from a local ABC Channel 6 archive. Note the absence of any taxi parked behind Faulkner's squad car (courtesy Ted Passon).

Maureen Faulkner, the widow of Daniel Faulkner, who has been a tireless campaigner for Abu-Jamal's execution, has reportedly told a reporter from the Associated Press, following word of the Supreme Court's decision, that she "wondered whether it was time to end the long-running drama." She is quoted as saying she worries about the cost of a rehearing of the penalty issue to the city of Philadelphia, and notes that "many of the relevant witnesses are dead." Plus she doesn't want to afford Abu-Jamal any more publicity, she says.

What she doesn't say, but what DA Williams surely knows, is that if there were a re-hearing of the penalty phase of this sorry case, there is virtually no way that a modern Philadelphia jury would vote to execute Abu-Jamal. First of all, it would not be possible for the DA, who in any case is himself an African-American for the first time in the city's history, to pack the jury with white people the way the prosecutor did in 1982 (and the way the DA's office routinely did in felony and especially murder trials until 1986, when the despicable practice, tantamount to lynching, was outlawed by the Supreme Court). Furthermore, Abu-Jamal has been a model prisoner for 30 years, earning a Bachelor's and a Master's degree while on death row, writing a number of highly-regarded books, including *Live from Death Row*, which exposes the horrors of a life waiting for death, and of the nation's whole prison industrial complex. And of course, he has served those 30 long years in prison, and still faces a future of life without possibility of parole even if he doesn't face execution. That is bound to seem punishment enough to at least one juror in a panel of 12 honestly selected individuals of the city of Philadelphia, making a unanimous death penalty sentence almost impossible to imagine.

But there is another reason I seriously doubt Williams will retry Abu-Jamal to get the death penalty reimposed: the fear that such a court hearing could lead to a new trial on the conviction itself, which was the result of a trial process which was even more of a travesty, if that is possible, than the portion that led to his death penalty.

This is because in a penalty-phase hearing, in order to refute prosecution claims to a jury that Abu-Jamal didn't just kill Officer Faulkner, but killed him in a way that was wanton and deliberate and even pre-meditated, Abu-Jamal's defense attorneys would certainly bring in witnesses, some from the original trial, and some discovered since that trial, who would raise serious questions about the veracity of the original trial's prosecution witnesses. They could do this because those witnesses were used at the trial to describe not just the supposed shooting, but the vicious manner in which it was supposedly carried out.

Just take the matter of the prosecution's depiction, in closing arguments during the penalty phase of the trial, of an "execution-style" slaying of Faulkner, with witnesses describing Abu-Jamal standing astride the prone Faulkner, who was supposedly lying "on his back," and firing four shots downward almost point blank, hitting the officer once between the eyes.

As my colleague Linn Washington and I prove convincingly in a gun test we ran last year (see the film of our test by scanning down to the bottom of our homepage or go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hedfNPt6UQQ&feature=player_embedded), this story had to have been a fabrication, because three of those shots missed Faulkner, and there is no sign of bullet impacts anywhere in the concrete sidewalk around the bloodstained spot where Faulkner's body was lying. That lack of evidence would raise questions about whether the prime witness describing that certainly brutal slaying story could actually have seen what he told the jury he saw.

The witness in question, a young white taxi driver named Robert Chobert, claimed at the trial that he had parked his taxi directly behind Faulkner's parked squad car. The shooting was said to have occurred on the sidewalk two cars forward of Chobert's taxi, meaning he would have been viewing it diagonally from his seat at the wheel, through at least the front and rear windows of the parked squad car and perhaps the parked VW Beetle belonging to Abu-Jamal's brother Billie Cook, too -- this at night and with Faulkner's dome lights and tail lights flashing in his eyes. But on top of this, there is no crime-scene photo showing Chobert's taxi cab parked behind Faulkner at all, and the likelihood is that he was not even a witness.

Update: Philadelphia filmmaker Ted Passon has just discovered in the archives of local ABC affiliate Channel

Compiled by NYC ABC

6 "Action News" (now donated to Temple University Library's Urban Archive) footage taken of the scene of the Faulkner shooting showing police in the dark early morning hours of Dec. 9, 1981 putting barriers in place around the crime scene. Faulkner's squad car is plainly seen, as is Billy Cook's VW ahead of it, and a Ford sedan ahead of that, but there is no sign of Chobert's taxi, which should be in the foreground parked behind Faulkner's vehicle.

It would also certainly be presented by the defense at any penalty hearing that contrary to the trial prosecutor's assertion to the jury that "this man" (Chobert) had "no reason to lie," he actually had plenty of reason to do so. The original jury, thanks to a biased and clearly ludicrous decision by the trial judge, Albert Sabo, never was informed that Chobert at the time he allegedly parked behind Faulkner's vehicle, and at the time of the trial, was driving on a driver's and a hack's license suspended for a DWI conviction, and that he was on probation for felony arson, for the fire-bombing of an elementary school! Furthermore, it only became known to the defense in 1995 that Chobert had also asked the prosecutor if he might be able to "fix" his driver's license problem (a request that the prosecutor should by law have immediately made known to the defense, and to the court, since even if he did nothing to help Chobert, it meant that Chobert was likely to have been hoping for a reward for testifying favorably for the prosecution).

Of course, this is only one example of the peril posed to the state's case against Abu-Jamal by any public rehearing on his death penalty. There are many, many more such perils, too.

While on the one hand, it is surely a relief--and a victory for Abu-Jamal and his supporters -- that this atrocity of a case will almost certainly not result in Abu-Jamal's execution, thanks to the Supreme Court's decision to stay out of it, in a perverse way, on the other hand it is also unfortunate. This is because once Abu-Jamal is sentenced to life without parole rather than to death, and is transferred to a general prison population, where he will have freer access to his loved ones and to the public, as well as to the state's huge prison population, the national and global movement to free him will likely weaken, for he will no longer be the icon of the anti-death penalty movement that he has been while facing death.

He will of course be able to combat this potential loss of attention to his case thanks to his journalistic skills, which will be easier to apply once he's sprung from SCI-Green and has at least occasional access to a computer and to a library. But let's face it: remaining a leading symbol of the nation's death penalty madness will be harder once the threat of execution is finally lifted.

This means that those of us who believe that Abu-Jamal's original trial was a scandal of the worst proportions, and that his guilt was never proven, thanks to the epic misconduct of the prosecution, the induced lying by prosecution witnesses, the clear pro-prosecution bias of the judge, the ineptness of the defense attorney, the packing of the jury, the lack of funding for any defense experts, and myriad other flaws, will have to work all the harder at trying to win this long-suffering victim of the American injustice system a new trial, not on the penalty, but on his original conviction.

11 Oct – Police Attack and Arrest Veterans for Peace in Boston

Over the last two weeks, the so-called occupation movement has quickly spread and just as quickly been attacked by police. Arrests have happened in cities all over the United States as cops try to regain control and help their governmental and corporate masters frame the story. We've compiled many of the stories below, including that of the attack and arrests of over 100 in Boston. Most folks in most cities are being released with summonses and on their own recognizance. REMEMBER: If you or your comrades are arrested, please have them get in touch with either the National Lawyer's Guild or the NYC People's Law Collective. The latter can be reached at in@nycplc.info

MORE:

Police arrest Occupy Iowa demonstrators

Compiled by NYC ABC

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The Iowa State Patrol arrested 30 adults and two juveniles at Sunday night's Occupy Iowa protest at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines.

Officials had given the protesters multiple warnings that they would remove anyone on Capitol property after the park in front of the building closed at 11 p.m.

As the time approached, several dozen protesters willing to risk arrest linked arms and faced the State Patrol force that was amassing in front of them.

The group is an off-shoot of the national Occupy Wall Street movement that started weeks ago in New York and provided a venue for Iowans to rail against everything from Congress to the Supreme Court to corporate compensation.

Nationally, the movement has been criticized for a failure to produce a clear set of grievances or demands. But almost everyone who participated in Iowa on Sunday agreed on one thing: Conditions need to improve for the vast majority of Americans who are not wealthy CEOs.

As troopers approached the group on the Capitol grounds, they began chanting.

"In solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement, we are peacefully and indefinitely occupying People's Park at East 7th and Locust, per our First Amendment right under the U.S. constitution. Join us," they repeated.

A large group that had moved across the street also began chanting: "Don't arrest them."

As arrests continued, the group sat down, arms still linked. Some people walked with troopers to waiting vans but many didn't go quite as easily.

Troopers, later joined by Des Moines police officers, physically dragged or carried several protesters who waiting vehicles.

Iowa State Patrol Captain Mike Winter said troopers tried to be as careful as possible as they separated the crowd.

Very few people actively fought with authorities, even those physically removed were peaceful, Winter said. They just wouldn't walk with troopers.

Officials said there were not injuries, though one man was pepper sprayed.

Fourteen troopers and 10 Des Moines officers needed less than an hour to remove everyone remaining in the park.

As the arrests happened, chants continued. At one point the crowd repeated, "Police need a raise."

And as authorities wrapped up, the crowd began chanting, "We'll be back."

Winter said he didn't remember seeing anything like the night's events in his 25 years with the State Patrol.

The people remaining in the park said they were ready to be arrested.

"This is the most beautiful sight I've ever seen in my life," said David Goodner, motioning to about two dozen tents and 100 people nearby, about 30 minutes before his own arrest. "Twelve hours ago, none of this was here."

Just like the general assembly earlier in the day, the demographics of those arrested varied, and included men, women, young people, senior citizens and a 14-year-old.

All were charged with trespass. Whether protesters return to the same location Monday night will depend on what they decide in their next meeting.

Boston Beatdown: Police rough up Veterans for Peace, arrest 100 in retaking second #OccupyBoston location

We'll have more in the morning. If you want the full story, we'll [point you to our Twitter feed](#), where we've been covering #OccupyBoston -- and the Boston Police crackdown that sent at least 100 to city jails early Tuesday morning -- in real time, from our cell phones. Many thanks to the countless Twitter followers who helped by

supplying information from the ground, photos, videos, and reporting.

You'll want to see this: Video of the beginning of the arrests: the first to go were members of [Veterans for Peace](#). One Vietnam vet said he was tackled and injured a knee, but was not arrested -- and that he was disgusted by the "relish" with which the BPD performed its duties. He said a fellow member of the group, a female veteran of Iraq, was among the arrested. Since these videos are muddy, let's spell this one out for you: we've got cops putting the screws to U.S. war vets holding American flags.

According to Open Media Boston, "the arrests were conducted by elements of the Boston Police Dept, Transit Police and State Police plus Suffolk County Sheriff's," with assistance from "Boston Park Dept, Boston DPW, Boston Park Dept and Boston EMS." In video, an officer says that Occupiers will be charged with trespass and unlawful assembly. According to Boston.com blogger Garrett Quinn, all the arrested occupiers will be arraigned tomorrow in Boston Municipal Court. Quinn also reported that not all of the arresting officers were displaying badge numbers or names.

We'd guess -- and this is a guess, not a count -- that there were hundreds of officers, and dozens of support staff. Earlier in the evening, we saw tactical units in uniform, but without riot gear, lounging on High Street. Boston EMS set up a tent near the park, with about 15 ambulances on hand. Asked how many people they had on the scene, one EMS tech said, "A lot." Asked what their tent was for, he joked, "Well, you got a bunch of tents over there."

Before the cops showed up, Occupiers linked arms at both camps. And they remained that way through the tense standoff preceding the arrests.

As the cops moved in, Chief Davis was on the scene, and he briefly spoke to reporters afterwards, telling them that the police would have a long-term relationship with the Dewey Square encampment, and acknowledging the national movement of which it is a part. Throughout the evening, Superintendent in Chief Daniel Linskey could be seen giving orders. Around 11 pm, Linskey arrived at the new encampment and began [passing out leaflets](#) apprising the protestors of their rights. A legal advisor for the Occupiers refused to receive it, but many copies were handed off to individual occupiers. In an impromptu interview, Linskey told reporters that there [was no midnight deadline](#) for the Occupiers to leave the site, and that the Globe's reporting of such a deadline was inaccurate. He was clear that the protestors needed to move, but suggested that the timeline might be days as opposed to hours. Of course, by then he knew quite well when his men would be moving.

11 Oct – Video of René González's Release

As we reported last time, Cuban Five political prisoner René González was recently released. A family member recorded his release and that video is now viewable on YouTube. Here's the link:

<http://youtu.be/ozgifrP57AI>

13 Oct – FBI Investigating Fur Farm Raid in Rural Washington State

Animal liberation activists are being hunted by both Stevens' County sheriffs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation after a raid on a rural mink farm on the night of October 12th.

MORE:

More than 1,000 mink were released from cages at Miller's Mink Ranch at 2823 Addy-Gifford Rd. east of Gifford, Wash., according to a press release posted on the website of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, a group that distributes communiques from — but says it is not affiliated with — militant animal rights activists.

"The approximately two square feet in which Miller's Mink Ranch cages two and sometimes three mink for the whole of their lives is unspeakable," the release reads. "It is unfortunately the standard for mink farms the world

over."

The press release is titled "Communiqué from Unnamed Activists."

FBI Supervisor for Spokane Frank Harrill says the bureau usually becomes involved in actions by animal liberation groups due to the movement's prolonged campaign against farms.

He says there have been over 2,000 raids like this one, costing \$100 million in property damage since 1980.

Harrill would not say whether the FBI has yet identified any suspects.

The farm was targeted "to cause as much economic damage as possible," says Nicoal Sheen, a press officer for Los Angeles-based Press Office, which posts press releases anonymously.

"Historically, what you have seen is that these places close down because they cannot afford to be in business" after their animals are released, Sheen says. "The fact is that 100 percent of these animals are going to be killed in the fur farms and are going to suffer egregious death and torture before being killed for vanity."

13 Oct – A.L.F. Lone Wolf Walter Bond Sentenced to Seven Years

Nearly two weeks ago, Walter Bond was sentenced to 87 months in prison for the ALF arsons in Utah. This new sentencing will run consecutive with his time in Colorado. This gives Walter a total of 12 years for his actions as the ALF Lone Wolf. We just found out a couple of days ago that Walter has been put into solitary confinement, most likely in anticipation of his transfer to a federal prison. We've attached his statement to the court below.

MORE:

I'm here today because of the arsons I committed at the Tandy Leather Factory in Salt Lake City and the Tiburon restaurant in Sandy, Utah, which sells the incredibly cruel product foie gras. The U.S. attorney wants to give me the maximum sentence and beyond not because of my "crimes" but because I am unrepentant and outspoken. My intuition tells me that this court is not going to show me mercy because I become suddenly sorry. So instead of lying to the court in a feeble attempt to save myself, as I'm certain many do when they face their sentencing day, allow me instead to tell you what I am sorry for.

I am sorry that when I was 19 years old I built two slaughterhouses that are still killing animals even now as I speak. I am sorry that Tandy Leather sells skin that has been ripped from the dead, and often live bodies of such animals as cows, ostriches, rabbits, snakes and pigs. I am sorry that the leather tanneries that supply Tandy Leather Factory poison the Earth with dangerous chemicals. I am sorry that the restaurant Tiburon profits from the force feeding of geese and ducks until their livers explode so that rich people can then use that as a pate for crackers and bread. I am sorry that they make a living from the dead bodies of wild and exotic animals. I am sorry that we live in a day and age where you can rape a child or beat a woman unconscious and receive less prison time than an animal liberation activist that attacked property instead of people.

I am sorry that my brother was so desperate to get out of debt that he flew from Iowa to Colorado just to get me in a taped and monitored conversation for reward money. I am sorry I am biologically related to such a worthless little snitch. I am sorry that I waited so long to become an Animal Liberation Front operative. For all of these things I will always have some regret. But as far as the arsons at the Leather Factory and Tiburon, I have no remorse.

I realize that the laws of the land favor a businesses ability to make a profit over an animals right to life. It also used to favor white business owners ability to profit from a black persons slavery. It also used to favor a husbands ability to viciously attack his wife and act on her as if she were an object. Those who broke the law and damaged property to stand against those oppressions were also called "terrorists" and "fanatics" in their time

but that did not change the fact that society progressed and is still progressing along those lines.

So today I'm the bad guy. That is just a matter of historical coincidence. Who knows, perhaps a less brutal and less violent society will one day exist that will understand that life and Earth are more important than products of death and cruelty. And if not then to hell with it all anyway! Whether my supporters or detractors think I am a freedom fighter or a lunatic with a gas can makes no difference to me. I have spent years verifiably promoting, supporting and fighting for Animal Liberation. I have seen the animal victims of human injustice, thousands of them with my own eyes and what I saw was blood, guts and gore! I made a promise to those animals and to myself to fight for them in anyway I could. I regret none of it, and I never will!

You can take my freedom, but you can't have my submission.

15 Oct – California Hunger Strikers End Strikes

Mediators who met with hunger strike representatives at Pelican Bay, one of whom had been transferred to Corcoran due to the strike, confirm that prisoners there decided to stop their hunger strike after nearly 3 weeks. The prisoners have cited a memo from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) detailing a comprehensive review of every Security Housing Unit (SHU) prisoner in California whose SHU sentence is related to gang validation. Two days later, prisoners in Calipatria ended their strike to regain strength.

MORE:

The review will evaluate the prisoners' gang validation under new criteria and could start as early as the beginning of next year. "This is something the prisoners have been asking for and it is the first significant step we've seen from the CDCR to address the hunger strikers' demands," says Carol Strickman, a lawyer with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, "But as you know, the proof is in the pudding. We'll see if the CDCR keeps its word regarding this new process."

The mediation team stated that while the memo indicates statewide changes in the gang validation process for SHU prisoners, the CDCR did not address the status of hunger strikers at Calipatria or Salinas Valley prisons, who are not SHU prisoners. All sources say that at this point, these prisoners will continue to refuse food and stand behind the 5 core demands for all prisoners in California. A recent letter from a prisoner at Calipatria states "Men have...placed their lives on the line in order to put a stoppage to all these injustices we are subjected to day in and day out. People would rather die than continue living under their current conditions. ...It is a privilege, an honor to be a part of the struggle, to be a part of history for the betterment of all those inside these cement walls... I will go as far as my body allows me to go."

Gang validation is a practice that the CDCR uses throughout California prisons. Hundreds of prisoners who have been validated at Calipatria have been held in Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg) for as long as four years, awaiting transfer to Pelican Bay.

Meanwhile, Prisoners at Calipatria State Prison have decided to temporarily end their hunger strike to regain strength. Hunger strikers were subject to extreme retaliation at the hands of warden Leland McEwen and guards, including withholding water and vitamins. Reports from prisoners that indicated that many men were collapsing in their cells and that the guards were doing nothing when alerted. A family member said that the infirmary there was full and that prisoners needing medical care were being transferred to Centinela.

It is becoming apparent that Calipatria is basically used as a stepping stone to Pelican Bay or other California SHUs. A majority of the men held there have been validated as gang members and have effectively been given SHU status. Some spend as long as 4 years in solitary confinement, awaiting transfer. Calipatria has virtually no programming for prisoners, and prisoners frequently have nothing in their cells to enrich their days. The prison has prohibited radios and television, which violates CDCR policy. The hunger strikers have added these items to their demands.

As prisoners throughout California continue their struggle for human rights and against torture, we must keep up

the pressure on Governor Jerry Brown and the CDCR as the 5 core demands have only been minimally addressed We will continue to post updates as we get them. A recent letter from a hunger striker stated:

“A caged man is a spirit trapped in steel — leave him alone and his spirit becomes one with his cage — it’s all he knows. Motivate him, nurture and socialize him, and his spirit soars. It’s only then that the man realizes the difference between him and his cage — the reasons for it. Thus, allowing him to finally be free from it.”

15 Oct – Occupy Everything Day of Solidarity News Roundup

October 15th saw conflict with the cops all over the world, resulting in a whole lot of arrests. As with many other “occupy” related arrests, it seems that most were charged with minor crimes and cut loose. We’ve compiled some of the articles below.

MORE:

#OCCUPYDENVER – Arrests & Legal Support Needs!

Tonight there were many arrests and the DPD ain’t playin’ around with OCCUPYDENVER anymore. Here are the important things to know and support that is needed:

*** 24 Confirmed arrests with 1-2 possible others. Reports coming from the jail of injuries due to pepper spray, batons, and all the usual pig violence.

*** Court will be happening for these folks in Room 2300 of the Van-Cise Detention Center at 8:00am. These people need support. If the jail will not allow you in the courtroom, which is up to the judge, please rally outside of it! Show solidarity!

*** DABC is coordinating bail donations. If you would like to donate you can do so through Paypal by sending it to plpress@riseup.net The bail needs are not entirely clear as of yet, but we will know during court first thing in the morning.

*** You can follow DABC on Twitter, if you’re into that kind of thing, for more regular updates and current statuses on arrestees and legal needs. Twitter name is: denverabc

Lots of love and solidarity to everyone out there! Movements cannot be contained and aren’t ending tonight! New York, Chicago, Denver, and beyond are standing up against capitalism. Arrests are not going to stop that.

951 cities in 82 countries popped off today and O15 will continue into O16 only if we support those who the state tries to take out!

Over and out from your friendly neighborhood anarchist collective.

Hundreds arrested at 'Occupy' events in Chicago, Denver, Arizona, as movement spreads across U.S.

Hundreds of demonstrators were arrested in Chicago and other cities on Saturday night and Sunday morning, as the anti-corporate fury from the Occupy Wall Street protests in New York continue to spread across the country.

Shortly after 1 a.m. in Chicago, police arrested some 175 protesters who had set up a makeshift tent city and formed a human chain in Congress Plaza by Grant Park, according to a report in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

The arrests were mostly peaceful, the report said, although police did face chants of "Shame on you!" and "This is what democracy looks like!" from some of the estimated 500 protesters in the crowd, many of whom were sitting on the ground with their arms interlocked.

The arrests continued until about 3:30 a.m., as police tore down dozens of tents and threw left-behind homemade signs in the garbage, according the Tribune.

"I'd like to ask why [New York Mayor Michael] Bloomberg let the people stay in the park peacefully and clean up their own mess and Rahm Emanuel won't let us do the same," demonstrator Joseph Eichler, 23, told the Tribune.

The arrested demonstrators were released from custody mid-morning Sunday and greeted by cheering crowds outside a police station in downtown Chicago, the Tribune reported.

They were charged with misdemeanor ordinance violations.

Some 2,000 people had marched on Grant Park on Saturday afternoon.

Shortly before midnight, police warned the crowd they were violating city code by camping out in the park, which closes at 11 p.m.

In Phoenix, Ariz., some 40 anti-Wall St. demonstrators were arrested around midnight after refusing to clear out of Margaret T. Hance Park, just north of downtown, according to local reports.

Around 1,000 people had gathered for an Occupy Phoenix rally on Saturday afternoon, but their numbers dwindled significantly by the time around 100 local cops started hauling demonstrators away that night.

As in Chicago, the arrests in Phoenix were said to be peaceful, although some witnesses said the helmeted, baton-wielding police roughed up a few demonstrators.

There were also reports of arrests during a late-night demonstration in Tucson, about 100 miles south of Phoenix, though it was unclear how many people were busted there.

The situation went from peaceful to tense in downtown Denver on Saturday, when clashes between police and protesters resulted in 24 arrests, [The Denver Post](#) reported.

A march of about 2,000 people through that city had mostly ended by 2 p.m., but a small group of protesters remained and pitched large tents in Civic Center, near the state capitol building, the Post reported.

Cops in riot gear knocked down the tents and used pepper spray to break up the crowd, the Post said.

In Raleigh, N.C., 19 people were arrested at around 7:30 p.m. after their permit to demonstrate on the grounds of the state capitol expired, local station [WRAL reported](#).

About 75 people had obeyed police orders to clear the capitol grounds and continued their demonstration across the street, the station said.

But the 19 who were arrested had stayed behind and locked arms. They were cited for trespassing.

Cindy Sheehan arrested at Wall Street protest in Sacramento

Anti-war mother Cindy Sheehan was arrested along with 18 other demonstrators at Cesar Chavez Park in Sacramento early Sunday, police said.

Sheehan, 53, was booked into Sacramento County Jail at 3:15 a.m. for unlawful assembly in the park and failing to follow police orders to disburse, police said. Sheehan became famous after taking a visible role in the anti-war movement following the 2004 death in Iraq of her son, Casey.

Occupy Sacramento reported there have been 58 arrests at the park at Ninth and I streets across from City Hall since the nationwide protests began Oct. 6.

On Sunday, the protesters said the 19 people arrested had been peaceful, and among those arrested were a person using a wheelchair and another doing a hunger strike. That person had to be taken to a local hospital.

All were charged with "unlawful assembly," a misdemeanor. Unless a protester has a lengthy criminal history or has been a flight risk in the past, "they would likely be released with a court date and be required to appear in a

few days," police said.

Cornel West one of 19 arrested at Supreme Court

Professor Cornel West was one of 19 people arrested on the steps of the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) in Washington on Sunday, [according](#) to the Associated Press, as part of the [Occupy Wall Street](#) movement.

West, a former [Harvard University](#) professor now teaching at [Princeton University](#), took part Sunday in the dedication of the monument to the Rev. [Martin Luther King Jr.](#), an event that was delayed from August because of [Hurricane Irene](#). He then, according to media reports, moved on to a protest at the home of the high court.

A well-known commentator on civil rights issues, West recently got into a TV spat with presidential candidate [Herman Cain](#), telling Cain to "get off the symbolic crack pipe."

In Washington, the anti-corporate protest movement is known as Occupy D.C.

Kathy Arberg, a spokeswoman for the court, said Sunday evening that "19 people with Occupy D.C. were arrested at the court this afternoon by Supreme Court police and charged" under federal law. She did not divulge the name of West or any other protester arrested.

Global [protests](#) over the weekend led to the arrests of more than 250 people in the United States and worldwide.

17 Oct - Certain Days: The 2012 Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar

This year's theme is "COINTELPRO: Repression & Resistance, Then & Now." ORDER NOW at www.certaindays.org and join us on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/certaindays>) to help spread the word.

MORE:

FEATURING amazing artwork and writings from Aric McBay, The Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid, Claude Marks, David Gilbert, The Denver Anarchist Black Cross, Emily Kantar, Favianna Rodriguez, Fireworks Graphic Collective, Gerald and Maas, Herman Bell, Jesus Barraza, Jihad Abdulmumit, Josh MacPhee, Kara Sievewright, Kevin 'Rashid' Johnson, Lynne Stewart, Ojore Lutalo, We Are The Crisis Collective, the RNC 8, Safiya Bukhari, Santiago Armengod, Shannon Willmott, Supporters of John Graham, Tim Groves and Tom Manning.

*****WHERE TO GET 2012 CALENDARS*****

Calendars can be ordered online at www.certaindays.org and purchased at local bookstores, distros and community events. Calendars cost \$12 (plus shipping) and \$5 for prisoners. We encourage groups to buy in bulk (\$8 each when purchasing 10 or more) and to sell them as a fundraiser. Visit our website for more info - www.certaindays.org.

Funds raised from the sale of this calendar will be divided between the New York State Task Force on Political Prisoners, the Palestinian NGO Addameer, and the Freedom Archives.

COINTELPRO: Repression & Resistance, Then & Now

The term COINTELPRO has become synonymous with the 'tricks of the trade' of state repression: surveillance of organizations and individuals, the use of infiltrators and informants, frame-ups, harassing or disproportionate use of the legal system, and outright physical attacks. While the term is widely used to describe repression of liberation movements, at least in North America, the history of the actual COINTELPRO program – its details

and the lessons to be learned from it – remain relatively unknown.

Recently, we have witnessed growing awareness of state repression of radical organizing in North America, although it is difficult to judge to what extent repression is actually increasing, and to what extent this reflects the success of the work to expose it. Certainly since September 11, 2001, the state has new tools – and new social license – to go after social movements and marginalized sectors of the population alike, perhaps comparable to the Red Scare climate of the 1950s, when COINTELPRO was conceived of.

In some ways, this is to be expected. Effective movements beget repression. That being said, resisting this backlash – directly fighting back (rhetorically, legally, physically, but also via a more general resilience) – is fundamental to the survival of liberation movements.

In the wake of the repression associated with the summer 2010 G20 meeting Toronto, with several cases of infiltration in both the US and Canada coming to light in recent years, and with ongoing legislative changes giving government increasing power to surveil and disrupt us, the time seemed ripe to remind ourselves of the legacy of COINTELPRO, and resistance to it.

In putting together the Certain Days calendar, we always aim for a realistic balance between bringing to light social injustice and the challenges we face, and the inspiring work done to meet these challenges. It is important to speak of repression – to share examples so that we might learn from each others' experiences, and see the patterns and trends in the state's approach. But it is impossible to do so without also being struck by the many contemporary and historical examples of resistance. We hope that the information gathered in this year's calendar can help teach the difficult lessons we need to learn to weather the storm and also provide the inspiration we need to do so.

19 Oct – Support Parole for Eddie Conway

Long-term Black Panther political prisoner Eddie Conway recently found out he will have a parole hearing on November 1st. We will need as many letters of support as we can get, mailed by October 26th. Eddie appreciates any assistance you can give in his pursuit of a favorable recommendation from the parole board. If you need any information please call Dominique Stevenson at 410.948.6302.

MORE:

You can simply say you believe Eddie should be granted parole based on his many contributions to the prison population through mentoring projects and other activities, and his record as a “model” prisoner. For those of you that know Eddie personally, please speak to the work he has done for prisoners and the community.

Send letters of support for Marshall Eddie Conway's parole to:

Maryland Parole Commission
Attention: Mr. Blumberg
6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite 307
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
Phone: 877.241.5428
Fax: 410.764.4355

Please send an additional copy to Eddie for his records at:

Marshall Eddie Conway #116469
Post Office Box 534
Jessup, Maryland 20794

For more info about Eddie Conway, former Black Panther and political prisoner, add Eddie as a friend on

Facebook or go to the Causes page Free Eddie Conway and All Political Prisoners!

21 Oct – Passing of Jaan Laaman’s Son Rick

We received a note from our comrade and Political Prisoner, on the death of his son. The reality is he will not be able to be there for Barbara, or his daughter at this hard time. We’re sending him a sympathy card.

MORE:

My people,

This day, Friday, Oct. 21, 2011, to me, this is the saddest day, unlike any other ever, in my life. This morning my son Rick, my precious wonderful beautiful son, my heart, died.

drugs -od

He was 29, almost 30. He was almost 3 when they took him from my arms, a day long ago on nov. 4th. He was planning to visit me here - in two weeks, on nov. 4th.

my little Ricky chan. jaan

21 Oct - Cornel West, Others Arrested at “Stop Stop-and-Frisk” Protest

On Friday, October 21, a historic movement to combat the New York Police Department policy of "stop and frisk" began in the heart of Harlem. And Cornel West chalked up his second arrest of the week. Not everyone who gets arrested is a celebrity or public figure and we certainly don't get the same media attention.

MORE:

“I’m a former military officer,” a young man named Marvin told the crowd assembled at the corner of 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard. “One night, me and some of my friends were minding our own business—just going out to pick up some Chinese food. We got stopped by a police officer. He demanded that we show him identification and handcuffed us to the sidewalk while he searched our car for a warrant. After searching our car—and finding nothing—the officer turned to us and said, ‘Can you do the chicken noodle soup dance?’ Even though he had found nothing, he told us that the only way he would let us go without a record was if we sang and danced for him.”

“I hate that people see me on the street and automatically think that I am a criminal. I don’t have any police record—but I will after today,” he finished.

The New York Police Department is on track to “stop and frisk” over 700,000 people in 2011 alone. That is over 1,900 people stopped and searched without a warrant per day; 85 percent of them are black or Latino and more than 90 percent were doing nothing wrong.

In July, a few weeks before *Adbusters* released the call to Occupy Wall Street, professor and civil rights activist Dr. Cornel West and Carl Dix held a strategy session to discuss how to take action against the New York Police Department’s policies of racial profiling, police brutality, and mass incarceration of young blacks and Latinos. At the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Attica Riots, they announced the day—October 21—as the beginning of the “Stop Stop-and-Frisk” campaign, beginning with a march and action of nonviolent civil disobedience at the 28th Precinct in Harlem, and hopefully gathering momentum and spreading throughout New York City and communities of color around the United States.

Coincidentally, October 21st in New York City happened to fall at the height of Occupy Wall Street.

Occupy Wall Street has experienced its own bitter taste of police brutality. Almost 1,000 protesters have been arrested in New York City. They are often thrown to the ground, belittled and arrested on charges such as “resisting arrest” when their only crime is exercising their First Amendment right. Protesters have often been penned in, surrounded by orange nets, unaware that they are under arrest until it is too late. NYPD officer Anthony Bologna is being penalized 10 vacation days and may face charges of assault for pepper-spraying five women, inadvertently turning public attention toward the New York Police Department’s policing practices.

What many of the predominantly white protesters in Liberty Plaza didn't realize until recently is that their experiences are only a small taste of the police brutality that communities of color experience on a daily basis.

"My first thoughts after seeing five white women get pepper-sprayed in the face was, what would they have done to a black man?" mused one man at the Harlem rally.

If a Black or Latino man is arrested at a demonstration of civil disobedience, it will affect his life far more than if he were white. Many young Blacks and Latinos—due to racial profiling in common police practices such as stop-and-frisk—already have a police record, and can't afford to risk being put through the system again. As it is, one in 15 Black adults is behind bars, and the statistic climbs to one in nine for Black males between the ages of 20 and 34. To many communities of color, the New York Police Department is not a force that maintains order, but one that institutionalizes racial inequalities, segregating Blacks and Latinos into a pipeline toward mass incarceration and criminalization.

"I don't fault people for not knowing that this happens," Carl Dix told me. "That's a conspicuous policy on the part of the people who run this country—Blacks are the problem and we have to devise a solution, while keeping the white middle-class unaware. I want to bring Occupy Wall Street to what is actually happening. I want to challenge them: now that you know, are you going to act?"

Earlier in the week, activists at Occupy Wall Street began to pass around "Stop Stop and Frisk" flyers during the General Assembly. Dix made several guest appearances at Liberty Plaza to mobilize solidarity to harness Occupy Wall Street's energy to combat all police brutality. The People of Color Occupy Wall Street Working Group pushed to endorse the movement, discussing the urgency of the issue. Thursday night, Occupy Wall Street endorsed the movement, claiming, "How can we truly stand as the 99 percent, if we don't stand with the people of Harlem?"

On Friday, several protesters—a healthy mix of Black, brown and white—from Occupy Wall Street assembled, joining the Stop Stop-and-Frisk rally in both solidarity and civil disobedience. Though they were met with curious stares while marching through Zuccotti Park, upon reaching the streets of Harlem they were greeted with cheers and messages of support and gratitude from street vendors, shopkeepers and passersby.

Dr. Cornel West addressed the crowd at the Harlem State Office Building on the corner of 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard. "This corner has been consecrated by giants like Malcolm X, Ella Baker, Marcus Garvey, Martin King, and Fannie Lou Hamer," began Dr. West. "We are here today because we have come to terms with arbitrary police power to ensure that the rights of poor young people, disproportionately Black and brown, are acknowledged and affirmed."

After marching to the precinct, those who were willing to get arrested—many of them young Black and Latino men who have spent their lives trying to avoid a police record—linked arms in front of the precinct, chanting until they were inevitably hauled away in plastic cuffs. Cornel West, who was arrested only a few days earlier in Washington DC, Reverend Stephen Phelps, and several other organizers and activists were among the 33 arrested outside of the 28th Precinct.

This is only the beginning of Stop Stop-and-Frisk. Next week it will hold actions in Brooklyn, and after that, East Harlem and the South Bronx. Strategy meetings are being planned, both separate from and in conjunction with Occupy Wall Street. Though the movements were originally organized separately, they occurred at a progressive nexus in history that is too coincidental to be ignored. Both movements have demonstrated that this is only the beginning of a continuous and persistent battle. Creating a permanent alliance between the two movements could mean diversifying and expanding Occupy Wall Street and spreading the call to stop stop-and-frisk beyond communities of color as a collective force against police brutality of all kinds, and in all communities.

In the words of Carl Dix, "We are not going to stop—and maybe the NYPD will give us a little extra time in jail to further figure out our movement."

24 Oct – Denver Sustains More Arrests During Squat Raid and O22 Protest

Early Sunday, a squat in the Jefferson Park Neighborhood of Northwest Denver was raided by over a dozen officers from District 1 of the Denver Police Department. At least 3 people were arrested, another was taken away in an ambulance. It's likely this was retaliation for a rowdy street demonstration against police terror less than twelve hours earlier.

MORE:

Witnesses report that the raid was very violent, with at least 8 officers repeatedly beating one of the arrestees, and eventually using paramedics to sedate them while they laid face down, bleeding, in the street. The squat raid comes less than 24 hours after a rowdy and effective nighttime march against Police Terror, which saw hundreds of participants snake through Denver, blocking streets, confronting police, and shutting down the commercial district of downtown Denver on a busy Saturday night. Reports from media indicate that several bank windows were broken, and hundreds of stickers and other graffiti redecorated the city landscape. One arrest was reported, and DABC is organizing support for this person.

Our comrades from today's arrest need your support! We cannot be fooled into thinking that this is not in some way a retaliatory attack for last night's actions. Members of the squat have been active in the Occupy Denver movement, and have been active in other local community organizing.

If you can offer support, we need it. Denver ABC's resources have been strained and tapped from the 48 arrests from last week's Occupy Denver protests, and now with an additional 5 arrests that we're trying to support, we're really hurting.

denverabc@rocketmail.com

ABC legal line: 720-328-3431

denverabc.wordpress.com

2 Nov - George L. Jackson-Mumia Abu Jamal Political Prisoner Letter Writing Dinner In Harlem

WHAT: Monthly Letter-writing to political prisoner and prisoners of war

WHEN: 6:00-9:00pm, Wednesday, November 2nd

WHERE: The Guillermo Morales- Assata Shakur Center, City College of New York, NAC - Building: Room 3-201, West 138th Street (Between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues)

COST: Free!

5 Nov – Event: Solidarity with the Cuban Five

WHAT: A forum in solidarity with the international campaign to free the Cuban Five

WHEN: 6:00-10:00pm, Saturday, November 5th, 2011

WHERE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center (343 West 43rd Street, Manhattan)

COST: \$10 Donation (No one turned away due to lack of funds)

Panelists: Richard Klugh, Ricardo Jiménez, Thenjiwe McHarris, Michael Tarif Warren, Reverend Luis Barrios
For more information, call 917.887.8710

MORE:

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are five Cuban patriots who were arrested and framed by the FBI 13 years ago. They are fighting for their freedom—with growing international support. The Cuban Five were on a dangerous mission of infiltrating and monitoring right-wing Cuban-American groups in South Florida with a long history of bombings and other murderous assaults against Cuba. Over 3,000 Cubans have been killed in US-backed attacks by these groups since the 1959 victory of the Cuban Revolution.

The Cuban Five were railroaded to prison on “espionage conspiracy” and other trumped-up charges. They were

Compiled by NYC ABC

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convicted -- without a shred of evidence of any act of espionage against the U.S. government -- in an atmosphere of bias and intimidation in a Miami federal court. They were given sentences of up to life in prison. On October 7, 2011, René González was released from prison—unbroken and unbowed. He is being forced to stay in Florida for 3 years of probation, but is fighting for his right to return to Cuba and his family. By courageously standing up for themselves and for others, the Five set an example to all those fighting for justice.

Washington's frame-up of the Cuban Five is an assault on the rights of all of us. It has sparked calls by thousands worldwide for their release. These include 10 Nobel Prize Laureates, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, trade unions, student organizations, and prominent U.S. artists and writers.

Join us in an Evening of Solidarity. Learn the facts about these five courageous fighters and the blatant injustice against them. Join thousands around the world demanding: **Free the Cuban Five!**

12 Nov – 3rd Annual Freedom Dance: Party with a Purpose

WHAT: Benefit Dance Party Honoring Cisco Torres of the San Francisco 8

WHEN: 9:00pm-2:00am, Saturday, November 12th

WHERE: Nova Bar + Grill, 884 Pacific Street (Between Underhill and Washington Avenues), BK/NY

COST: \$20, all proceeds go directly to political prisoners

DJ Revolution will be keeping folks moving all night. This will be a fun time, but only if folks show up to make it one.

17 Dec – Send Love Through the Walls – Holiday Card-Writing Party with SSS, RnB, & NYC ABC

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

WHEN: 3:00-9:00pm, Sunday, December 5th, 2010

WHERE: 263 Eastern Parkway, Apartment 5D (Direction Below) *phone:* 718.783.8141

COST: FREE (Donations to cover the cost of stamps greatly appreciated)

In what many prisoners have told us is their favorite event of the year, Resistance in Brooklyn and NYC Anarchist Black Cross again join forces to bring you the annual holiday card-writing party for U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war. This year, we're joined by Scientific Soul Sessions. This event is always a lot of fun, the food outstanding, the camaraderie lively, and the handmade cards flat out amazing. This year will be no different. So plan to bring your friends, your creativity, and a healthy appetite. We'll have updates on the pp/pow campaigns as well as paints, markers, crayons, and envelopes.

MORE:

Directions:

Getting to 263 Eastern Parkway is simple:

From the [2/3/4/5](#) or [Franklin Avenue Shuttle](#):

Franklin Avenue Stop:

Walk west on Eastern Parkway (away from Franklin Avenue, toward Classon Avenue). We're about half a block down on the north side of the street. When you go into the building, take the elevator to your left.

For more information, contact:

Resistance in Brooklyn— [mmmsrnb at igc dot org](mailto:mmmsrnb@igc.org)

NYC Anarchist Black Cross— [nycabc at riseup dot net](mailto:nycabc@riseup.net)

Scientific Soul Sessions— scientificsoulsessions.com

4 Feb 2012 - International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier

Yes, this is VERY EARLY, but we're encouraging folks to start planning their protests now. The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee calls on supporters worldwide to protest against the injustice suffered by Indigenous

activist Leonard Peltier. Gather on February 4, 2012, at every federal court house and U.S. embassy or consulate worldwide to demand the freedom of a man wrongfully convicted and illegal imprisoned for 36 years.

MORE:

Leonard Peltier is a Native American activist wrongfully accused in 1975 in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Government documents show that, without any evidence at all, the FBI decided from the beginning of its investigation to 'lock Peltier into the case'.

U.S. prosecutors knowingly presented false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the U.S. The statements were signed by a woman who was forced by FBI agents to say she was an eyewitness. The government has long since admitted that the woman was not present during the shootings.

Meanwhile, in a separate trial in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mr. Peltier's co-defendants were acquitted by reason of self defense. Had Leonard been tried with his co-defendants, he also would have been acquitted.

Unhappy with the outcome of the Cedar Rapids trial, prosecutors set the stage for Mr. Peltier's conviction. His trial was moved to an area known for its anti-Indian sentiment—Fargo, North Dakota. The trial judge had a reputation for ruling against Indians, and a juror is known to have made racist comments during Mr. Peltier's trial.

FBI documents prove that the U.S. government went so far as to manufacture the so-called murder weapon, the most critical evidence in the prosecution's case. A ballistics test proved, however, that the gun and shell casings entered into evidence didn't match. The FBI hid this fact from the jury. Mr. Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms. According to court records, the United States Attorney who prosecuted the case has twice admitted that no one even knows who fired the fatal shots.

Leonard Peltier is 67 years old and in poor health. An accomplished author and artist, Mr. Peltier is renowned for his humanitarian achievements. In 2009, Leonard was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the sixth consecutive year.

Although the courts have acknowledged evidence of government misconduct—including forcing witnesses to lie and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting his innocence—Mr. Peltier has been denied a new trial on a legal technicality. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, 55 Members of Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Mr. Peltier's appeals—have all called for his immediate release.

The Courts may not be able to act but Barack Obama, as President, can. Please join with us to free an innocent man. On February 4, 2012, tell Obama to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier.

Scheduled events will be announced and details provided at www.whoisleonardpeltier.info.