

October, 2013

From the Bay Area Grand Jury Resistance Collective:

The Bay Area Grand Jury Resistance Collective is a group of activists from the animal rights, environmental, anarchist, and anti-imperialist movements who collectively have decades of experience organizing against grand juries and other State repression. Recently we came together to discuss the increased use of grand juries as a tool by the State to disrupt and gather information on radical movements and the ways in which these communities have chosen to address them. We are writing this because we are aware that certain individuals have cooperated with a grand jury in San Francisco, known as the Santa Cruz Grand Jury, within the last year. These people have been neither transparent about their involvement nor what transpired during the grand jury proceedings. Their lack of accountability has the potential to weaken our ability to resist and to build our movements. We are further concerned that the affected communities have not been adequately prepared to address issues of transparency and accountability. This is a problem. A strong resistance to political repression is hinged on activists' ability and commitment to foster a culture of solidarity, support, and accountability. It is vital to engage in discussions about what notions like "solidarity" and "accountability" will materially look like prior to them becoming necessary. This statement has been collectively written in the spirit of encouraging all those engaged in social and revolutionary change to have these conversations now, in preparation for the next grand juries.

You can reach us at resistgrandjuries@riseup.net
www.resistgrandjuries.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BAY AREA GRAND JURY
RESISTANCE COLLECTIVE

resistgrandjuries@riseup.net
www.resistgrandjuries.net

CENTER FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

ccrjustice.org

CIVIL LIBERTIES DEFENSE
CENTER

cldc.org

COMMITTEE AGAINST
POLITICAL REPRESSION/
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
GRAND JURY RESISTANCE

[nopoliticalrepression
.wordpress.com](http://nopoliticalrepression.wordpress.com)

COMMITTEE TO STOP FBI
REPRESSION

www.stopfbi.net

FREE TAREK MEHANNA
FREE THE HOLY LAND FIVE

www.freetarek.com
freedomtogive.com

FREE THE SF8

www.freethesf8.org

GREEN IS THE NEW RED

greenisthenewred.com

GRAND JURY RESISTANCE
PROJECT

grandjuryresistance.org

NATIONAL LAWYER'S
GUILD

www.nlg.org

CONTACT ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

allpowertothepositive.blogspot.com
oaklandantirepression.wordpress.com
www.freethesf8.org
www.stopfbi.net
denverabc.wordpress.com
eastbayprisonersupport.wordpress.com
earthfirstjournal.org/prisoners/
jerryresists.net
mxgm.org
boricuahumanrights.org
www.thejerichomovement.com
www.prisonactivist.org
supporteric.org
seattleantirepression.wordpress.com
brooklynabcf.wordpress.com
nonewyouthjail.wordpress.com

RESIST GRAND JURIES

"DON'T TALK TO THE FBI."



WE OFFER THIS STATEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL GRAND JURY RESISTERS

We acknowledge the strength and courage of those who have been steadfast in their non-cooperation with the State. The government utilizes grand jury investigations as a tool against our communities and we the undersigned stand firmly against all cooperation with these proceedings. Grand juries have been used as a tool to silence and intimidate activists connected to AIM (American Indian Movement), Black Liberation, Chicano, and Puerto Rican Independence movements, as well as anti-imperialists, anti-war activists, queer liberationists, and the women's liberation movement. More recently anarchists, animal liberationists, Black Panthers, radical environmentalists and individuals from Indymedia and Wikileaks have been called to testify. Arab Americans and Muslim communities in particular have been targeted.

WHEN SUBPOENAED TO A GRAND JURY WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESIST. Cooperating with a grand jury validates the State's efforts to destabilize movements and fosters distrust. Noncollaboration is a political and ethical stand against illegitimate authority and builds greater resistance to the injustices of the government. Transparency about any contact with the State builds trust within our movements and exposes the machinations of the State.

THE PURPOSE OF GRAND JURIES IS NOT SOLELY TO INDICT INDIVIDUALS IN ORDER TO PROSECUTE, CONVICT, AND INCARCERATE THEM. The larger goal is to dismantle social movements through a campaign of harassment and intimidation while simultaneously collecting information that cannot be obtained by other legal means. Grand juries are an attempt to map our relationships, beliefs, and activities and sow seeds of fear in our movements for social change. These goals are accomplished by intimidating individuals and coercing their cooperation.

WHILE THERE IS NOT ONE RIGHT WAY TO RESPOND TO A GRAND JURY SUBPOENA, SHARING INFORMATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE. Even seemingly innocuous information can be used against us. The most common forms of resistance have been refusing to enter the grand jury room and/or entering the grand jury proceeding and giving only your name. Whichever stance is taken must be accompanied by a path of transparency and accountability.

ALTHOUGH MANY LAWYERS HAVE SUPPORTED DECADES OF NON-COLLABORATION, DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOUR ATTORNEY SHARES YOUR GOAL OF RESISTANCE. It is important to retain your political power and maintain your stance of non-cooperation. It is an attorney's job to advocate for their clients, but it is our job to advocate for the movements under attack. Resisting grand juries is not just an individual issue, it is an issue of mutual care and respect for our communities and struggles. Therefore, any strategy that is based on secrecy or which isolates you should be viewed with great caution.

WE BELIEVE THAT NO ONE SHOULD TALK TO THE FBI OR A GRAND JURY. People from our communities who knowingly give information show themselves to be untrustworthy. Everyone has a choice to make when the State calls on us to testify: We believe non-cooperation is the most ethical choice. Resisters have found they had strong support and we have found that grand jury resistance has enabled us to organize solidarity far beyond the boundaries of our own movements. When we resist grand juries, we choose to be part of a long legacy of resistance that strengthens our movements and in turn weakens the State.

LONG-TERM POLITICAL, MATERIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THOSE SUBPOENAED MUST BE SWIFTLY ORGANIZED. The path of non-cooperation can be difficult as the government aims to isolate and punish those who resist. Building movements of resistance requires that we support and stand alongside anyone who risks their personal freedom for the health and safety of the greater community.

ONLY BY PRACTICING TRANSPARENCY, UTILIZING A STRATEGY THAT BENEFITS MOVEMENTS AS A WHOLE, AND WORKING TOGETHER, CAN WE BEGIN TO BUILD MOVEMENTS THAT ARE CAPABLE OF RESISTING THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF GOVERNMENT REPRESSION.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED OPPOSE GRAND JURIES
AND PLEDGE TO OFFER SUPPORT TO ALL RESISTERS

Signatures as of October, 2013

GRAND JURY RESISTERS

Judy Gumbo Albert, 1971 Grand Jury Resister; Lyndon Comstock, 1973 Grand Jury Resister; Bernardine Dorhn, 1982 Grand Jury Resister; Jose Lopez, 1978 Grand Jury Resister; Ricardo Romero, 1978 & 1981 Resister; Eve Rosahn, 1981 Grand Jury Resister; Bilal Sunni-Ali, 1983 Grand Jury Resister; Fulani Sunni-Ali, 1983 Grand Jury Resister; Terry Bisson, 1985 Grand Jury Resister; Bob Lederer, 1985 Grand Jury Resister; Kazi Toure, 1985 Grand Jury Resister; Akinyele Umoja, 1985 Grand Jury Resister; Watani Tyehimba, 1988 Grand Jury Resister; Rob Wells, 1990 Grand Jury Resister; Henry (Camo) Bortman, 1990 Resister; Josh Harper, 2001 Grand Jury Resister; Lindsay Parme, 2003 Grand Jury Resister; Richard Brown, 2005 Grand Jury Resister; Ariana Huemer, 2005 Grand Jury Resister; Stella Sythe, 2005 Grand Jury Resister; Josh Trenter, 2005 Grand Jury Resister; Nadia Winstead, 2005 Grand Jury Resister; Kerry Cuneen, 2012 Grand Jury Resister; Dennison Williams, 2012 Grand Jury Resister; Leslie James Pickering, Grand Jury Resister

FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS

Jake Conroy, Edwin Cortes, Elizam Escobar, Linda Evans, Josh Harper, Ricardo Jimenez, Ed Mead, Claude Marks, Adolfo Matos, Leslie Mullin, Dylcia Pagan, Mary Patton, Eve Rosahn, Alicia Rodriguez, Ida Luz Rodriguez, Susan Rosenberg, The San Francisco 8, Judy Siff, Andy Stepanian, Alejandrina Torres, Carmen Valentin, Laura Whitehorn, Donna Willmott, Cathy Wilkerson

ORGANIZATIONS

All Power To The Positive (dot) Info, Bay Area Anti-Repression Committee, Bay Area Committee to Stop Political Repression, Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (The San Francisco 8), Committee to Stop FBI Repression, Denver Anarchist Black Cross, East Bay Prisoner Support, Earth First! Prisoner Support Project, Freedom Archives, Jerry Resists Support Committee, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, National Boricua Human Rights Network, National Jericho Movement, New African People's Organization, Prison Activist Resource Center, Sacramento Prisoner Support, Seattle Anti-Repression Committee, South Brooklyn Anarchist Black Cross, Washington Incarceration Stops Here