



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for June 1st

16 May - Kings Bay Plowshares 7 Updates & Writings

More writing by and updates on the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 (KBP7) is available at kingsbayplowshares7.org

MORE:

May 16th - Statement on Israel-Palestine by Patrick O'Neill

The United States' self-described "ironclad" support for the Israeli slaughter going on in Gaza this week is just part of an ongoing joint effort by two nuclear superpowers to inflict untold human suffering on the Palestinian people. When I interviewed Noble Peace Prize recipient Elie Wiesel years ago his message was simply that the Jewish people must remain "vigilant" to prevent another Holocaust. When I asked Wiesel if he had forgiven the Germans for the Holocaust, he bristled and said: "No (German) has asked for my forgiveness, and by who's authority would I forgive them?" Now, sadly, that same question will have to be proposed to the Palestinians someday as they face Apartheid-like consequences from Israeli aggression. To say, "Israel has the right to defend itself," while they are the ones inflicting horrific suffering on others is unconscionable and indefensible. I urge my government to stop supplying the machinery of death to the aggressive nation of Israel.

We encourage the American people to put pressure on the US government to stop sending \$3.8 billion a year to Israel, the largest recipient of American military aid, and we can apply pressure through boycott, divestment, and sanctions on Israel until they end the occupation of Palestine and comply with international human rights law.

May 17th - Changing the Social Order by Martha Hennessy

I write of my last days here at Danbury FCI Women's Camp with contradictions in my heart.

I will be so happy to be gone from here, but I also will miss the community, as fraught and involuntary as it is.

Since coming up to quarantine on the top tier where the rooms are airy and bright, some inmates have separated themselves from our interactions, as superficial as some may be. Relationships and sharing of daily life mean something to me, but the pain of some people being released while others are not is just too hard for some to bear, especially those here for more than a year or two.

Also the institution encourages aloofness and inmates in quarantine are not to be spoken to. All rules are easily bendable or changing; the enforcement is arbitrary depending on the personality of the C.O.

Today is the birthday of Peter Maurin, 144, Dan Berrigan, 100, and John Brown, about whom I don't know enough.

I heard reports about events hosted by DePaul University as they gave the inaugural Berrigan-McAlister award to the Kings Bay Plowshares. Friends told me it was a lively event. Felice, in Tucson, sent Steve Kelly's prayer. It moved me to tears. The amount of support and love given by the peace making community has overwhelmed me with gratitude and joy.

Today is Mother's Day. Many of the women here are mothers and so we greeted each other all day with well wishes. One woman here did not know whether her mother was dead or alive. They were estranged

years ago. Family separation in this American culture is all too common, a phenomenon that other cultures can't imagine living with.

I am re-reading Dorothy's *The Long Loneliness* and have again come face to face with how to change the social order and the role of faith in this work. Some of her comrades spoke of WWI as the beginning of world revolution and it is still going on today.

She greatly admired people of single-mindedness, purity of heart, and willingness to search and work for a new society for humanity. How to build a society where each person receives according to one's needs, and works according to one's ability? She witnessed the horrific struggle between those in control of capital, and those who provided the labor and struggled to have enough food. There was hope in maintaining a voice of protest, continuing to agitate for basic human rights, through the Socialists, International Workers of the World, the anarchists, and the liberals.

Dorothy marveled at the human potential for patience, for putting up with unbearable economic conditions, and for demanding more.

I wonder if today we have become too complacent, settling for less, tolerating so much violence, both domestically and in our foreign policy based on a permanent war economy. How different things would be today if some of those labor interests in the early years of the industrial era had been allowed to flourish, if we were allowed to provide for the people rather than fattening up an elite class with the wealth of our stolen continent and global exploits.

Of course this kind of talk is construed as promoting class warfare when the point is trying to be made that it is just that, divide and conquer.

Reading about Dorothy's two early prison experiences, one for the women's right to vote and one for being in the wrong place at the wrong time (caught in an IWW office Palmer Red Raid) gives me courage for my prison stay.

Her witness to the horrific drug withdrawal of an inmate "made one feel the depth of the disorder of the world." Here in Danbury, I was spared from experiencing this.

At twenty-two years of age she understood so much about the suffering world but didn't have the strength of her faith to sustain and protect her at the time. But to see the seeds of God planted early in her life, and to have them grow slowly before her baptism is a wonder to behold as she tells her life's story.

I received the Los Angeles Catholic Worker newsletter with Brian Terrell's analysis of the canonization process for Dorothy. The wounds of the Church go deep in so many people's hearts. I myself was separated from the love of Christ in my young adult, formative years, when I needed the guidance the most. I always understood that we were to admire and try to copy the examples of the saints, to the best of our abilities. We are supposed to become saints for our Church, the head of Christ, of which we are the body.

We are to find the concordances, knowing there are many contradictions in life and the history of the Church. And to be personally admired when all you are trying to do is the work that is so desperately needed can be distasteful. The vineyard is great, the laborers few. And the hardness of our hearts can be so discouraging. I rejoice in the heart of Pope Francis. He and Dorothy are working hard to bring the Church to her true self. Both the workers and the scholars can come together to celebrate! Thank you, Brian, for the clarification of thought.

My next door neighbor in quarantine leaves in a few days after being seven years “down.” She heads to Manhattan on her way to her nearby destination. She wants a taste of the Big Apple when she arrives at Grand Central. Oh New York, we love you and must take the good and the bad, just like our Mother Church.

What changes will my co-inmate see wrought in our world? She grew up on Long Island. Seven years has transformed our country in many ways. The injustices pile up, one upon the next.

Jesus practiced such patience, mercy, and pity with his thick-headed disciples. God help us to be the same, even as we admonish the sinners in an unpopular voice.

I am days away from release and still not knowing where and when I am going. Oh to be in the hands of our living God, what a fearsome, beautiful thing!

May 17th - Clare Grady’s Statement on the Attacks on Palestine

The horrific killings, home expulsions, and human rights abuses we are witnessing right now in Palestine are the actions of a settler colonial state, Israel, for whom No Palestinian lives Matter. The same rapacious politics of death that has in the past and still animates US government behavior and policies toward Indigenous people of this continent drives Israel’s attempts to, in the words of Bezael Smotrich, a member of Israel’s parliament, “flatten the (Gaza) strip” and drive residents from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

The same brutal police techniques deployed against Black Americans are used against Palestinian civilians. The political ideas and the physical techniques of oppression are the same. Commentator Bari Weiss recently called the killing of children in Gaza “one of the unavoidable burdens of political power.” Such a view sums up the politics of death that characterize American and Israeli policy. We must resist such callousness wherever we see it.

The American political establishment, Democratic and Republican, supports Israel because one settler colony recognizes and supports the other. Both are nuclear powers bent upon wielding the bully stick of omnicidal power. In fact, The U.S. sends \$3.8 billion dollars of military aid and supplies the F-16s and other lethal armaments that the Israeli Army is currently using to kill and terrorize Palestinians. Just as empires executing imperial wars cross borders with weapons, resources, and ideas, struggles for liberation must cross imaginary borders. Solidarity is the path to liberation from white supremacy, colonialism, and war.

May 18th - Carmen Trotta and Martha Hennessy Not Released as Expected

Neither Carmen nor Martha were released from prison today because of complications as to where they would live. Carmen had thought he could return to St. Joseph’s House Catholic Worker in NYC where he has lived and worked for 40 years. It had been visited by probation officers several times and had been apparently approved. Seven friends traveled up to Otisville this morning to greet him and bring him back to NYC. However, after we were told to wait in the parking lot watching while 20 or so other inmates walked out to their waiting friends and family over the course of an hour, prison officials came out to tell us that St. Joe’s was not approved because it was not COVID safe since Carmen would share a bedroom and bathroom with others. Why they waited until the last minute to tell Carmen and the waiting supporters he would not be released today as scheduled is not known. Now people are trying to find alternative living arrangements that would be acceptable to Carmen and the probation authorities. No one knows how long this will take.

Martha has known for several days that there were problems with her release to home confinement under the CARES Act as originally scheduled for May 17. She thought she might have to go to a halfway house

in New Hampshire, two hours drive from her home in Vermont, for some period of time with supervision before getting home confinement. But apparently that halfway house has also been deemed COVID risky. So all her plans are up in the air and how much longer she will have to remain in Danbury is not known.

We will keep you posted as to the next developments in this confusing and frustrating process.

May 27th - Martha Hennessy and Carmen Trotta Released from Prison

Martha Hennessy was released yesterday, May 26, from Danbury prison after 5 1/2 months confinement to a halfway house in Manchester, New Hampshire which is about a two hour drive from her home in Vermont. Her husband, Stephen Melanson, picked her up and drove her to the halfway house. She expects to have to spend a week or two at the halfway house before being allowed to return home to finish the last few months of her 10 month sentence. She had applied for early release through the CARES Act which allows release for the qualified elderly to reduce the risk of catching COVID. She is looking forward to return to her home and family and her gardening soon. Martha gave a short video statement on getting out and it will be posted on the website shortly.

Carmen Trotta was furloughed today from Otisville prison after being denied release 10 days ago at the last minute because his proposed residence at St. Joseph Catholic Worker house where he has lived and worked for more than 30 years was considered too risky for the virus. He was subsequently approved to live in a friend's apartment near the Catholic Worker. Three friends picked him up at the prison at 9 am and drove him to a halfway house in the Bronx where he was processed for 4 hours and informed of all the rules and restrictions. An ankle monitor was attached and then the friends drove him to the apartment in the East Village where he will be under home confinement. He had not applied for early release. He is supposed to remain in the apartment unless he gets permission to go out for shopping, medical visits or church.

Mark Colville is scheduled to report to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, NY on June 8 to finish his 21 month sentence. He has already served 15 months in the county jails in Georgia before the trial in October 2019. He may also be eligible for an earlier release but does not intend to apply for any special consideration.

18 May - Black Anti-Racist Faces Million Dollar Bail Following Police Targeting

Call to support a well-known anti-racist activist facing multiple felony counts and a \$1M bail. Donate at givebutter.com/jwlegal

MORE:

Last week, San Diego Police arrested J.W., a well-known Black activist from Los Angeles, falsely charging them with multiple felony counts stemming from a counter-protest against white supremacists in Pacific Beach on January 9th.

Our beloved activist friend is innocent, but they're sitting in jail with a \$1M bail, which is ridiculous and excessive for protest-related activities. We are raising money for a private defense attorney who has agreed to take the case, and once we get J.W.'s bail reduced we will need remaining funds for the bail.

These are very serious charges, with the potential for extensive jail time. San Diego's police, mayor and DA don't care if they charge the wrong people, as long as they can put on a show for their racist constituents. There is already a Federal lawsuit against SDPD for their biased policing at this event.

On January 9th, 2021, far-right extremists descended on the San Diego enclave of Pacific Beach for a white supremacist rally. This rally, which took place only three days after the January 6th attack on our Capitol, saw at least five Capitol rioters in attendance along with neo-Nazis, members of the Soldiers Of Odin

offshoot American Guard, Proud Boys, and members of Defend East County, a terrorist group whose members have recently been arrested by the FBI on terrorism and firearms-related charges.

Since January 9th, San Diego Police have been waging political prosecutions against the anti-fascist and anti-racist protestors who defended the community and themselves, while ignoring the violence perpetrated by the Nazis that day.

J.W. needs your help to mount a righteous defense against this malicious prosecution and excessive bail. We will give regular, transparent updates as the case progresses. If we are able to get the case dismissed, any funds that might be left over will be used will be used for legal support for the other defendants who face charges from this rally.

18 May - Rolling Stone Story on Aging in Prison, COVID & Parole Reform

Rolling Stone Magazine published this 10-page feature story on aging in NY State prisons, COVID-19, and our collective push to pass the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills. Clearly we don't have the space to republish it here, but encourage folks to spread the word and amplify the piece.

MORE:

Use this social media guide as a means of demanding New York State lawmakers make parole justice a reality this year: tiny.cc/RAPP_SM_Guide and please share the story and social media guide with your groups and networks.

20 May - A little joy from Lore

Lore has been sending artwork to her community on the outside while we all wait to see and hug her again. You can check it out at welovelore.com

MORE:

Hoping it fills your hearts as much as it does ours. What do you think? Is she ready for A.B.O. Comix?

She writes:

There aren't many ways I can bring joy to my people in here. Drawing has been such an amazing resource for me and my stress and helps me feel connected to people. I never used to draw this much, but I have gotten to a point where I can make up images and stories in my mind, which is super surprising because of my environment being very uninspiring. I draw plenty of cards and such for people's birthdays, mom's day, etc., here and it is so nice to receive something hand made.

Lore can share these and so many more handmade images of love and tenderness because of the moleskines that you donate from her wishlist: welovelore.com/wishlist

20 May - State Supreme Court to hear latest Mumia Abu-Jamal case filings

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania claims it has no jurisdiction over the issues raised in the latest litigation in this case. Therefore this court has transferred all the pending issues to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

MORE:

The motion linked below identifies everything that has happened in the case since the Williams issue was filed, including the discovery of new evidence, the opening up of Mumia's appeals as a result of the Williams litigation, Mumia's request to remand the case to the lower courts to investigate the new evidence, and Maureen's intervention.

The issues that the Superior Court is relinquishing to the PA Supreme Court are these:

1. Mumia's open appeals
 2. Request by Mumia's attorneys to remand the case to the Court of Common Pleas, to investigate the new evidence found in the 6 boxes
 3. Maureen's petition to intervene in Mumia's open appeals
- View the PDF file at indybay.org/newsitems/2021/05/20/18842660.php

May 21st - Fundraising for the *Jamal Journal* Issue #2

Please donate for printing and postage costs: tiny.cc/JamalJournal

By early April, we had run out of the 10,000 copies of the *Jamal Journal* issue #1 that we printed in late February. In response, we reprinted 10,000 copies of Issue #1 for \$1,375 and mailed several boxes to Philadelphia in time for the April 24 Birthday Celebration Weekend. To save on printing costs, the original 40-page version was reduced to 32 pages, with the remaining articles focused almost entirely on the evidence of police, prosecutorial, and judicial misconduct cited in our Color of Change petition to DA Krasner.

This reprint can now be distributed alongside future issues and serve as a 'reference book' for the case facts supporting our DA Krasner petition. Issue #1 remains a powerful non-violent weapon of words, an expression of our strength, of our self-confidence. We know that the truth is on our side, that Mumia is an innocent man who was wrongly convicted at an unfair trial. Let the facts speak for themselves!

The release of Issue #2 has been delayed, but we hope to publish it by mid-June (UPDATE: the delay continues but we hope to release by mid-June). The 32-page newspaper will feature a new article by Pam Africa, Michael Richardson's April series of articles marking the 50th anniversary of elderly Black Panther political prisoner Ed Poindexter's unfair COINTELPRO-rigged trial, and new interviews with Mumia biographer Todd Steven Burroughs, Mumia's spiritual advisor Mark Lewis Taylor of Educators for Mumia, J. Patrick O'Connor, author of "The Framing of Mumia Abu-Jamal," and much more.

In addition, we also want to print a 16-page Issue #2 supplement focused entirely on the upcoming Aug. 8, 1978 anniversary, and the recently passed 36-year anniversary of the May 13, 1985 massacre of eleven members of the MOVE family: Tree, Netta, Delisha, Little Phil, Tomasa, Rhonda, Teresa, Frank, Raymond, Conrad, and John Africa. They will never be forgotten. To provide historical background, we will reprint this 2010 article by Angola 3 News: May 13, 1985 and the Legalization of Murder, already published on our website with a compilation of links to new articles about UPenn and Princeton University's theft and desecration of Tree & Delisha Africa's remains.

We are now fundraising to print Issue #2, including the 16-page MOVE supplement. There is a bulk discount for printing newspapers, so if we can raise enough money, we will be able to print up to 20,000 copies.

Donations received will also be going towards our postage costs. This is also very important because with the pandemic-related restrictions that limit public, in-person events (traditionally the main way for the movement to distribute newspapers), having the financial resources to mail free stacks of newspapers around the country is even more important. Because of your past support, we have been able to provide a limitless supply of free newspapers to Mumia supporters around the country to share with their communities.

The *Jamal Journal's* staff has remained all-volunteer, so the entirety of your donation will go directly towards printing and postage costs.

28 May - Imprisoned Anti-Fascist Activist Says Federal Guards Let White Supremacists Beat Him

Eric King's civil rights lawsuit alleges a pattern of abuse by Bureau of Prison guards across several facilities.

MORE:

by Natasha Lennard (*The Intercept*)

One morning in early 2018, Eric King was awoken at 5 a.m. and taken out of his solitary confinement cell by prison guards at the federal United States Penitentiary, McCreary, in Kentucky. King didn't know the correctional officers by name, having been recently transferred to the facility for unexplained reasons.

That morning, the guards had something to tell King, according to a civil rights lawsuit filed this week on his behalf against the federal Bureau of Prisons and over 40 of its correctional officers. Members of a national white supremacist gang active in the prison had, the guards allegedly said, made threats on his life.

King is a known anti-fascist activist and anarchist. He is serving a 10-year federal sentence for throwing Molotov cocktails at an empty government office in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2014. He said throwing the Molotov cocktails, which he did not light, was in solidarity with the Ferguson rebellion that year, part of the Black liberation struggle against police violence.

That day in 2018, in prison in Kentucky, the guards warned King that the white supremacists wanted to gravely harm him. They asked him if he felt safe. King chose the answer that he believed would come with fewest repercussions. "Yes, I feel safe," he said, according to the lawsuit.

"At that point," the lawsuit claims, the correctional officers told King "he could leave, but directed him to exit through a different door than the one through which he entered." King walked through the door. "[H]e realized that, rather than being in a hallway or a public space on his way back to his cell, he had entered into an enclosed, locked outdoor area. Inside this room was a prisoner known to be a member of the aforementioned gang."

The white supremacist — who dwarfed the 5-foot-7, slightly built King — attacked the anti-fascist. The guards did nothing to intervene. King had, he felt, been trapped by correctional officers colluding with white supremacist gang members. Following the reported assault, King received a disciplinary citation for fighting.

King claims the incident was a part of an ongoing pattern of harassment and violence that he has endured in recent years at the hands of the Bureau of Prisons. The Civil Liberties Defense Center, a legal nonprofit organization, filed the civil suit on his behalf, alleging that his "constitutional rights have been continually violated since 2018 in retaliation for his political and anti-racist actions while incarcerated." Join Our Newsletter Original reporting. Fearless journalism. Delivered to you. I'm in

The Bureau of Prisons responded to questions relating to the case by stating that it does "not comment on pending litigation or matters that are the subject of legal proceedings." An agency representative added that "it is the mission of the Bureau of Prisons to operate facilities that are safe, secure, and humane. The BOP takes seriously our duty to protect the individuals entrusted in our custody, as well as maintain the safety of correctional staff and the community."

King has been held at Federal Correctional Institution, Englewood in solitary confinement, known officially as a Special Housing Unit, for over 1,000 days. He is currently one of only 80 people in the federal system who have been held in the unit for more than a year.

His attorneys say in the suit that he has faced no less than “torture” — including at one point being shackled, “naked and exposed,” in four-point restraints for over eight hours. On another occasion, King claims a guard beat his feet with a metal detector wand as he stood in his underwear in the shower; the lawsuit claims that King was knocked to the ground, left with a concussion and in need of six stitches.

Following almost every incident of violence alleged by King, guards have issued disciplinary complaints against him. He now faces a further 20 years in prison for allegedly assaulting a federal officer; he claims he was trying to defend himself as he was beaten by guards in a small storage area beyond the view of prison cameras.

The incidents alleged in the lawsuit span numerous federal facilities and involve dozens of officers. As such, the case resists the usual pro-law enforcement talking point about “bad apples.” Taken together, the accusations read as an indictment of the entire federal prison system.

“Eric King has faced chronic, targeted harassment, as well as severe emotional and physical torture, from BOP officers and known white supremacists working together, for over two years while held in solitary confinement,” Lauren Regan, one of King’s attorneys with the Civil Liberties Defense Center, said in a statement. “We reasonably believe this treatment has been in retaliation for his political views and First Amendment-protected activity.”

A white man in his mid-30s, King appears to embody the figure of anarchist agitator so maligned by politicians across the political spectrum during last summer’s Black-led anti-racist uprisings. Though he was convicted of attempted arson, King committed minor property destruction, specifically targeting a congressional office that he knew to be empty at the time. No one was hurt.

Facing hefty federal charges, he took a plea deal to serve 10 years. At his sentencing hearing, he made clear the motivation for his actions. “The government in this country is disgusting,” he said. “The way they treat poor people, the way they treat brown people, the way they treat everyone that’s not in the class of white and male is disgusting, patriarchal, filthy, and racist.”

Following the George Floyd rebellions, hundreds of anti-racist, anti-fascist protesters now find themselves in a similar position to King: facing highly politicized, overreaching federal charges and potentially long sentences in federal facilities, where white supremacist violence is known to flourish. Over 300 federal indictments were handed down across the country from late May to late September 2020, compared to an average of 10 such indictments in the summer period in years prior. “I’ve been treated deplorably. For the last two years I’ve been stuck in a 6’ x 9’ cage, denied access to my family and my lawyers, and subjected to physical and emotional torture.”

King’s allegations of consistent, targeted harassment by guards and white supremacist gangs paint a chilling picture of the brutality these anti-fascists — many of whom are not white — could face.

“I’m a human being with a family. I’ve been treated deplorably. For the last two years I’ve been stuck in a 6’ x 9’ cage, denied access to my family and my lawyers, and subjected to physical and

emotional torture,” said King in a statement. “They’ve done this because of my beliefs, not because of my actions.”

In 2019, a report by the House Subcommittee on National Security found the federal prison system to be a hotbed of misconduct, sexual assault, and other violence — committed by correctional officers both against incarcerated people and female prison staff members. The report also pointed to the way officers permit certain incarcerated people to carry out assaults too. “Misconduct in the federal prison system is widespread, tolerated and routinely covered up or ignored, including among senior officials,” the New York Times reported, citing the congressional investigation.

The civil rights lawyers who filed King’s federal suit only learned the extent of their client’s suffering while building his defense for the hefty criminal charges he faces for allegedly assaulting an officer. Regan, one of the attorneys, described violence in the federal prison system as “like a mold, which grows rampant when unchecked in a dark place.”

Any litigation in which an incarcerated person is making claims against law enforcement officers faces an uphill battle: King’s word against that of officers with badges. Yet the lawsuit, Regan hopes, will go some way to keep in check Bureau of Prisons correctional officers’ seemingly retaliatory violence against King. “We feel it is the right thing to do, whether we win or not, to shed light on this injustice,” Regan told me. “We know there are hundreds of thousands of other cases similar or even worse than this one throughout the criminal punishment system.”

Regan is under no illusions about the difficulty of winning a case alleging widespread, state-sanctioned brutality. Even if a federal judge were to rule in King’s favor, no given legal victory can constitute justice within the inherent violence of the carceral system. For King’s attorneys, his case is nonetheless an opportunity to expose institutional violence and white supremacist collusion. And beyond this broader moral imperative, there is a deep concern for King’s life. The correctional officers “seem intent on killing him or allowing other people to kill him,” Regan told me. “We want to keep him alive until his release.”

May 29th - Apple Hope by Eric King

The other day for lunch, I was given an apple. This in itself is not interesting since Warden Williams came on, we have had apples exclusively for breakfast lunch and dinner every single day even when we plead for no more apples, the guards will lay them on our bars or push them in our cells. These apples are not necessarily impressive, unless you’re impressed by tiny, mushy or way too large and bruised apples...if so you are in for a treat. A mushy bruised treat! Yum!

So a few days ago, as the guards were dumping their apple quota down our throats, a tiny thing was placed on my bars. This fella looked sickly; a dull red like it had been ran through the wash too many times, a miniature wax duplicate of an actual apple. Typically an apple of this quality would be launched down the tier towards the guard station, but I grasped it. I noticed something peculiar...this wee creature wasn’t a typical Williams Apple this one had a leaf STILL ATTACHED!!

Imagine my surprise and delight! How did I get so lucky to witness this sigil of determination and survival? After sharing my joy with the tear and being rebuffed as an Eco-jackass I sat down to meditate on this apple leaf combo...please share my Wonder for one moment.. this apple was picked up in Washington (according to the sticker) along with hundreds or thousands of its siblings, rivals, comrades. After being pulled from mother tree with rough yet affectionate hands, our ap(PAL)lol was tossed in a box or a bucket, driven to a processing plant, hosed down, ran through a conveyor belt, and then finally packaged up to be sent into the world to be devoured by convicts. Once packaged, our PAL would be bussed to a storage facility, then bussed again to this old decrepit (sic) prison. After arriving here, the apple crates would be

brought to the kitchen, emptied in a big metal bowl for washing, then put into crates to be carried to SHU to be passed out by busy officers.

Throughout all of that action, our little leaf clung to its Apple companion, it's stuck together even though countless circumstances conspired to separate them. I may sound #soft but the beauty of this made me emotional, we don't have to let outside forces break us, separate us from our goals. I wanted to mail the PAL to my wife and kiddos, share my inspiration but PAL is bureau "property" and I would have been giving a disciplinary write up (shot) for both, stealing government property, using the mail for criminal activity, and trying to inspire joy and others...very serious accusations.

Although this may sound audacious, the theme is very real. Prison serve uninspiring, dangerously unhealthy and starchy foods, to promote laziness and apathy. Prisons lock down joy and anything that's remotely inspiring. With inspiration comes the knowledge that 1) you do not deserve this and 2) you don't have to stand for it. Prisons expressly punish and try to tear apart families...being moved across the country, having very limited and expensive phone calls, making visiting as audaciously expensive and frustrating as possible...the goal is to make loving you way too much of an inconvenience for your family and supporters. To make yourself worth plummet to where you sink into prison life, feeling undeserving of Love friendship or a future...prisons exist to break families, shatter spirit, destroy hope...they've got centuries of experience and their agents are well trained in psychologically dismantling un-sturdy foundations...they will find loose bricks.

Apple showed me what I know and that prison tries to blind us to.... That we can survive intact. They can ship us far away from our families, handle us roughly, send us through the bureau conveyor belt, pack us in like beasts...but they underestimate our will. They've never known revolutionary strength and solidarity in their hearts...they've never known what it is like to truly feel loved not just by family (who are stronger and more loving than prisons could ever dream) but by friends and even comrades who are strangers our enemies will never experience what you and I have known all along.... They can hurt us, but they will never lay a finger on our love, hope and joy we are stronger than any prison torture.

4 Jun - Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) General Assembly

WHAT: General Assembly

WHEN: 6:30pm, Friday, June 4th

WHERE: Online (details below)

COST: FREE

MORE:

We will be hosting another "Virtual" General Assembly—lookout in your various Working Group platforms, e-mail listservs, Loomio, et cetera for details on how to join in and visit macc.nyc

General Assemblies are the most ideal place for new folks to plug-in to MACC, learn about our projects and ongoing efforts, and connect to organizers. We encourage everyone to come with ideas about what they would like to see for future campaigns or actions and what direction they'd like MACC to take to build a more powerful anarchist movement. Especially in our current context, when renewed attention has mixed repression with struggles for racial justice, abolition, and a humane economy. There will be a 6:30-7PM orientation for new folks that would like to get connected and learn more about MACC's structure and history.

Accessibility statement: This is a virtual event at this time, which usually takes place on Zoom, although Jitsi is also an option if requested. We don't currently have ASL or language interpretation in use; we can

do close-captioning. For closed captioning it is helpful, if possible, to coordinate that in advance so we can plan for someone to come to an event prepared to do that. We can coordinate in advance using the accessibility question on this RSVP, the email info@maccc.nyc, or at the beginning of the meeting we will do a check-in and we encourage anyone who is comfortable doing so to use that time to whatever extent is desirable to them to share or request anything that will help them to experience a greater level of comfort and/or ability to engage fully in the event.

Please review these documents before coming: maccc.nyc/organizing maccc.nyc/safer-spaces

5 Jun - Parole Justice March

WHAT: March

WHEN: 12:00pm, Saturday, June 5th

WHERE: 633 3rd Avenue, NYC

COST: FREE

MORE:

New York City organizers from the People's Campaign for Parole Justice will be holding a March for Parole Justice urging Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to take action to pass the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills before the end of the New York Legislative Session. We welcome community members, advocates, and other organizers to join us in this march and people directly impacted by the issues these bills will solve are welcome to speak out for #ParoleJusticeNY. We'll be out for about two hours with properly worn face masks required. Can you join us for this march? Can you invite others? Please let us know! Please register now to confirm your attendance at bit.ly/parole-justice-march