



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for June 11th

27 May - About the Anarchist comrade Andrea F.

Greece: On April 22, comrade A.F. was arrested in the city of Patras after the anti-terrorist police raided his house and he was remanded in custody on the charge of being a member of a terrorist organisation.

MORE:

via Act for freedom now!

Comrade A.F. has been an active presence in the anti-authoritarian-anti-fascist-anarchist space for 17 years, both in Patras and in the rest of the country. For almost two decades he has co-organised in self-organised political assemblies and groups, he has fought for social and class issues, while he has been present in every just fight and claim against capitalism and power.

from the Patras Solidarity Assembly

On Monday, April 22, the anti-terrorists raided the house of comrade Andrea F. in Patras, kidnapped him and took him to Athens. He is facing serious charges under the Terrorism Act. Once again, the anti-terrorist scenarios are proclaimed as indisputable truth, regardless of whether they collapse like a house of cards dozens of times in the courts. In any case, the prosecuting authorities are not interested in anything other than gaining impressions and producing work to the order of the respective government, serving political expediencies, especially in view of the European

elections. The entrenchment of a sense of security translates into brute force and repression, control and discipline, and police-military management of social issues.

The local and Athenian media, as genuine agents of the state, from the beginning follow the well-trodden path by reproducing horror scenarios and attempting to outline the personality of the comrade, attributing non-existent and “dark” characteristics to him, systematically concealing the truth of his long-standing, consistent and multifaceted participation in social and class struggles.

But now we will talk. In the last 20 years in Patras, we have co-organised in assemblies, shouted slogans in demonstrations, put up posters, disagreed and agreed. We have coexisted in a multitude of processes, projects and social/class actions. From the student mobilisations of 06/2007 and solidarity with immigrants, to the uprising of 08 and the occupying movement of Patras, from the Indignant and popular neighbourhood assemblies, to solidarity with persecuted fighters and the anti-fascist struggle, from mobilisations against mnimonium and strikes, to mutual aid structures and collective kitchens, from struggles against the plundering of nature and our lives to open assemblies and labour groups, from anti-precision initiatives and anti-mining assemblies, to initiatives aimed at supporting our fellow citizens who had been affected by fires or floods and government indifference. Andreas, an anarchist social activist, has consciously chosen the path of struggle alongside the wronged of this world, the struggle against exploitation, against the destructive designs of the state and capital with resistance, self-organisation and solidarity as a weapon. For this very reason, he is the target of the prosecuting authorities. He won't be left alone.

27 May - Repression Continues Against the Okupa Che and Jorge “Yorch” Esquivel

Mexico: Update on the case of anarchist prisoner Jorge “Yorch” Esquivel, member of the Okupa Che squat in Mexico City.

MORE:

For the second time, our compañero Jorge Esquivel was the one who received the blow. For 533 days, Yorch has been imprisoned in the Reclusorio Oriente of Mexico City, for crimes that have already been dismissed.

During this time, the authorities have done their best to lengthen the judicial process so as to attempt to fabricate sufficient evidence to sustain their farce. They have scratched their heads and put together a supposed “investigation” to be able to justify and legitimize their set up, false accusations, absent witnesses, and fabricated evidence. To this date, they haven’t been able to put together anything substantial. Just one accusation seems to be enough to justify the kidnapping of Yorch and his continued imprisonment.

It is evident that Yorch’s case is one of exemplary punishment, a tacit threat against those who self-organize independently and autonomously. Yorch was and is part of the Okupa Che squat that for the 24 years of its existence has been a pillar in the struggle for autonomous, independent, anarchist, and student organization. In spite of being located inside the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the reach of its existence far exceeds its location. The security forces of the UNAM know this, and so does the state. As a result, the Okupa Che exists beneath the permanent threat of eviction and harassment.

533 days since the set up and kidnapping of Yorch, state and judicial authorities continue to be complicit in this arbitrariness. It seems obvious that the construction of common enemies hasn’t worked. They will continue functioning through violence and the force of their laws, as they are unable to squash the horizontal organization that escapes from their hands. 533 days since this set up began, a long wait, and a long struggle in both the courts and the streets.

Today, May 24, 2024, the judicial authorities have called for a final sentence against Yorch. His support crew and legal team know that there is no legal basis for him to remain in prison. It has been demonstrated that the accusation of drug dealing is non-existent and the backpack that they planted on Yorch as evidence was never seen or touched by him. There is absolutely nothing to deny Yorch his freedom. And, however, as we are finishing writing this, we have received the news that the hearing was postponed. Further proof that the set-up continues.

May 28th - Letter from “Yorch”

Compas, as you already know, the hearing was postponed yet again until May 29 at 10am.

Well, this time the hearing couldn’t happen as the prosecuting attorney had diarrhea and wanted to go home. You can imagine the indignation this caused me, but at nearly 18 months of being locked up, we continue resisting.

I would like it if you could come on May 29 to pressure the court or to put pressure on from your respective trenches.

I hope to be with you on that side of the wall unless the court comes up with another charade.

Thank you to the crew who came out last weekend to the event at Okupa Che. To the fujitiva crew for the vegetables they sent me. To all those that have attended the anti-carceral activities at La Clandestina, I thank you for the cards, the support, and remind you that my handicrafts are there for those who want to support me by buying them. Thank you very much, compas. I send a hug and I hope to see you soon.

June 5th - “Yorch” Sentenced to 7 Years and 6 Months

On Monday, June 3, 2024, one day after the elections and five days from marking 18 months of being kidnapped in the Reclusorio Oriente as part of the set up against the Okupache squat, our compañero was notified that the judge had sentenced him to seven years and six months in prison. He has three days to appeal the decision.

Seven years and six months of an absurd sentence when up until now all the evidence presented, both by his defense as well as the prosecution, has shown that there exists no proof whatsoever to support the fabricated and totally false charges against him. However, it is clear to us yet again that there is a concerted effort directed against our compañero to keep him locked up as long as possible, given that this is a key part of the campaign by UNAM authorities to discredit Okupache in order to justify and gain sympathy for an eventual eviction of the autonomous space of self-managed work that has existed and resisted for almost a quarter of a century.

We issue an urgent international call to organize agitation and solidarity with Yorch to demand the repeal of his sentence and for his immediate freedom.

Let's rip our compañero from the claws of this corrupt and unaccountable State that jails, disappears, and kills those who fight!

June 5th - Okupa Che: "Yorch to the Streets"

On the morning of June 3, the Fifth District Federal Court in Mexico City dictated a sentence of seven years and six months in prison against our compa Jorge "Yorch" Esquivel.

Just a few hours following the media show they call elections, the state decided that it was a good moment to sentence him, after already holding him in prison for nearly 18 months.

It is clear that the set up against Yorch is directly related to the change in the governmental administration, including the change in the rector of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). As we know, to speak of the eviction of the Okupa Che is a campaign talking point that cannot be missed. Furthermore, it is constantly used to divert attention when university authorities are questioned by the community. The incompetence and fascism of the UNAM is becoming ever more visible, even to the proudest university students.

It is obvious that we are a menace to the university. For them, it is more important to eliminate the threat posed by a space that doesn't depend on any institution or political party, than to attend to the demands of their students and their "community" whom the same authorities beat, expel, detain, discriminate against, harass, rape, revictimize, and kill (classic move of the institutions).

It is also clear that this set up against Yorch is another attack on the Okupa Che and those that organize in the space. The attacks have taken a variety of forms: harassment; persecution; media attacks; internet, radio, and television broadcasts that speak of the space as a problem of national security; espionage on part of the UNAM, the different police, and pseudo intelligence agencies; cutting off the water and electricity in the space; hacking of electronic devices; creation of false posters with names and photos accusing us of carrying weapons and explosives supposedly pertaining to this or that organization; or whatever other tactics they come up with. These attacks, which have continued for the 24 years that the space has existed, have not been and will not be sufficient to destroy the autonomous, self-organized, and horizontal organization of the Okupa Che and of the different spaces/collectives/communities/individuals scattered around the world, where the message of resistance is also clear and direct:

We will not take one step back!

Regarding Yorch's case, we will continue fighting, his legal defense who will exhaust all the different resources of this dirty game, and from this side of the bars, from the Okupa Che, and from the different latitudes and hearts willing to fight for his freedom...

28 May - 13 Calls to Save Lives & Urge Parole Justice

We are in crunch time: the final days of the New York State Legislative session and a last chance for us to urge lawmakers to save the lives of our elders.

MORE:

Will you commit to making just a few daily calls to a short list of lawmakers we're urging to support? We are so close!

Calls Senators urging them to Co-Sponsor Fair & Timely Parole (S.307)

Call Senator Simcha Felder: Phone 518.455.2754, 718.253.2015

Call Senator Scarcella-Spanton: Phone 518.455.2437, 718.727.9406

Call Senator Roxanne Persaud: Phone 518.455.2788, 718.649.7653

Call Senator Addabbo: Phone 518.455.2322, 718.738.1111

"Hello my name is ____ and I'm calling to ask the Senator to co-sponsor the Fair & Timely Parole Act, S.307. This bill, which restores the Parole Board to its original purpose of evaluating people's readiness for release, will save lives, reunite families, and bring home those who are ready. Will you please urge the Senator to sign on as a co-sponsor?"

Calls Assembly Members urging them to Co-Sponsor Fair & Timely Parole (A.162)

Call Assembly Member Vanel: Phone 518.455.4711, 718.479.2333

Call Assembly Member Otis: Phone 518.455.4897, 914.939.7028

Call Assembly Member Rozic: Phone 518.455.5172, 718.820.0241

Call Assembly Member Burke: Phone 518.455.4691, 716.608.6099

Call Assembly Member Jean-Pierre: Phone 518.455.5787, 631.957.2087

Call Assembly Member Santabarbara: Phone 518.455.5197, 518.382.2941

"Hello my name is ____ and I'm calling to ask the Assembly Member to co-sponsor the Fair & Timely Parole Act, A.162. This bill, which restores the Parole Board to its original purpose of evaluating people's readiness for release, will save lives, reunite families, and bring home those who are ready. Will you please urge the Assembly Member to sign on as a co-sponsor?"

Calls to More Assembly Members Urging Them to Co-Sponsor Both Bills

Call Assembly Member Gunther: Phone 518.455.5355, 845.794.5807

Call Assembly Member McMahon: Phone 518.455.4618, 716.634.1895

"Hello my name is ____ and I'm calling to ask the Assembly Member to co-sponsor the Fair & Timely Parole Act, A.162 and Elder Parole Bill, A.2035. These bills will save lives, reunite families, and bring home those who are ready. Will you please urge the Assembly Member to sign on as a co-sponsor?"

Make One More Call Urging Assembly Member Jacobson to Co-Sponsor Elder Parole (A.2035)

Call Assembly Member Jacobson: Phone 518.455.5762, 845.763.7011

"Hello my name is ____ and I'm calling to ask the Assembly Member to co-sponsor Elder Parole, A.2035. This bill will save lives, reunite families, and bring home those who are ready. Will you please urge the Assembly Member to sign on as a co-sponsor?"

29 May - Atlanta police surveil people opposing 'Cop City'

Residents wonder what legal protections are available as police monitor them at all hours, blaring sirens and shining lights.

MORE:

by Timothy Pratt (*The Guardian*)

Atlanta police have been carrying out around-the-clock surveillance in several neighborhoods for months, on people and houses linked to opposition against the police training center colloquially known as "Cop City".

The surveillance in Georgia has included following people in cars, blasting sirens outside bedroom windows and shining headlights into houses at night, the *Guardian* has learned.

While no arrests have been made, residents said they're at a loss as to what legal protections of privacy and freedom from harassment are available to them. Chata Spikes, the Atlanta police spokesperson, did not respond to requests for comment.

The ongoing actions started soon after an 8 February pre-dawn, Swat-style raid on three Atlanta houses in which Atlanta police and agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives sought evidence relating to arson of construction and police equipment.

Police have since established themselves in four neighborhoods, centering on about 12 houses – including those that were previously raided – with marked and unmarked cars parking near them, driving slowly by and leaving when approached by residents.

Social movement historian Dan Berger said this low-tech type of surveillance and related behavior – blasting sirens and flashing lights, following people – has precedence dating at least to the civil rights era. He called the actions “naked intimidation with plausible deniability attached to it”.

Berger added that “[a] common strategy of police work is, when a movement reaches a point of threat, the powers that be begin actively trying to scare them out of existence – showing them they know where they live, who they hang out with”.

The Cop City training center is being built on a 171-acre footprint in a forest south-east of Atlanta. Opposition has come from a wide range of local and national supporters and is centered on concerns such as unchecked police militarization and clearing forests in an era of climate crisis. Atlanta police say the center is needed for “world-class” training.

One resident of a Lakewood neighborhood house raided on 8 February described being in a car with another person several days afterward. Different vehicles followed them for four and a half hours, as they drove out of city limits and into Gwinnett county suburbs.

When they stopped in a drive-through, a Gwinnett police officer pulled them over and gave them a ticket for having the car's license plate in the back window, and not on the bumper.

The *Guardian* spoke to the driver in that incident, as well as half a dozen other residents of different Atlanta neighborhoods and a DeKalb county neighborhood experiencing increased Atlanta police presence in recent months. All of them spoke on the condition of anonymity or used assumed names, out of safety concerns.

The same Lakewood resident who was a passenger in the followed car was stirred from bed one morning in March at 3:30am, when a police car blasted its siren for about 10 seconds.

“I’m not a lawyer,” he said. “But it eventually reaches the point of harassment – how do you tell cops they’ve crossed that threshold?”

Andrew Ferguson, a lawyer, law professor at the American University Washington College of Law and expert on police surveillance, privacy and civil rights, explained how this behavior can happen.

“Generally speaking, courts have given police the power to investigate crimes,” he said. “[T]he problem is, abuse and harassment are usually harder to define ... and there aren’t great external laws to say, ‘You can’t do this.’”

Atlanta police have been carrying out “physical surveillance” – as distinguished from digital or technological surveillance, Ferguson noted. The reason: “Police want to be seen because the purpose of the surveillance is to intimidate and expose dissenting voices. Police are using the coercive power of surveillance to silence protest and dissent.”

Ferguson noted that the US constitution’s fourth amendment “is supposed to be a check on this”, adding that what’s happening in Atlanta is “exactly the kind of case where there needs to be some kind of external examination – like from the Department of Justice”.

Meanwhile, some residents keep tallies of police activity outside their houses. In Lakewood, 10 houses exchange observations on a Signal thread. Ashley, a south Atlanta resident, made 16 entries on a list.

“One night, people were over for dinner and a cop car slowed down in front of the house, about 20ft from the entrance. The room got quiet,” she said. “It’s like an intimidation tactic. ‘We know you believe this one thing,’” referring to her participation in protests against Cop City.

Ashley stopped spending time on her front porch, a custom in the US south, and started sleeping with binoculars.

“Even though I’ve done nothing wrong ... there’s this constant stalking feeling,” she said.

A resident of Starlight Heights – blocks from the Cop City site – said Atlanta police have pointed headlights at her bedroom around midnight.

“It’s very scary,” she said. “We’re all women [in the house]. We don’t want to go out ... and talk to police at night.”

An incident earlier this week created another parallel to the civil rights movement. A resident of a house raided in February woke to a bright light outside his bedroom window, next to the front door, early last week at 3:15am. He opened the door to see a lit road flare catching fire to the wooden railing next to steps leading to the house’s wooden porch. He ran into the house, filled a bucket with water and doused the flames. It is unclear who left the flare on the porch.

“I’m already paranoid,” he said. “But there’s a difference between police surveillance and trying to burn your house down.” A lawyer recommended filing a police report. “But what if it’s a state actor? Who protects us then?”

31 May - Repression: Eight anarchists arrested

Italy: On the night between Friday and Saturday 8 people were violently arrested by the carabinieri in front of Ex Latteria Occupata (the former dairy occupation) of Stradone Sant’Agostino in Genoa with accusations that include resistance to public officials, aggravated injuries and damage.

MORE:

via *Radio Onda D’urto*

The eight arrested were transferred to two different barracks in the area, to Marassi and Pontedecimo. About twenty demonstrators gathered as a sign of solidarity towards the arrested in front of the barracks, dissolving only in the early hours of the morning.

In a press release the anarchists of the Ex Latteria Occupata write “We go down to the street alongside Ema, Anaïs, Edo, Paolo, Michele, Jack, Lea and Davide. Against the militarization of the cities made of both baton and taser and more totalizing forms, cameras and artificial intelligence. The same technologies they design in universities build in Leonardo, devouring resources and which we see employed on all war fronts.”

On Friday 3 May eight people were arrested in front of Ex Latteria Occupata with the accusations of aggravated resistance and injuries and for one of the people also outraged and refusal to provide general information. Those who were there that evening is well aware how power works. He knows how absurd the reactions of the cops, complaints and requests of the public prosecutor are. Currently all the defendants have precautionary measures: seven of them have daily signatures and one signatures, the obligation to stay and the night return. A few days ago, the news arrived that the prosecutor again requires prison for everything. Evidently, we try to give a legal justification to a disproportionate reaction of the cops to a moment of normal anger, which can be shared by anyone every day the militarization and gentrification of this city lives, increasingly invaded by puppets in uniform. Since we do not recognize courts nor divided our answer is always the same: to go to the street and to pour our anger against those who try to suffocate every dissent and all existence that does not conform to a showcase thrown to the mass tourism & sold off by the businessmen who have recently risen.

31 May - Fundraiser for the anarchist Ruslan Siddiqui's legal defence

Russia: The anarchist Ruslan Siddiqui is accused of attacking the Dyagilevo military aerodrome, using quadcopters, and of damaging railway lines (in Ryazan region) that were used to transport military equipment and fuel to the Russian army in Ukraine.

MORE:

via avtonom

Anti-War Human Rights Initiative Solidarity zone launching a fundraiser to pay for the next six months' work by Ruslan's lawyer. For six months' legal work we need to raise €4290. PayPal:

solidarity_zone@riseup.net (please specify, "for Siddiqui")

1 Jun - 2024 Statement from Marius Mason for June 11th

A statement from anarchist and eco-prisoner Marius Mason addressing June 11th, an international day of solidarity with anarchist long-term prisoners.

MORE:

Thank you for coming together to support all anarchist prisoners still kept from freedom. Your positivity and encouragement have meant the world to me, literally, this past year. Now that it has been some 16 years away from the free world for me, your stories have allowed me to connect to campaigns as different as saving the commons in Georgia to ending genocide in Gaza.

And as diverse as they are, these struggles hold at their heart the need to shift our system away from exploitation and disregard to one of mutual aid and respect; first for our planet, and then for our animal and plant relations and so importantly, for each other. Though my body is still caged, my heart is with you all. La lucha continua!

This year has marked a number of changes for me in prison. In September of last year, I was transferred to FMC Fort Worth in Texas. It felt ironic to be about a mile away from where I had spent so many years at FMC Carswell. It's a small distance in miles, but a massive shift in ways of being, and a big step in fulfilling my request to medically transition.

This year will mark 11 years since I came out as trans at Carswell and officially requested Gender Reassignment Surgery (GRS). To date, I have been on Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for nine years and have seen just one doctor to discuss the possibilities of a GRS procedure. I am now in my third year of living as a man in a men's prison, having spent more than two years in FCI Danbury before this prison.

Things have moved glacially, and that has been both frustrating and concerning. The very real possibility of a roll-back on trans rights generally and an out and out refusal of trans rights in prison looms in the

outcome of the next election. I have been at the gate and sent back once before, as the administration changed.

Conditions for trans people in prison are often humiliating and can be dangerous. Names matter to anyone, but in prison they can make the difference between safety and risk, between dignity and degradation, and between privacy and notoriety. It is part of the 2016 Transgender Prisoner Policy that a legal name change can be affected while in custody.

This new, legal name can be used in all official capacities, but only if the presiding judge in your instant offense is willing to make the change. If they are not, either because of prejudice or because of sheer laziness, then the policy right is not given and the BOP facility can ignore the right with impunity. It seems like a glitch in the policy, as it keeps it from being equally applied to all prisoners.

Not being able to use my legal name on prison documents has resulted in my degrees earned while in prison going to another name and I will have to use these credentials to get a job and be forced to disclose my status as trans in that first interview. The status of being trans is not a protected category, so that may affect my employment options like others similarly situated).

Also, hearing your dead name chanted at you by strangers in the chow hall is super weird or being accosted for sex anonymously (by a note, in another prison) because the name triggered something for somebody is gross and jarring. The risk is real when being “outed” as trans.

Worse treatment is still reserved for the young trans folks and transwomen in particular. I have been told of trans people’s experiences of being physically intimidated to hide caches of drugs or hooch, of being forced to perform sex acts for viewers or being beaten because of these performances, or of trading sex for safety or commissary.

It’s a cycle of abuse and Special Housing Unit (SHU) punitive time that steals trans women’s autonomy and “good time” while in prison. These experiences seem like a powerful argument for transwomen to be in female facilities for safety (if they choose), and for all trans people to use the legal name that best reflects them.

I hope that my community on the outside will stand by me in my continuing quest to access care. At 62 years of age, I have already passed the age when I could get the radial forearm phalloplasty procedure that I really wanted – but may still be able to get a simpler procedure. I was given this assessment by a caring and capable doctor, so I believe the advice.

I don’t want to “age out” of GRS entirely – but the clock is ticking. Please join me in advocating for all trans people, incarcerated or free, young or old to live their truth and to be treated with compassion and respect.

June 9th - Marius Mason Needs Support

His support team has drafted a letter that they are asking to print and post to put pressure and show support. Please, read the words below, grab a stamp and print the letter.

Let’s show solidarity to Marius and fight for his health as fearsome as he has fought for our planet.

“Please copy and paste in to your own document, print and send to:

Director Collette Peters
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20534

Dear Director Peters:

Thank you for prioritizing the rehabilitative purpose and programming of the BOP in your role as Director. It was encouraging to see the Transgender Policy Manual posted again, after years of being unavailable on the FBOP site when you came into office. I appreciate the atmosphere of respect, acceptance and safety fostered at the highest level under your administration for all LGBTQIA+ people currently in the carceral system.

I am writing today to call attention to the situation of Marius Mason (née Marie Mason, #04672-061). Mason has been approved by the FBOP for gender-affirming surgery since 2022. He was transferred from FCI Danbury, a male facility, and after living there for two years, he was transported to FMC Fort Worth, where he was to undergo gender affirming surgery. This was the culmination of a 10-year process, beginning in 2013 when Mason asked to be considered for the new transgender medical policy, after a lawsuit created a pathway to medical transition.

However, Mason was informed at a meeting with Dr. Mercado (the Health Services Administrator), Mr. Strickland and Mason's therapist, Dr. Bartholomew on 5/24/24 that despite having been approved for surgery, the health services contractor that was working for FMC Fort Worth was not willing to provide gender-affirming hysterectomy. It is our understanding that there are in fact local medical professionals who can perform this procedure, without which the other surgeries will be delayed.

Also at this same meeting, Mason was informed that test results from a prior ultrasound had revealed that there was indications of an early onset of cancer in his uterus, and a further test was being ordered to confirm this possible result. If indeed Marius requires a hysterectomy due to uterine cancer, we hope this will be carried out with all possible speed.

I am asking that you please investigate the apparent refusal of a contracted health care to provide care to a trans prisoner, and also to ensure that this denial and delay do not endanger Mason's health and safety or delay the approved care long enough to prevent it being fulfilled. Thank you for continuing to be an ally to LGBTQIA+ prisoners in the Federal system.

Sincerely,"

3 Jun - Call for International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners

Annual call for solidarity with antifascist prisoners across the world on July 25th.

MORE:

Across the world, fascist and far-Right movements are trying to advance their agendas of bigotry, ultra-nationalism and authoritarian control. The establishment—no matter who is in power—does not and cannot offer solutions for deepening economic inequality or any of the numerous crises we are living through. Instead, those in power continue to advance the militarization of police and the hardening of borders as the rich have become richer than they have ever been before. As the world burns and our lives become harder and harder, the fascist and far-right menace offers only lies and scapegoats—demonizing and attacking migrants, refugees, LGBTQ+ people, as well as racial, religious, and ethnic minorities.

The July 25th International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners originated in 2014 as a Day of Solidarity with Jock Palfreeman, an Australian man who served 13-years in prison in Bulgaria for defending two Romani men from an attack by fascist football hooligans. In 2015, J25 expanded into a global day of solidarity with all antifascists facing State repression. The friends and comrades we are celebrating on J25 were on the frontlines of this fight against fascism and the far-Right, and we will not forget them behind prison walls as we continue the struggle for liberation.

As revolutionary antifascists, we believe that building movements of defense and solidarity with those locked behind the prison walls is fundamental in the three-way fight against both the far-right and the State.

This July 25th, we call on antifascists worldwide to take part in the International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners!

Some Ideas for Action Include:

- Organizing a benefit show, concert, or event with antifascist and anti-racist bands and donating the proceeds to an antifascist prisoner or support group.
- Hosting a letter-writing night in support of antifascist prisoners. If you are new to writing letters to prisoners, check out this guide here. See a list of prisoners here.
- Set up a literature table or distro at an event, musical concert, or on the street. Check out some materials for printing and distribution here or at the end of this post. Download and print a J25 zine here.
- Help promote J25 by dropping banners, writing slogans, and putting up stickers, posters, and flyers. Check out more outreach ideas here. Posters here and here. Check out amazing stickers for cheap at Municipal Adhesives.
- Donate to a prisoners' support group or by supporting the International Antifascist Defense Fund by buying a shirt. "All proceeds will be donated to anti-fascist prisoners and their families around the world, either directly or via their support groups."

This year, the need to organize solidarity for our imprisoned comrades and build a robust movement of self-defense and anti-repression is greater than ever.

This July 25th, let us make some noise, have fun, and stand with those targeted by our enemies. Helpful materials for history and promotion are at supportantifaprisoners.wordpress.com

4 Jun - Court Support Needed for Community Organizer Targeted by Fascist Group

Call to support Chris "Big Tex" G, a community organizer targeted by fascist groups in North Texas.

MORE:

Chris "Big Tex" G. is a community organizer from North Texas who was arrested after a cop riot at a drag show in Fort Worth and indicted by a grand jury on bogus charges. Tarrant County officials immediately assigned a white-collar special prosecutor who has acted at every turn to stall his requests for trial.

Subsequent to his arrest, Chris was served with a quarter million-dollar lawsuit on behalf of the New Columbia Movement. NCM is a self-described "Christian-fascist fraternity" that has generated a personality around bullying those they don't agree with.

According to investigative journalist, Steve Monacelli of the Texas Observer, self-described "Christian Fascist" Kelly Neidert is a member of the New Columbia Movement. Neidert has called for "rounding up" those who attend Pride events.

The lawyers for New Columbia Movement have filed motions to quash subpoenas compelling members of the Neo-Nazi group from testifying in Chris's criminal trial.

The attorneys from Jackson Walker have so far exploited Chris's pro se status in the civil case they have brought against him to withhold numerous admissions to discovery. The realization of their clients testifying to competent representation must terrify them as they have interjected themselves in Chris's criminal trial to prevent the truth being heard.

We are calling on the community to show up and show their support on Tuesday, June 18th at noon where oral arguments for these motions will be heard, and witness concerted collaboration between the Tarrant County Prosecutors office and neo-Nazis.

5 Jun - NYC's Very Own Cop City

A proposed New York training facility shows how establishment politicians only understand governance through policing.

MORE:

by Natasha Lennard (*The Intercept*)

New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced last Friday that the city would spend at least \$225 million on a new police training facility in the borough of Queens. The mayor's decision to pour further public funding into policing comes as he slashed services to the city's most vulnerable, including cutting library budgets by \$58.3 million.

The priorities could not be clearer. Like many politicians across the country, the mayor wants to disinvest from public services and privatize them, while instead increasing mass policing and carceral enforcement as a response to social problems.

To see just how much Adams has become the paragon of governance through policing, one need only look at the intended purposes of the police training facility. The site will be used to train law enforcement officers for all the city's agencies — including the departments of Sanitation, Homeless Services, the Administration for Children's Services, and the Taxi and Limousine Commission — under one roof, alongside New York Police Department officers.

In response to the mayor's announcement, a number of commentators on social media decried the plan as a "Cop City" for New York — the term used to describe a vast police training facility under construction in Atlanta, which will swallow up crucial forest land in that city.

Despite the fact that the Atlanta facility will be a compound of over 85 acres, the cost is estimated to be a ballooning \$109 million — less than half the amount New York City is dedicating to its new training building.

The analogy is not perfect — the New York facility will be built on land already occupied by police, at the NYPD Police Academy Campus — but like the Atlanta project, Adams's plan will be dedicated to multi-agency training under the misleading label of "public safety."

If the planned building itself is not quite a "cop city," it reflects an agenda that sees the whole of New York as a cop city. Consider, for instance, that Adams himself is a former cop.

Eighteen city agencies already have law enforcement officers among their ranks, although in numbers far smaller than the leviathan NYPD's 36,000 cops. The New York City Department of Health and Hospitals has 1,250 so-called special officers, for example, and Sanitation employs 80 special patrol officers.

While most of these law enforcement officers don't carry guns, the "peace officer" label should not apply to agents who carry batons, handcuffs, and in some cases weapons like Tasers. What they all have is permission to use physical force against civilians.

An investigation published in April by New York Focus found numerous repeat instances of abuse, including beatings, carried out by over two dozen "peace officers" with the Department of Homeless Services Police.

But Is NYPD Training Any Good?

The idea that all the city's law enforcement officers will be trained in the manner of NYPD cops promises only more violent outcomes. NYPD misconduct settlements cost the city over \$500 million in the last six years, and \$115 million in 2023 alone.

The mayor's own words on the virtues of consolidating law enforcement training bode ill for the new Queens facility.

"We will learn from the Department of Correction of how they're able to identify gang behavior within their walls," Adams said in Friday's press conference. "We will learn from the Department of Probation as they see those probationary individuals who are continuously committing crimes or who are attempting to turn their lives around."

The centralized training, then, is aimed at reinforcing practices of criminalization that treat certain groups and individuals — disproportionately poor people of color — as threats worthy of constant policing and surveillance.

When announcing the training center, Adams invoked a unified force of "bad guys of this city" without clarifying who or what he meant, but his fearmongering statements echoed similar claims — that organized, professionalized groups were responsible for sowing disorder — used to justify brutal police responses to the 2020 George Floyd uprisings and, more recently, raids on Palestine solidarity encampments at college campuses.

Adams's agenda, meanwhile, exemplifies what abolitionist geographer Ruth Wilson Gilmore calls "organized abandonment." Gilmore describes a divestment by the state from essential services from poor and working-class communities, leaving opportunities for privatization and extraction, while relying increasingly on extensive policing and carceral solutions to maintain a violently racist order. Attendant myths of marauding and devious criminal enterprises serve as rhetorical cover.

Prosecutors in Atlanta have deployed the same pernicious logic to Cop City protesters on extreme and overreaching charges, frequently under Georgia's expansive Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. As *The Intercept* reported, the RICO indictment cites typical social justice activities such as "mutual aid," writing "zines," "collectivism," and raising funds for legal fees as proof of criminal conspiracy.

Construction on the New York City police training building will begin in 2026 and the facility is planned to open in 2030. Unlike Atlanta's Cop City, the fight against the facility in New York can't have the same territorial dimension. Atlanta's Stop Cop City movement is still fighting to save the acres of forest on which the police compound is to be built, and that land has been a site of protest mobilizations and encampments for over two years.

The area planned for the New York building is already cop territory. Yet there is room for New Yorkers to stake out their objections, just as opposition to Cop City has expanded far beyond the Atlanta forest, with protesters taking aim at the headquarters of the project's corporate backers and contractors nationwide.

The fight against a "cop city" in New York cannot focus solely on a Queens police training campus. The mayor's plan, after all, is a grim reminder that, four years after the George Floyd uprisings, Cop City is everywhere.

8 Jun - Leonard Peltier Supporters Urge AGS to Help Imprisoned Elders

Supporters of Indigenous Political Prisoner Leonard Peltier Urge the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) to Call for June 10 Parole for Peltier & Help End Institutional Abuse of Elder Prisoners

MORE:

The Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Committee, National Lawyers Guild Mass Incarceration Committee, and Dr. Ricardo Alvarez, who holds carceral medicine expertise, has asked the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) to advocate for the release of Leonard Peltier and to address "one of the gravest unseen wounds in our nation- the institutional elder abuse of our elderly incarcerated." Leonard – an Indigenous activist,

artist, and great-grandfather- will be 80 years old in September and has been a US Political Prisoner for 48 years. He has multiple debilitating and painful conditions, some life-threatening, that are not being treated in federal prison. Leonard Peltier is one of the longest held political prisoners in the world, in his struggle to defend his people against genocide.

Leonard is a six-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. The call for his liberation has been supported by national and international institutions and individuals from all walks of life, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu[i], Amnesty International, Nobel Laureates, the Democratic National Committee[ii], Coretta Scott King, and several former law enforcement officers involved in Leonard's prosecution[iii].

Leonard Peltier has a US Parole Commission hearing on Monday, June 10, 2024. Parole boards often refuse to release elder prisoners, even when they meet the legal standard for parole and/or are dying in prison. Even James Reynolds, a top prosecutor in Leonard's case, wrote in 2017 to President Obama, "I... beseech you to commute the sentence of a man I helped put behind bars...I urge you to take a step towards healing a wound that I had a part in making." The June 4, 2024 letter to the American Geriatrics Society Board of Directors urges the organization to include elder prisoners in its mission and honor its vision "to identify and eliminate other forms of social and structural bias/discrimination;" also to immediately push for Leonard Peltier's release.

"Our elderly prisoners have been subjected to the longest prison sentences of any people in the history of the world. There is abundant evidence that our elders age out of crime and are safe for release.[iv]" However, the letter continues, elder prisoners face "parole boards whose failure to embrace trauma-informed principles and their distorted emphasis on vengeance violate the primacy of public safety and restorative justice.[v]"

The letter to the AGS cites multiple sources of evidence-based literature about the safety of releasing our elders from prison,[vi] and the harms of continued incarceration. References include policy papers, legal briefs, investigative reports, journal articles, and the American Public Health Association (APHA) position paper on prison abolition as an important public health measure. The letter also specifically addresses the context in which Leonard Peltier became a US Political Prisoner of War in the 1970s (defending traditional native elders, women, and children) and speaks about the inhumane conditions he endures and the carceral harm to his health. Forty-eight years of incarceration, the torture of a cumulative 15 years of solitary confinement, prison lockdowns[vii], and medical neglect have all taken a heavy toll on Leonard's body. He suffers from insulin dependent diabetes, coronary artery disease, unmonitored abdominal aortic aneurysm, progressive vision loss, severe disabling arthritis, and inadequate or total denial of medical assistance from the prison. Leonard has fallen three times since mid-May.

Leonard Peltier's release is not only a matter of factual innocence and parole law in his favor; it is also an emergency, a crisis of aging and surviving as a disabled elder in an environment that exacerbates and hastens the aging process, while also being completely unequipped to care for elderly people. The signatories of the letter will work with the AGS to end the institutional abuse of our elder prisoners, and they urge the AGS to advocate today so that Leonard Peltier does not die in prison.

[i] Archbishop Desmond Tutu [amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/From-Archbishop-Desmond-Tutu.pdf](https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/From-Archbishop-Desmond-Tutu.pdf)

[ii] DNC Unanimously Passes Resolution Urging Joe Biden To Release Leonard Peltier [huffpost.com/entry/dnc-leonard-peltier-biden-clemency_n_631b9050e4b027aa405baaa7](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dnc-leonard-peltier-biden-clemency_n_631b9050e4b027aa405baaa7)

[iii] Former FBI Agent Calls for Clemency for Leonard Peltier | Amnesty International USA [amnestyusa.org/press-releases/former-fbi-agent-calls-for-clemency-for-leonard-peltier](https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/former-fbi-agent-calls-for-clemency-for-leonard-peltier)

[iv] The Older You Get: Why Incarcerating the Elderly Makes Us Less Safe | by FAMM Foundation medium.com/famm/the-older-you-get-why-incarcerating-the-elderly-makes-us-less-safe-ce8cd0a9801

[v] Parole Release and Supervision: Critical Drivers of American Prison Policy | Annual Reviews annualreviews.org/content/journals/10.1146/annurev-criminol-011419-041416

[vi] The Older You Get: Why Incarcerating the Elderly Makes Us Less Safe | by FAMM Foundation medium.com/famm/the-older-you-get-why-incarcerating-the-elderly-makes-us-less-safe-ce8cd0a9801
[vii] Inside the High-Security "Black Site" Where Leonard Peltier Is Incarcerated truthout.org/articles/inside-the-high-security-black-site-where-leonard-peltier-is-incarcerated

09 Jun - Autonomy and Persistence Against Prisons

Chile: Please read the following from anarchist political prisoner Mónica Caballero.

MORE:

via Abolition Media

Almost a month ago I was transferred to the prison where I will have to serve my sentence, the CPF in Santiago. This prison has a rather atypical structure compared to other prisons in this territory since in some areas it maintains the foundations of the old convent that fulfilled the “correctional work for bad women”, from there different modules and sections have been built. Among the sections that were raised to segregate specific groups of prisoners are: The Special High Security Section (SEAS), Nueva Esperanza and Direct Custody.

SEAS was born mainly to house prisoners for crimes of political violence in the '90s, in those years, those prisoners belonged to political/military/subversive groups (FPMR, MIR, Mapu-Lautaro). With the release of the political prisoners, little by little, the High Security began to be occupied by those who had a history of escapes and/or refractory to the prison regime and leaders of trafficking gangs. Until 2010 was when the prisoners for political violence returned to the SEAS, the first “Bomb Case” managed to get the first anti-authoritarian women to take up the thread of struggle left by the first political prisoners. Over the years, the SEAS continued with the same dynamic, until a few years ago when this section is used to keep prisoners while another permanent space is enabled for them.

Upon my arrival at this prison, I was informed that the SEAS would return to being the place of yesteryear, so I would have to be there. All this came to nothing since, today there is a group of approximately 60 women brought from the San Miguel prison, these women live in deplorable conditions.

Another of these special modules is “Nueva Esperanza”, which has only and exclusively women for crimes against humanity, all these prisoners were responsible for some of the many atrocities that occurred during the dictatorship, I am referring to torture, disappearances, permanent kidnappings, homicides, etc. Most of these women are former uniformed members of the F.F.A.A. and the forces of order and security. Although I do not know the living conditions of the torturers, since special care is taken in everything that surrounds them, but even so I would dare to assure that they live in a place more similar to a nursing home than a prison.

Finally, there is the module that I am currently in, Direct Custody. This section was born out of the need to segregate prisoners for violent crimes and high media connotation, this over the years has been maintained to some extent. This section has also been used to maintain very specific cases of women for political violence, among these was a former FPMR militant and now me.

Since I entered this prison, both my comrades and I have requested authorization from the different bureaucratic instances of the gendarmerie to continue my university studies that I began in 2022 in the San Miguel prison. What has not been authorized.

A little over two years ago I managed to be the first inmate while in pretrial detention in Santiago to start university studies. An issue that was not without problems, which one by one were solved thanks to the set of solidarity wills that made it possible for me to this day to be in my third year as a student in the Law career.

In this prison I have not been able to resume my studies because, according to what was reported by the gendarmerie personnel, the only thing missing is the authorization of the Regional Director, who can take as much time as he deems appropriate to simply manage the continuity of something that has already been going on for years.

It seems incredible that the facilities are not given and that impediments are put against something that seems to be as basic and essential as studying, we cannot ignore that power structures are capable of breaking their own rules over and over again, according to their convenience.

What is it that the high command of the gendarmerie fears to give way to the authorization that does not allow me to study? Will they have direct orders from the Ministry of Justice or another agency? Or could it be that he is apprehensive that if he gives authorization the prison population will know that there is no legal impediment that does not allow them to have higher education while in prison? Or perhaps, are they exhausting all instances to prevent a prisoner (which they call common, but for whom they maintain rather “uncommon” regimes) from having legal knowledge? Whatever the answer from my side, I demand that they comply with their own laws and that they allow me to keep my university studies.

To this end, I appeal to all forms of solidarity that can put pressure on the regional and national directorate of the gendarmerie to process the pertinent authorizations so that I can continue studying.

With all this, I reaffirm that for greater degrees of autonomy, the only option for those of us who choose the path of denial against domination is the persistent struggle, which would remain within these walls if it were not for the dozens of hands of solidarity.

12 Jun - Summer Liberation School

WHAT: Political Education

WHEN: 7:00pm, Wednesday, June 12th

WHERE: TBA. RSVP For Address: tockify.com/mlsupport/detail/394/1715814000000

COST: FREE

MORE:

Come study anarchism at the intersections with us this summer, as we sharpen our ideas and tools for the moment and the long haul. Together we will collaboratively build our knowledge and practices of anti-capitalist, anti-state, intersectional liberation that is focused on strategies towards freedom and building the worlds we want and need. We will meet every week for 12 weeks, with each week focused on a different topic and having different discussion leads. Each session will be conducted less as a run-of-the-mill reading group, and more as a practice of the kind of multi-directional and horizontal education, including opportunities for relationship-building, music, food, and fun, to the extent people want to participate!

Course topics include: Black anarchism and autonomism, Indigenous anarchism and autonomism, Black feminisms, women of color feminisms, decolonial feminism, anarcho-feminism, queer anarchism, disability justice, and anarchisms and autonomisms in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, SWANA, and Africa, as well as other potential topics to be decided collectively. Multiple ways of learning/processing/sharing information will be included, incorporating art, drawing, small group discussions and zine-building. Will build a collective zine to share our learnings with each other, other MACC members, and beyond, and have a final project that focuses on strengthening our material commitments to and praxis of the topics we're studying. If you have any questions about the school, please e-mail us at macc_summerliberationschool@protonmail.com

16 Jun - MACC Care Assembly

WHAT: Assembly

WHEN: 3:00pm, Sunday, June 16th

WHERE: PIT Records & Books, 411 South 5th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

SCHEDULE:

- o Self-defense class Muay Thai Martial arts training - no experience necessary, show up at 3pm
- o Political education session
- o Care exchange & a community meal

What is the care exchange? As we sit down to share a meal we check in and exchange our requests and offers, in the spirit of mutual aid. Requests – do you need help with anything? Offers – do you have any skills, time, or resources to offer? This is a conversation to help facilitate building and maintaining relationships among us by identifying needs and sharing what we can in solidarity.

For COVID safety: Show a negative rapid test; free tests will be provided at the door.

16 Jun - Riotsville, USA

WHAT: Film Screening

WHEN: 7:00pm, Sunday, June 16th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Our Education working group will be screening Sierra Pettengill's Riotsville, USA, a 2022 documentary about the state's response to the urban uprisings of the late 1960s. We'll be talking about the film and its resonance today from Cop City in Atlanta to the militarization of police on campus. Sierra Pettengill will be in-person with archival material for the conversation! Masks are not required but are encouraged.

Film description: Welcome to Riotsville, a fictional town built by the U.S. military. Using footage shot by the media and the government, the film explores the militarization of the police and the reaction of a nation to the uprisings of the late '60s, creating a counter-narrative to a critical moment in the country's history.