



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for May 13th

1 May - 'Trump, I am Not Afraid'

Mahdawi, a legal resident of the US who had been a leading figure in Gaza protests at Columbia University last year, was detained on April 14 while attending a naturalization interview in Vermont.

MORE:

by Palestine Chronicle Staff (*Palestine Chronicle*)

Columbia University student activist, Mohsen Mahdawi, was freed from federal custody by a court order on Wednesday, more than two weeks after he was detained by immigration officials.

In the release order, US District Court Judge Geoffrey W Crawford said Mahdawi has a "substantial claim that the government arrested him to stifle speech with which it disagrees."

Mahdawi, 34, a legal resident of the US who had been a leading figure in pro-Palestine protests at Columbia last year, was detained on April 14 while attending a naturalization interview in Vermont.

A cheering crowd of supporters welcomed him as he walked out of the court, raising his hands in a victory sign.

'Hold Constitution Accountable'

Addressing the crowd, Mahdawi sent a "clear and loud" message to the American administration, saying, "To President Trump and his cabinet: I am not afraid of you."

He also said "Me standing here with you, among you, it sends a message ... not only to the Vermonters, but to the rest of America. And the message is, we the people will hold the Constitution accountable for the principles and values that we believe in."

Mahdawi added that "we send a clear message as well that if we have faith in our beliefs...that justice is inevitable, we will not fear anyone because our fight is a fight for love, is a fight for democracy, is a fight for humanity."

He also said: "To my people in Palestine: I feel your pain, I see your suffering, and I see freedom, and it is very soon."

Claims of Undermining US Policy

In court filings on Monday, the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that Mahdawi's activities and presence in the US "undermine US policy to combat antisemitism," according to the Guardian. In addition, it was claimed, his activities could "potentially undermine the peace process underway in the Middle East".

Mahdawi's legal representatives said the claims against him "are baseless" and "without evidence."

"Mohsen has committed no crime, and the government's only supposed justification for holding him in prison is the content of his speech, Lia Ernst, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union who is representing Mahdawi, said in a statement following his release.

The ACLU statement noted that after Mahdawi was detained, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) "attempted to put him on a plane to Louisiana, but a temporary restraining order issued by Judge William K. Sessions III compelled the government to keep Mr. Mahdawi in Vermont."

'Advocacy for Palestinian Lives'

The Trump administration is seeking to deport Mahdawi, who was born and raised in the occupied West Bank. Due to graduate from Columbia in May, Mahdawi has been a lawful permanent resident of the US who has lived in Vermont for ten years, ACLU said.

"The court's order to free Mohsen today is a victory for Mohsen, in his just pursuit of continued advocacy for Palestinian lives, and it is a victory for all people in this country invested in their ability to dissent and speak and protest for causes they are morally drawn to," said Shezza Abboushi Dallal, staff attorney with CLEAR.

"We will continue our legal battle for Mohsen until his constitutional rights are fully vindicated," Dallal added.

Judge Crawford reportedly noted that the court "also considers the extraordinary setting of this case and others like it. Legal residents—not charged with crimes or misconduct—are being arrested and threatened with deportation for stating their views on the political issues of the day."

Other Arrests

Mahdawi is the ninth Columbia University student facing deportation as part of a campaign to remove international students involved in Palestinian solidarity movements, according to the Anadolu news agency.

His circumstances are similar to those of Palestinian activist Mahmoud Khalil, a fellow Columbia University student who was detained in the New York area on March 8. Khalil was transferred to a detention center in Louisiana for deportation, where he remains in custody.

Another case is that of Turkish student Rumeysa Ozturk, who was stopped by ICE agents as she walked down a street in Boston last month and subsequently detained. Her arrest was captured on video and widely circulated on social media.

No Evidence

The Washington Post earlier reported that days before Ozturk's arrest, the State Department determined that the Trump administration "had not produced any evidence showing that she engaged in antisemitic activities or made public statements supporting a terrorist organization, as the government has alleged."

The report noted that the finding was contained in a March memo described to the paper and said the Secretary of State Marco Rubio "did not have sufficient grounds for revoking Ozturk's visa under an authority empowering the top U.S. diplomat to safeguard the foreign policy interests of the United States."

Ozturk, a Fulbright scholar who is in the final year of her PhD in child and human development at Tufts University, has not been charged with any crime. She also remains in custody at a Louisiana detention center.

1 May - Illustrated Guide Version 18.4 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2025/05/01/guide_18_4

MORE:

We've finished the latest version of the NYC ABC "Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War" and it's available for viewing (and download) by visiting the link at the top of this post. This update includes updated mini-bios, photos, and address changes for several prisoners. Thankfully, this edition includes the removal of Caleb Freestone.

2 May - Pennsylvania Supreme Court denies Mumia Abu-Jamal permission to appeal

This denial ends Mumia's Pennsylvania court challenge to overturn his conviction.

MORE:

by Rachel Wolkenstein (*San Francisco Bay View*)

In September 2024, the Pennsylvania Superior Court denied Mumia Abu-Jamal's sixth Pennsylvania petition to reverse his 1982 conviction. A request to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for permission to appeal was denied on March 26, 2025. In Pennsylvania, an appeal to the state Supreme Court is not a right; a specific request for "allowance" (permission) is required. This denial by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ends Mumia's Pennsylvania court challenge to overturn his conviction.

Judge Lucretia Clemons presided over Mumia's case since December 2021 and, without a hearing, issued a denial on March 31, 2023. This sixth petition was based on corroborative new evidence of prosecutorial misconduct, Brady violations, for undisclosed inducements given to witnesses Cynthia While and Robert Chobert; and new evidence of racial bias in jury selection, a Batson violation.

That sixth petition did not include the substantial evidence already in the record from the evidentiary hearings before the infamous Judge Albert Sabo from 1995-97 or the voluminous newly discovered proof of Mumia's innocence and the falsification of evidence against him by the police and prosecution, which was presented to the Pennsylvania and federal courts in filings from 2001-2003.

None of that new evidence of innocence was considered by the courts, all those filings were dismissed on grounds that they were "not timely filed." Yet, none of the evidence discovered from 1995-2003 was included in the sixth petition to make the required legal argument that new evidence in the sixth petition presented in 2021 was "material" and grounds to reverse Mumia's conviction.

Mumia's arrest, conviction and death sentence were politically motivated and racially biased. The evidence uncovered over the decades following his conviction is proof that Mumia is innocent and framed. Future advocacy and action, as well as new legal challenges to win Mumia's freedom, must be rooted in the understanding that Mumia is Innocent and Framed with the complicity of the Philadelphia police, prosecution, Pennsylvania courts and the FBI/U.S. Attorney's Office.

The Mumia Freedom Tour will take place at locations throughout the SF Bay Area – in Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose. This campaign is spearheaded by Jamal Ibn Mumia, the oldest son of Mumia. Jamal will speak of the impact of his father's beliefs and actions as a Black Panther, a legendary reporter, a prolific author and imprisoned freedom fighter on Mumia's children and grandchildren. He will discuss the goal of the Mumia Freedom Tour to build a reinvigorated campaign to fight for Mumia's freedom and win his unconditional release from prison.

4 May - In Contempt #52

We are including excerpts from In Contempt, the monthly column about state repression that appears on It's Going Down.

MORE:

Ferguson prisoner Josh Williams is requesting support as he enters the final year of his sentence and prepares for release, while coping with continuing staff harassment. Anyone who can help provide him with support is encouraged to reach out to:

Joshua Williams #1292002
C/O Digital Mail Center-Missouri DOC
Post Office Box 25678
Tampa, Florida 33622-5678

Ángel Facing Deportation to Chile

Little Rock Uprising defendant Ángel has been released from federal custody and is now awaiting deportation to Chile. As at the time of writing this column, Ángel is currently in transfer to an undisclosed location, but has not been able to contact loved ones yet. You can donate to Ángel's support fund at gofundme.com/f/political-prisoner-facing-deportation

These messages were received by loved ones on the outside throughout the past 3 weeks and she has given explicit permission to publicize these statements:

"We dance a lot, draw our hopes and homes on the walls of this place any way we can. We tell stories of home, hold each other past language barriers because we all know all too well what it's like to be torn away from our families, hold onto hope, only for it to be crushed cruelly by these heartless fascist traitors. To remain utterly powerless at the mercy of the abusers of gluttonous power. People are quite literally dragged out, hogtied, by these pirates that speak of protecting democracy yet dehumanize and humiliate us without so much as a look in our eyes before ripping us apart from our newfound friends, and, more distantly, our families we have here. They rob us of the little money we have and have no paths of recovery. They tell us clean water is a privilege and not a right. That speaking to our families is a privilege. That seeing the sun is a privilege. That if we get too loud of this constant mistreatment, then we should get ready to eat mace."

"Most people here don't have the means to speak out against these human rights' violations we face every day. But I will take any and every chance to fight, to expose the way they treat us that these human traitors have normalized."

"This was supposed to never happen again. But here it is again. We need everyone demanding our freedom, to expose all the vultures robbing these vulnerable people of everything from money to merely see our families and small children. We're not even allowed to say goodbye, to hug our children goodbye. What madness is this? How is this STILL happening to us, I ask myself when I wake up. Is this country for the free? For those yearning for a safe, happy life? If this country and its people care about freedom and safety, then people should refuse to let this government and administration work a second longer until they free us ALL."

"A lot of women here are fighting their cases because they've been following protocol to obtain legal papers or asylum or were just rounded up randomly from racial profiling. One woman here lost her purse with all her money on a train and went to church to seek help. The church called ICE on her because she couldn't speak English! Another woman here was late to her job and her boss called ICE on her. Few of us have criminal records. Most were just following advice from their lawyers and continuing their appointments with ICE and USCIS to get their visa or temporary protected status or whatever it was they were doing. But because of Trump's administration they're all rounded up by ICE and deported."

"I'm feeling alright, mostly numb since being locked up is so abusive and heart wrenching. Here... It's a rollercoaster. I witness, every single day, cries of agony and anger and despair. I see people hogtied and dragged out. People being yelled at to gather their things and go into the unknown, being threatened with PREA for hugging as we say our goodbyes and well wishes. This place is much worse than prison in many ways. I hear guttural wails and sobs so many times a day. It's like being at a perpetual funeral; laying to rest this person's life, that one's dreams, the other's hope. Knowing they'll be inevitably harmed, kidnapped, sometimes disappeared or even killed when they go and we can do absolutely nothing."

"We're just hostages. Being one for so long now... I'm so hollow on the inside. I haven't dropped any tears the last year and a half. I just can't. Not even when I was sentenced. I don't know how I'll even begin to heal, but I sure as fuck ain't ever gonna stop fighting. My hope and ambition to fight... I've just been refueling this entire time being down."

"Fighting brings me solace. Helping others brings me solace, some meaningfulness, a melting of stone in my petrified heart. I spend most of my time going around and helping people as much as I can; working the tablets, giving phone calls, cooking food, doing little chores and tasks for the older, sick, or disabled ladies."

Protesters against Marjorie Taylor Greene in Georgia are facing enhanced charges, with the Morgan County Citizen reporting that “Tuesday night, the city of Acworth reported that Andrew Russell Nelms, 40, of Atlanta, was charged with two misdemeanors — obstruction of a law enforcement officer and simple battery on a law enforcement officer — and that Johnny Keith Williams, 45, of Dallas, was charged with misdemeanor battery on an officer and felony obstruction. Cobb Jail records show that Nelms was given an additional disorderly conduct charge and that his obstruction charge was upgraded to a felony. Williams got an additional felony charge of terroristic threats.”

5 May - Updates on Mahmoud Khalil

Recently, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey ruled that Mahmoud Khalil, a lawful permanent resident and recent Columbia graduate student, can move forward with his lawsuit claiming the government is unlawfully detaining him for his political views.

MORE:

via Center for Constitutional Rights

The court rejected the government's attempt to shut down Mr. Khalil's case before it could be heard.

"I am relieved at the court's finding that my husband can move forward with his case in federal court. This is an important step towards securing Mahmoud's freedom. But there is still more work to be done. I will continue to strongly advocate for my husband, so he can come home to our family, and feel the pure joy all parents know of holding your first-born child in your arms," said Dr. Noor Abdalla, wife of Mahmoud Khalil.

"We are grateful the court wisely understood that this is no ordinary immigration case that might be subject to congressional limitations on federal court review," said Legal Director Baher Azmy. "In a case like this, where Mahmoud is challenging a patently unconstitutional policy and being punished for his protected speech in support of Palestinian rights, the federal courts have to review and hopefully soon invalidate the government's outrageous action."

May 12th - Mahmoud Khalil's habeas case will remain in New Jersey

Last week, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals denied the government permission to appeal the issue of where Columbia student Mahmoud Khalil's habeas case should play out.

Back in April, the District Court of New Jersey ruled that it is the proper venue for Mr. Khalil's habeas petition, as he was detained there when the petition was filed. The government argued that the venue should lie in Louisiana — because that is where the government shipped Mr. Khalil and is unlawfully detaining him — and sought to appeal the district court's ruling. In last week's order, the Third Circuit denied that request. As a result, the case will proceed in the District of New Jersey.

6 May - “The Point is to Weaponize the Legal Process”

Call to stand in solidarity with the Atlanta 61, who face trumped up charges following the movement to stop Cop City.

MORE:

In about two weeks, the Atlanta 61 will be called before another judge. They will be meeting this judge for the first time following their indictment 19 months ago for imaginary crimes in defense of the Atlanta forest. This judge will perhaps rule at some point on the state's conspiracy theories about the movement to stop cop city and defend the forest, or perhaps he will not. Maybe some other judge will take his place as he now takes the place of the one before him—and maybe this whole top-heavy system will come crumbling down around us with no court ever making a ruling in the state's RICO conspiracy indictment of the ATL 61.

A ruling isn't actually necessary, because the point of the state's conspiracy indictment against the ATL 61 is to weaponize the legal process against the cop city defendants. Undue process in the form of pretrial detention, restrictions on defendant behavior as conditions for bond, requirements for court appearance (requiring travel if you happen to have a bond condition to stay out of Atlanta), and a drawn-out process just completed to replace the judge presiding over the case are all tactics that effectively subvert the due process rights of the ATL 61. Defendants can demand a speedy trial—and one of them did—but that defendant is in the same status hearing with everyone else more than a year and a half later.

The state is without conviction and on pretense as flimsy as finding mud on people's shoes, unilaterally imposing an undefined and uncertain sentence on sixty-one people, and so holding this fear of undue process against anyone who stands in the way of cop city's project to increasingly militarize policing of protests.

The state has used this strategy of undue process to suppress protest for a long time. Bail funds proliferated during the civil rights movement as a measure to defend people against the state's weaponization of the legal system. That these funds offer some measure of effective defense is demonstrated by the state's targeting of the Atlanta Solidarity Fund in May 2023 with a S.W.A.T. style raid and trumped-up charges for money laundering—all of which were so absurd that they have already been dropped, though the three ASF defendants remain indicted among the ATL 61.

Then, in June 2024 Georgia effectively banned bail funds from operating in the state when governor Kemp signed senate bill 63, leading the Bail Project to suspend operations in the state until a judge temporarily delayed implementation of that portion of the law pending a lawsuit.

The state is clearly committed to protecting the effectiveness of undue process as a deterrent to protest.

Using the Law as a Weapon

Weaponization of the legal system enables the state to deprive people of liberty even when they are not counted among the half-million people that are in pre-trial detention right this minute. Even when people have cash for bail, they must submit to bond conditions that vary from person to person, but might restrict their movements for years. Some of the ATL 61 have found it difficult to get a job, been doxed online, and are prohibited from contacting certain people—sometimes people they have never even heard of.

Until recently, perhaps there could have been some question as to whether the state's breaking of its contract with the people of the United States might be repaired. Perhaps there could have been some question whether some long arduous process of reform might curtail prosecution for profit and whether the coming decades might see more and more people freed from arbitrary imprisonment. If that reformist theory of change was ever inspiring—and it truly is for many people, it is hard to believe in all that now.

Now, when the ATL 61 are showing up for yet another court appearance in this indeterminate and terrifying slog through undue process; and now, as the state accelerates its attacks on due process by rounding people up and sending them to prison in El Salvador, it is ever harder to believe these pieces can be glued back together.

Showing Up in Solidarity

What do people do if they are concerned with their neighbors being swept off the streets into faraway prisons? One of the things that people can do is stand in solidarity with the ATL 61 on the morning of May 14th, as they arrive in court at the Fulton County courthouse in Atlanta, GA.

Because now is a good time to defend people who are fighting and building life-affirming societies and ecologies. Now is a good time, here in this place that used to be the United States, to act in defense of one another.

May 13th - Stand with Priscilla Grim & the Stop Cop City 61

Our friend, mother, artist, and comrade Priscilla Grim is one of 61 people facing RICO charges in Georgia for resisting the destruction of the Weelaunee Forest and the violent expansion of the police state known as Cop City. This is a coordinated attack on our right to organize, protest, and dream of a livable future.

On Wednesday, May 14, Priscilla and her co-defendants will appear in court at Fulton County Courthouse in Atlanta. This legal assault is part of a national wave of repression — designed to chill dissent and scare us into silence. But we know that when we show up for each other, we keep each other safe. We're calling for a Day of Solidarity with the Stop Cop City 61. Here's how you can plug in:

Call, fax, or email Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr

Demand he drop these bogus charges.

Dial 404.656.8733 and tell him: we won't let our people be punished for protecting forest life.

Email: AGCarr@law.ga.gov

Fax: 404.657.8733

Script for your communications:

"Hello, I am calling to demand that Attorney General Chris Carr drop all charges against the 61 stop cop city RICO defendants. Civil rights and legal experts have widely condemned the charges as baseless and an attack on constitutional rights. I want to remind the Attorney General's Office how expensive trials like this are for Georgia's taxpayers (and voters) who elected Chris Carr and do not want to see their tax dollars wasted on prosecuting constitutionally protected activity. Dropping all charges will benefit all parties involved. Many people across the state and the country care about and support the 61 defendants and stand against the criminalization of social movements. The country is watching, and we urge you to drop all charges immediately. Thank you."

Rally Outside the Courthouse

If you're in or near Atlanta, show up at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, outside Fulton County Courthouse. Let's pack the space and make it clear: the movement is watching.

Take Local Action

Banner drops, posters, sidewalk chalk, zines — speak the truth where you live. Let your neighbors know: the Stop Cop City 61 are not alone.

Donate to Priscilla's Legal Defense Fund

Court dates mean travel, legal fees, missed work, and mounting costs. Help Priscilla keep fighting; she still needs to pay rent this month, she is \$700 short after setting up travel to Atlanta.

Organize Your Group to Sign On

Unions, collectives, faith groups, and mutual aid crews, please sign the statement of solidarity and raise your voice.

Stay Informed

This isn't just about Atlanta. It's about all of us.

Get updates

The state is trying to make an example of Priscilla and her co-defendants. But we won't let them stand alone. Spread the word, bring your people, and let's build a wall of solidarity they can't bulldoze. For Priscilla. For Weelaunee. For all of us.

7 May - Private Prison Company GEO Group "Excited" About Mass Deportation

On their most recent quarterly earnings call, for-profit prison operator GEO Group's CEO J. David Donahue told investors the company is "very excited to support the mission at hand."

MORE:

by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg (*The Appeal*)

“I couldn’t be more impressed than watching the agency shift, if you will, or pivot into this new mission,” Donahue said, referring to Homeland Security and ICE leadership. “It has become laser-focused, and we are obviously very excited to support the mission that’s at hand.”

Trump’s white supremacist agenda to detain and deport millions of immigrants has been a boon to the private prison industry. Pam Bondi, the U.S. Attorney General, is a former GEO Group lobbyist.

The company is under contract with ICE for 16,000 beds, which Donahue said is “the highest level of utilization in over five years.”

“As we have expressed to you previously, we believe we have an unprecedented opportunity to assist the federal government in meeting its expanded immigration enforcement priorities, and we’ve taken several important steps in anticipation of what we expect to be significant future growth opportunities and related operational activity during 2025,” Donahue said.

ICE has just under 48,000 beds nationwide, and the agency estimates that the Laken Riley Act could require as many as 110,000 additional beds. The legislation requires mandatory detention of undocumented immigrants who are charged with low-level offenses, including shoplifting, as well as more serious crimes.

GEO Group has approximately 3,000 beds available to facilities currently under contract with the U.S. Marshals Service and is in “active discussions” with ICE and the Marshals Service about another 6,500 beds.

“We’re excited about the task at hand and very optimistic with the leadership and the focus that’s provided currently out of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement,” the CEO told investors.

(For those counting, he said “excited” three times on the call.)

So far this year, GEO Group has entered into a contract with ICE for a 1,800-bed North Lake Facility in Baldwin, Michigan, which is estimated to bring in more than \$70 million in the first full year it’s open. On today’s call, the company said it ended the first quarter of 2025 with approximately \$1.68 billion in debt, \$65 million in cash on hand, and approximately \$235 million in total available liquidity.

ICE also awarded the company a 15-year contract worth an estimated \$1 billion to reopen Delaney Hall, an immigrant lock-up in Newark, New Jersey. On today’s call, GEO Group said the intake process had begun at the facility on May 1. GEO Group CEO said the Delaney Hall and North Lake contract announcements represent in excess of \$130 million of potential annual revenue.

The New Jersey jail can hold 1,000 people, quadrupling detention beds in the state, according to the ACLU of New Jersey. Civil rights groups and elected officials, including Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, have protested the facility’s reopening. Yesterday, protesters and Baraka rallied outside the jail. Baraka said the City of Newark would issue several citations against GEO Group after city inspectors were denied entry to the facility.

Last year, GEO Group’s subsidiary, GEO Transport, Inc., was awarded a five-year contract to run deportation flights. On today’s call, the CEO said they “expect an increase in the number of removal flights to generate an incremental 40 million to \$50 million in annualized revenues.” *The Appeal* hoped to ask if the company plans to fly immigrants living in the United States to prisons in El Salvador, Rwanda, or Libya, but their reporter was not called on.

“We’re very impressed with ICE’s focus, with their due diligence associated with how they’re going to handle this mission,” CEO Donahue said on today’s call. “We do believe that as the funding streams

become defined, we are very well positioned to help them meet their mission, and we're excited about the second half of the year because of that."

7 May - Update on Alfredo Cospito

Italy: Hello everyone: the updates we are receiving on the situation of comrade Alfredo Cospito describe a clear worsening of the already abhorrent conditions of isolation 41-bis.

MORE:

via Abolition Media

For several months, Alfredo has been facing a progressive limitation of the already limited possibilities of living in the prison regime to which he has been assigned since 2022, including the practically total blocking of correspondence to/from abroad, the impossibility of accessing the internal library (authorization that Alfredo had received from the Directorate), the blocking of books regularly acquired in the bookstore through the prison (as provided for in regime 41-bis) and other goods, such as flour or clothing, of daily use.

All this happens, at the same time as the conviction in the first instance for the disclosure of official secrets of the Undersecretary of Justice Delmastro (precisely because of the matter of the wiretapping, disclosed to Parliament by Donzelli, of the conversations between Alfredo and the other detainees who at that time were part of his "social group"). Other "coincidences" that could be thought to have their weight in this matter are the resignation at the end of last December of the director of the DAP (Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration), Giovanni Russo, who had testified not exactly in favor of Delmastro in the trial against him and, always by chance, the return to the command of section 41-bis of Bancali of the command of the GOM (special militarized police attached to sections 41 bis) that he had been transferred to precisely because of his involvement in the case of the wiretapping.

That is why we relaunch the appeal we disseminated last year about the correspondence addressed to Alfredo, as a first step to regain incisiveness and constancy in the mobilization to get Alfredo out of isolation and continue fighting against life imprisonment and 41-bis.

LET'S KEEP WRITING TO ALFREDO!

It is very important to continue writing to comrade Alfredo Cospito, still imprisoned in prison 41bis of Bancali (Sassari). The meticulous (and often frankly incomprehensible and contradictory) work of the censorship office, together with the superficiality typical of national prisons and the unreliability of the Italian postal service (an instrument that is increasingly the exclusive prerogative of prisoners' communications), makes it highly recommended to send correspondence using traceable systems such as registered mail (even without acknowledgement of receipt) or "Posta 1". The receipt and the tracking code allow you to know the status of the shipment and then carry out the bureaucratic process to try to unblock the correspondence, since the agents do not always reveal the holds and many times the mail simply disappears.

For this reason, we invite all supporters to write and send scans or photos of the receipts (or in any case the traceability codes) to the Cassa Antirep delle Alpi Occidentali, which will collect them and send them to Alfredo's lawyer to make the necessary resources and recover as many letters as possible.

Solidarity is a concrete act, we will not leave Alfredo in the hands of the executioners of the State: let us flood him with affection even if it is through letters and postcards!

10 May - Community Members Rally to Support Jack Mazurek

Report on recent rally in Atlanta, Georgia in solidarity with Jack Mazurek.

MORE:

Supporters of Jack Mazurek gathered on Monday morning at the Fulton County Courthouse—where a hearing was scheduled to take place in Mazurek’s criminal case—to demand that prosecutors drop their political prosecution against Mazurek and all individuals facing charges for their opposition to Cop City.

Mazurek was arrested in February 2024 during an early morning raid conducted by Atlanta Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the FBI. He was then detained without bail in the notoriously deadly Fulton County jail for a month, before spending another month in Cobb County jail. Since then, he has been released pending trial on highly-restrictive 24-hour house arrest.

“People are gathering to support Jack because no one should face these charges alone” said Charlie, a member of Jack’s support team. “The police have been surveilling and intimidating Stop Cop City activists for years, but no one can scare us away from showing up for each other.”

The prosecution of Mazurek on arson charges, without any meaningful evidence, is part of the state’s broader attempt to repress the movement against the militarized police compound known as Cop City, which has faced broad opposition from Atlanta residents for years.

“For over two years, police and prosecutors have been criminalizing the growing movement against Cop City,” said Stop Cop City activist Kris Hermes. “But the prosecution of Jack and the 61 RICO defendants is built on a house of cards,” continued Hermes. “The solidarity and support for these activists, and the continued resistance to Cop City, has been remarkable in the face of immense repression.”

The Cop City facility was officially opened last week, two years behind schedule and at least \$37 million over budget. Despite the extreme and bipartisan state repression against the movement, community members and activists have vowed to continue the struggle against Cop City and policing in Atlanta.

Next week, the 61 people facing racketeering charges for their opposition to Cop City have a hearing on May 14 at 9:30am at the Fulton County Courthouse. This will be the first hearing for the RICO defendants since October 2024, and the first hearing for the new judge assigned to the case, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kevin Farmer.

13 May - June 11th Call For Solidarity With Marius Mason and Long-term Anarchist Political Prisoners

Announcement for June 11th 2025, a day of international solidarity with long-term anarchist prisoners.

MORE:

Spring is unfolding, and the time has again come to look towards June 11th, the International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason and Long-term Anarchist prisoners. While our celebration of this day is to lend attention to Marius and other anarchist prisoners at risk of being forgotten because of their long sentences, we’re also continually thinking about how to emphasize how integral prisoners are, and an anti-prison struggle as a whole is, on our path towards freedom.

The site of prison has long held a rebellious and revolutionary potential. Prison is a place for rebels to encounter one another, learn together and organize among themselves. The historical legacy of revolt inside means that the prison of today is even better equipped to manage, isolate and repress rupture. Yet prison, like everything else, is not totalizing in its ability to control or stifle. Despite repression, despite the stultifying effects of things like drugs and institutional violence, prisoners continue to innovate and adapt and those of us on the outside can continue to do the same, in our relationships of solidarity and in our moves toward a world without prisons. This year, we’re struck by a vision of a seed germinated by fire. It waits for the heat and smoke to indicate when the environment is cleared and suitable, to take its chance at life. In a hyper-civilized world that has attempted to eliminate fire in its quest for domination, we must set fire to the old and call forth a birth of new life.

As the terror of this dominant order comes to new, or at least previously obscured heights, we are thinking about how to embolden new paths and relationships alongside terrain that has held potential and embodied revolt since its inception. Our paths will continue to demand experimentation, adaptability, ingenuity. May we be stoked by the dying off of old forces, and enlivened by our readiness for, and taking of, new ways of life!

There is a proud history of anarchists and other radicals meeting up in prison, and a history of them mentoring and teaching others. Black Liberation and adjacent struggles in the US created pockets of radicalization inside prisons, should they be captured, that lead to moments like the Attica Uprising in 1971. Transfers of the long-term recalcitrants lead to meetings of minds like when Sundiata Acoli, Joe-Joe Bowen, Hanif Shabazz Bey, and Ray Luc Levasseur met in Marion, Illinois. Joe-Joe, for one, continued teaching guerilla strategies long after. Long-term anarchist prisoners have been involved in hunger and work strikes in prisons the world over, notably including many of the Greek comrades, like Nikos Maziotis. The Chilean anarchist, subversive, and Mapuche prisoners collectively pen statements for many days of action, not least of all Mónica Caballero, staying connected to struggles beyond the walls. They also inspire defiance outside of prison, as we see in many actions claimed in solidarity with the comrades aforementioned, and of recent significance: Alredo Cospito's 180-day hunger strike that, before ending last year, brought about so many incendiary actions. There have also been instances of elders and lifers taking responsibility for mass actions to try to shield others from additional time and consequences.

The state uses prisons to limit and contain rebellious individuals, revolutionary projects, and organizing on the outside. This can sometimes backfire, turning the prison into a hotbed of revolt and radicalization. To adapt to the revolutionary potential of prisoner organizing, modern prisons make use of several tools to control the movement of people, ideas, and skills in an attempt to quash potential revolt. These tools include surveillance – increasingly technological – of individuals, movement, and relationships, and stoking divisions among classes of prisoners, pitting them against each other. Direct physical violence and isolation are used even more liberally on the trouble-makers, advocates, and teachers. In addition to throwing someone in isolation, sometimes for decades, the system also transfers people away from their block, those they trust and organized with, or across the country from their family and supporters. The ongoing expansion of prison systems and facilities is necessary to be able to separate and distance us from each other. Whenever prisoners rise up, the state increases and adapts these measures, and innovates new ones, to prevent it from happening again. All of the barriers we currently face in staying connected and empowered are evidence of just how much the wardens and the managers have to be afraid of.

How, then, do we also adapt to the innovation of tools and techniques of control? First, we must seek to understand them. Often it is the long-term prisoners who can best observe, test, and articulate the behavior of the state, as they have seen it shift over time. This is just one of many reasons why we must actively facilitate their participation in anarchist spaces. So, for us, developing redundant and decentralized ways to stay in communication despite the surveillance and censorship is essential. This is required for us to build inside-outside organizing and collaborations between the imprisoned and the more-free. Correspondence also serves to remind captives that they are not forgotten and their captors that we are watching. Material support is also essential. Money for anarchist prisoners not only helps them get what they need from commissary, but can also flow to others who have less social support. Beyond commissary, funds can also be used in the prison economy to buy or create tools to maintain communication, or for protection from guard or fellow prisoner violence. We must also build the capacity to act in solidarity and in response to what we learn from inside comrades, whether that be in the form of prison demos, phone zaps, destructive acts, and other things few of us have yet dreamt of.

When an anarchist goes to prison, they can serve as a point of connection between people inside and out. Our commitment to and style of doing prisoner support enables this connection to bear fruit, not only for individuals but also, in the best cases, to challenge the power of the state where it is most concentrated. There are many forms this role of anarchist and politicized prisoner can take. They can use their position, voice, and ability to have it amplified, to speak to larger issues. This informs outside comrades on the

struggles of captive people. In the U.S., this has best been seen in Black Liberation struggles and overlap between the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army activity on the outside, and the uprisings in jails and prisons across the country. More recently, we've seen Eric King advocating for friends he made inside who helped him during some of his hardest times. We've also seen several people locked up in Atlanta jails for involvement in Stop Cop City and in Pennsylvania for alleged involvement in animal liberation use their media connections to describe conditions inside and to tell the stories of people they met inside. Most people in prison do not have anyone who can proliferate their words, whether through a blog, a zine, or graffiti. Anarchist spaces can and do just that. Michael Kimble is a great example of acting as a conduit between outside support and a captive queer population doing mutual aid on their own terms. Though they are still very precarious and under attack, Marius Mason has been able to strongly influence the treatment of and access for trans people in the federal prison system. In 2020, Jeremy Hammond recorded a video of himself and other captives expressing solidarity with Black Lives Matter protests in the streets. Malik Muhammad writes a column on his blog telling the stories of and doing interviews with people he's met in segregation. Through his connection to other anarchists, Michael Kimble shares radical Black history on his block during Black History Month and Black August. In these ways, anarchist prisoners tie inside struggle and radicalization to the larger movement outside.

The reverse is also true. By the nature of their position, anarchist prisoners strengthen the larger movement by informing its analysis, methods, and priorities. By their inclusion in the anarchist space, we demystify incarceration and teach each other best practices and survival techniques. This, in turn, empowers others to take necessary risks, knowing they are not alone. Our commitment to supporting our prisoners keeps us honest to our value of confronting state power even where it is most powerful. Maintaining relationships and facilitating the participation in movement space of people who are physically taken from us provides anarchists with a wing of struggle that is "behind enemy lines." The power to incarcerate, to disappear, to silence, to steal comrades, family, and friends must be contested. And that contestation can only happen with other politicized and revolutionary prisoners. By meeting and struggling together in prison, it strengthens ties between criminalized people and the underclasses: an informal and irregular meeting of enemies of the state.

Our moves towards a life of freedom are undoubtedly shaped and strengthened by struggling alongside those captured by the state. The inventiveness and courage needed to maintain survival and one's values inside can teach us a great deal about what spirit will need to be mustered as we forge ahead. May this June 11th be a day to reflect on those we love inside, those we grow and struggle with that are locked away, and to make further moves against this world full of prisons and the forces that maintain it.

20 May - Intro to Self-Defense

WHAT: Skill share

WHEN: 6:00pm, Tuesday, May 20th

WHERE: Interference Archive – 314 7th Street, Brooklyn, 11215

COST: FREE

MORE:

Led by Grey from Pop Gym, we'll be covering the basics: stretching, conditioning, technique, and theory, with the hope that participants will leave with some super useful foundations that they can add to their self-defense toolkits.

Mix that in with movement and pad-hitting and you'll have an accessible and confidence-boosting good time for all.

This workshop is great for beginners, meant to share some simple-to-pick-up techniques that you can practice on your own or with friends!

Grey (He/Him, They/Them) has been an instructor with Pop Gym since 2017, and has been co-organizing and leading self-defense workshops in NYC since 2015. They have a background Tae-Kwon-Do, as well as Muay Thai, Boxing, and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. They enjoy creating spaces in which participants can better learn to understand their self-defense abilities and brainstorming individual and collective ways we can defend ourselves and our communities.

Registration is required <eventbrite.com/e/intro-to-self-defense-workshop-tickets-1316419007689>

Interference Archive is ADA accessible and on the ground floor. There are two single-stall all gender ADA-accessible bathrooms. Masks are encouraged, but not required (and we usually have some available).

22 May - InterRebellion

WHAT: Screening

WHEN: 6:00pm, Thursday, May 22nd

WHERE: P.I.T. - 411 South 5th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

The long-awaited premiere of subMedia's new documentary series: Interrebellion.

InterRebellion #1: The Estallido Social

In October 2019, protests against a transit fare hike in Santiago erupted into a nation-wide insurrection against the Chilean state. For six months, the streets were transformed into vibrant laboratories of self-organization, creativity and resistance, before ultimately being cleared by the promise of a new constitution and the spread of a global pandemic.

In the opening installment of Interrebellion, subMedia traces the history of the Estallido Social through the first-hand experiences of its participants, as they share battle-tested street tactics, and hard-won lessons about the lengths that the state will go to repress and recuperate challenges to its rule.

23-25 May - Bash Bash Revolution

WHAT: Queer Anti-Authoritarian Community Defense

WHEN: Multiple Dates and Times

WHERE: Multiple Locations

COST: FREE

MORE:

Bash Bash Revolution is a weekend long event happening May 23rd–May 25th 2025, aimed at growing our relationships, honing our skills, and uplifting the culture of combat sports training among revolutionaries, antifascists, and anarchists.

The weekend will include community/self-defense workshops, a zine fair, punk show, and film screening. In addition to fostering community, each event will serve as a fundraiser for international and local radical self-defense projects. For more information visit @bashbashrevolutionnyc on Instagram.

24 May - Saxapahaw Prison Books Packing Party

WHAT: Book packing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, May 24th

WHERE: P.I.T. - 411 South 5th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Saxapahaw Prison Books to get packages of books loaded up and sent out to prisoners.