



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for June 16th

1 Jun - Thousands Arrested as Spontaneous Uprising Erupts

There have been thousands of arrests as protests, rebellions, and uprisings have occurred in all of the 50 states, as well as internationally, in response to the murder of George Floyd by a cop in Minneapolis. For the time being, NYC ABC will not be reprinting articles about specific arrests. There are a lot of folks being held on very serious charges, many federal, and for now we find it prudent to respect those folks and not share corporate media accounts of their arrests. We support the rebels and will work to defend them in whatever way they and their direct supporters request.

1 Jun - Jalil Muntaqim should not die in prison

Jalil Muntaqim entered the US prison system in 1971, at the age of 19.

MORE:

by Hannah Black (*The Guardian*)

A former member of the Black Panther Party, he received a 25-year minimum sentence after he was convicted alongside two co-defendants of the murder of two police officers. Half a century and twelve parole rejections since he last experienced freedom, he is sick with Covid and fighting for his life in a hospital bed, in a segregated ward for prisoners.

New York state authorities have been warned of the risks of covid outbreaks in prisons. At one point, New York City jail Rikers had the highest infection rate in the US. But the Department of Corrections has so far failed to follow public health guidance urgently advising the release of medically vulnerable people. In Muntaqim's case, the state attorney general Letitia James went so far as to ask a court to strike down a judge's order mandating his release. Sometimes it is hard to tell if the appalling US coronavirus response is the result of incompetence or malice; James's extraordinary move seems like clear evidence for the latter. It is worrying that James has been appointed to lead an investigation into recent violence by the NYPD.

Muntaqim's life hangs in the balance as he awaits the results of an appeal that might at least allow him to recover from the illness and deal with its lingering effects outside of a prison cell. Meanwhile, in the outside world, the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police has sparked waves of uprisings and reminds us that the revolutionary work that Muntaqim's comrades in the Black Panther party began decades ago has yet to be completed.

As the coronavirus crisis expands, thousands of people have been released from prisons even by supposedly much more draconian regimes such as Iran and Turkey. The hard reality of the situation faces off with the lethal delirium of politics: an open letter to New York's governor, Andrew Cuomo, signed by hundreds of doctors and other health professionals attests: "As Covid-19 continues to spread throughout New York state, it will also continue to spread throughout the state prison system. This will have devastating consequences for incarcerated New Yorkers, their families, prison staff, and entire communities throughout the state."

In light of this dire situation, Jalil Muntaqim, a 68-year-old with multiple health problems and a low chance of recidivism, should have been a perfect candidate for temporary release. But the extraordinary, pointless cruelty on display in Muntaqim's case reveals a blighted system founded on anti-blackness.

The strikingly undemocratic influence of the police lobby at every level of US political life has left even progressives scrambling to please reactionaries who guard police forces' absolute right to violence. As an elected official, James should be accountable to communities, not cops. Minneapolis has shown one way

forward, with civic institutions such as public schools openly cutting ties with the police department. Until divestment from policing becomes more widespread, the entire political system continues to be at the mercy of racist shock troops.

Jalil Muntaqim's past as a former Black Panther member makes him a target of state brutality. His life is the product of a struggle that flowered from deep roots in black American experience to dazzle the world in the 1960s and 70s. Today, the streets of Minneapolis vibrate with energies drawn from the same source. Chants of "I can't breathe" echo back to the murder of Eric Garner in New York in 2014, and to Muntaqim's sickbed.

In its heyday, the Black Panther party pursued a thoughtful program of community support from legal observation to free health clinics for the oppressed. Unable to bear the prospect of militant black self-determination, the US government recommitted to brutal crackdowns and surveillance, taking on an openly colonial function in relation to black communities. In resisting the solution of autonomous black life, they fated future generations to an increasingly chaotic struggle between true and false freedoms. We live in this mess.

We are experiencing overlapping outrages: co-morbidities associated with poverty make black people more vulnerable to Covid, and the vigilante-style policing associated with a white supremacist state makes black people more vulnerable to violence. Class and race. In their time, the Black Panther party drew links between police brutality and other forms of oppression – their famous 10-point program included a demand for "completely free healthcare for all black and oppressed people". Had the US government let them flourish, the Panthers might have been able to make headway with a long-overdue process of healing.

But white supremacy has a kind of helpless automatism to it, as if its practitioners cannot distinguish between pursuit and escape. The decision to respond to black liberation struggles with renewed violence back then is what has landed the country in the midst of yet another rolling wave of uprisings now. These high crises of white supremacy are destined to return again and again, with greater stakes each time, until black people are given the space to liberate themselves. Until then, black American life is stalked by the direct violence that killed George Floyd, the systemic violence that has left so many vulnerable to disease, and the juridical violence experienced by Jalil Muntaqim.

June 8th - New York State Won't Grant Temporary Release To Former Black Panther Hospitalized With Covid-19

by Victoria Law (*The Appeal*)

‘This ruling is a particularly terrible blow because it comes at a time when people are taking to the streets en masse to protest state violence against Black people,’ said Nora Carroll, an attorney for Jalil Muntaqim, who has been imprisoned since 1971.

During a pandemic, does a state’s refusal to release medically vulnerable people from prison constitute deliberate indifference and a violation of the Eighth Amendment?

On Thursday, a New York appellate court decided that it did not. Its ruling reversed an earlier decision that would have allowed for the temporary release of 68-year-old Jalil Muntaqim, a former Black Panther who has been incarcerated since 1971. As of June 3, Sullivan Correctional Facility, where Muntaqim is incarcerated, had 22 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with one test still pending. Across the state’s 52 prisons, 511 people have tested positive and 16 have died.

On April 13, as COVID-19 was spreading throughout prisons in New York State and across the nation, Muntaqim had filed a writ of habeas corpus requesting relief in the form of immediate release. In his petition, he argued that his age, race, and serious health conditions heighten his vulnerability to the virus. During his nearly half-century behind bars, Muntaqim has developed high blood pressure, which led to a stroke, chronic bronchitis, sinusitis, and lung scarring. Furthermore, 81 percent of deaths in New York prisons since the start of COVID-19 have been people of color; 59 percent have been African American.

Two weeks later, on April 29, Sullivan County Supreme Court Judge Stephan Schick ordered Muntaqim's temporary release, ruling that the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision was not in a position to address the health risks posed to him by his continued incarceration during the pandemic. The judge ordered Muntaqim's temporary release, though he would continue serving his sentence under DOCCS supervision.

Attorney General Letitia James, representing DOCCS, appealed, blocking his release. James's office argued that Muntaqim had failed to show that prison officials had been "deliberately indifferent to Muntaqim's substantial risk of serious harm." Her office also argued that habeas corpus—and a request for temporary release—was the wrong mechanism to address Muntaqim's "claim of unconstitutional punishment based on prison conditions."

Since then, Muntaqim has been hospitalized with COVID-19. Three days after his hospitalization on May 28, attorneys for both sides presented their arguments in a virtual appeals court.

Frank Brady, representing the attorney general, argued that Muntaqim never established that prison officials were deliberately indifferent to his health. He also argued that the facts of the case had changed dramatically—that Muntaqim's petition had hinged on his vulnerability to COVID-19 and that he has since contracted the virus. Furthermore, he repeatedly stated that a habeas petition for release was not the appropriate method to challenge prison conditions or unconstitutional medical care.

Nora Carroll, Muntaqim's attorney, disagreed. A habeas request for release is "absolutely appropriate in these circumstances," she argued, noting that conditions of confinement during this pandemic are unconstitutional, and the only appropriate remedy is release from these conditions. Noting that social distancing is impossible in a prison setting, she stated that Muntaqim is housed in a cellblock with 50 other individuals, some of whom had contracted the coronavirus. Although he had a cell to himself, and, according to Carroll, "tried to stay to himself and wear a mask every time he left his cell," he still had to share telephones, showers, and meals with others. These measures had not prevented him from contracting the virus.

She added that researchers don't know whether a person develops immunity after recovering from COVID-19. "If he does recover and is sent back, it seems very likely that he'll be put in the exact same position. We don't know if he can catch it again. It's not all over because he got COVID," she told *The Appeal*.

Carroll argued that the state has a responsibility to care for the people whom it incarcerates, and that it didn't fulfill that responsibility when it failed to identify and release medically vulnerable people during the pandemic. "They're creating a hotbed of viral spread," she stated in court, noting that the 162 people released at that point represent less than half of one percent of its state prison population.

In his rebuttal, Brady presented another argument: By releasing Muntaqim, the court was setting itself up for granting parole. He noted that a court may choose to annul a decision by the parole board, but does not order a person's release. Instead, the court orders that the parole board conduct another hearing.

"This is not parole," Carroll told *The Appeal*. "This is merely a temporary release to alleviate an unconstitutional situation inside of the prison." She noted that Judge Schick carefully worded his decision to specify a temporary release while under DOCCS supervision and that others, such as Trump aides Paul Manafort and Michael Cohen, have been released from prison to serve their sentences under home confinement during the pandemic.

Law enforcement opposition to Muntaqim's release is nothing new. In 1971, Muntaqim, then 19 years old and a member of the Black Panther Party, was arrested with two other Panthers for the fatal shootings of two police officers. In 1975, he was convicted and sentenced to 25 years to life.

Now 68, Muntaqim is the last of the three in prison. In 2000, his co-defendant Albert Nuh Washington died in prison. In March 2018, his other co-defendant, Herman Bell, was granted parole. Despite opposition, including a court challenge from the Policemen's Benevolent Association, Bell was released from prison in April.

Muntaqim became eligible for parole in 2002 and has appeared before the board 12 times. Each time, the PBA has deluged the parole board with letters opposing his parole. Each time, Muntaqim was denied parole. Jose Saldana, now the director of Release Aging People in Prison, has served time with Muntaqim and has witnessed Muntaqim act as a teacher and a mentor to others in prison. Muntaqim also established several prison programs, including a therapeutic group, an African American studies program, and classes in computer literacy, poetry, and sociology.

But, adds Saldana, the issue is less whether Muntaqim has transformed from a reckless 19-year-old than whether the parole board "has the integrity to free a man who should have been freed a long time ago and whether they will continue to allow the PBA to dictate and influence their decision-making process." Muntaqim's next parole hearing is in September.

DOCCS has also deemed Muntaqim ineligible for medical parole. He has been returned to Sullivan, where he is now in the infirmary with COVID-19.

In its decision, the Appellate Court found that Muntaqim failed to demonstrate prison officials' deliberate indifference. Instead, the appellate decision noted that the prison superintendent had submitted an affidavit listing the steps taken to prevent COVID-19 spread, including stopping visits, halting new intakes and transfers between prisons, and requiring staff and incarcerated kitchen workers to wear masks. The court chose not to comment on whether a habeas petition was the appropriate remedy.

"We are devastated at the Third Department's decision in Mr. Muntaqim's case," Carroll stated. "This ruling is a particularly terrible blow because it comes at a time when people are taking to the streets en masse to protest state violence against Black people. Yet this and other pleas to protect Black lives in New York State prisons are being turned away. All we can do now is hope Mr. Muntaqim recovers, as he is still in the hospital."

June 9th - Phone Zap for Bro. Jalil Muntaqim: Urgent and Ongoing

Just as the state does not rest in its oppression, neither may we in our multi-faceted quest for liberation! We wanted to update the urgent and ongoing request for support for Brother Jalil Muntaqim, a movement elder and force for Black liberation and the liberation of all incarcerated people.

In this historic moment of rebellion, we must not forget those who have struggled and served time behind the ideals of Black Liberation, anti-capitalism and the war against the occupying army that is the American police force.

Muntaqim is a prisoner of the United States war against Black freedom. He was a member of the Black Panther Party and a partisan of the Black Liberation Army. He has served 50 years in prison for his role in the Black liberation struggle. Recently he was diagnosed with COVID-19. Jalil was locked up at 19 years old. He is now 68.

Call and Email Commissioner Annucci: 518.457.8126; anthony.annucci@doccs.ny.gov

Since this will be ongoing, we propose that people tweet and/or email Governor Cuomo every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; call and write the Governor every Tuesday and Thursday: 518.474.8390; @NYCGovCuomo

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York

Executive Chamber
State Capital Building
Albany, New York 12224

governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form

Communications to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office must refer to Jalil as: Anthony Jalil Bottom, 77-A-4283, Sullivan Correctional Facility, Post Office Box 116, Fallsburg, New York 12733.

2 June - A Short History of U.S. Law Enforcement Infiltrating Protests

When Harry, George, Tom, and Joe showed up at a warehouse outside Philadelphia rented by protesters, organizers were immediately suspicious.

MORE:

by Ryan Grim & Jon Schwarz (*The Intercept*)

The men claimed to be “union carpenters” from the Scranton, Pennsylvania, area who built stages — just the kind of help the protesters needed. They were preparing for the Republican National Convention in 2000, where the party would be nominating George W. Bush. Across the country, allied organizers were planning similar protests for the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

One of the hallmarks of the social justice movement at the time was its puppets. Organizers were coming off successful protests in Seattle in November 1999 against the World Trade Organization, and in Washington, D.C., in April 2000, against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and had managed to reshape the politics of globalization. Soaring papier-mache puppets, rolled through the streets on individually constructed floats, projected a festive air, capturing sympathetic media coverage and countering the authorities’ narrative that the protesters were nihilists simply relishing in property destruction.

The four carpenters were good with a hammer, but much about them had protesters wary they were in fact infiltrators. In conversation, “they were not very political or well informed,” recalled Kris Hermes, an organizer, in “Crashing the Party,” his memoir of the affair. They were older and more muscular than most protesters, he wrote, and they insisted on drinking beer while working, despite the organizers’ ban on drinking in the warehouse. In discussions and meetings, they asserted the right of protesters to destroy property and to physically resist arrest. The movement’s intentional lack of hierarchy left organizers with little ability to act on their suspicions of infiltration, even as they were becoming more deft at sussing out such provocateurs.

On August 1, the first full day of the Republican convention, police surrounded the warehouse, known as the “Ministry of Puppetganda,” executed mass arrests, and confiscated the puppets, floats, signs, and other materials to be used in upcoming marches. The police lied, publicly saying that organizers had been planning violent demonstrations and hinting darkly at bomb-making materials being hidden in the warehouse. That roundup presaged other mass arrests of protest leaders throughout the week, followed by beatings inside the jail and even a \$1 million bond.

When the warrant for the warehouse raid was unsealed, it finally confirmed that Harry, George, Tom, and Joe had been state troopers assigned to infiltrate the group and produce a pretext for a raid. All of the charges against the puppeteers were eventually dropped, and the saga would eventually cost the city millions in lawsuit settlements (with much of the legal work led by radical attorney Larry Krasner, who is now Philadelphia district attorney).

It is a historical fact, as this episode illustrates, that law enforcement frequently infiltrates progressive political movements using agent provocateurs who urge others to engage in violence. It is also a historical fact that, more rarely, such provocateurs commit acts of violence themselves.

The media pays little attention to such infiltrators, for a variety of reasons. On the one hand, corporate media has never taken much enthusiasm in questioning government action in the midst of riots or major demonstrations, unless that action goes wildly over the line or targets members of the media. The subject of provocateurs is also fraught from the perspective of protesters and movement organizers, as it can lead to paranoia that undermines solidarity and movement building. It is often conflated with the trope of “outside agitators” and used by authorities or other opponents of the protesters to delegitimize the anger on display, giving some protesters or their supporters an incentive to downplay the reality of the provocations.

The intensity of the conversation around protests that turn violent, and the life-or-death consequences of winding up on the wrong side of public opinion, leaves little room for a nuanced discussion. Were such a conversation possible, it would be easy to talk about the difference between the anger of a crowd and the actions it ultimately takes. An angry crowd that remains nonviolent and engages in zero property destruction is no less legitimately angry than one that does. Often the only difference is in whether and how the anger is triggered and escalated.

In protests across the country over the past week, the clear actor escalating the violence generally hasn’t been a protester or even a right-wing infiltrator, but the police themselves. In rally after rally, people have observed that looting and destruction only began after police charged and beat a crowd, or fired tear gas or rubber bullets into it. In other cases, it can take just one act by a protester to light the spark. Given the chaotic nature of the protests, it’s probable that everyone being blamed for property damage has played some role. But as the protests continue, and President Donald Trump calls for ever more violent methods of repression, the possible role of police provocateurs in protests is worth bearing in mind.

In 2008, Francesco Cossiga, one of the most important political figures in post-World War II Italy, provided a rare glimpse behind the curtain at how the world looks to people at the top of governments facing large-scale protests.

Cossiga had served as prime minister and then president of Italy. Before that, in the late ’70s, he led the Ministry of the Interior. During that period, he was notorious for the brutality with which he put down left-wing demonstrations led by students. This is how the *New York Times* reported the situation in 1977: “Extremists among the students have created chaos in a number of Italian cities with a wave of shooting and destruction.”

As Silvio Berlusconi’s administration faced similarly threatening protests, Cossiga urged them to rerun his playbook:

[They] should do what I did when I was interior minister. ... Pull back police from streets and colleges, infiltrate the movement with provocateurs ready for anything [emphasis added], and for ten days let protesters devastate shops, burn down cars, and set cities aflame. Then, emboldened by popular support ... police should have no mercy and send them all to the hospital. Not arrest them, because prosecutors would just free them right away, but beat them all and beat the professors that encourage them.

The *Times* appears to have mentioned the possibility that government provocateurs were behind some of the violence once — and then not as fact, but as an accusation of “leftwing parties and newspapers.”

Cossiga had been a professor of constitutional law and was a centrist Christian Democrat. When he became prime minister in 1979, Jimmy Carter’s ambassador to Italy saw this as an “excellent development,” and Cossiga maintained a strong relationship with America. There is no direct line between Cossiga and today’s protests in the U.S. But his example indicates that it’s no fevered conspiracy theory to believe reasonable, reputable figures see provocateur tactics as legitimate — even if most of them are more circumspect in public.

The best documented use of provocateurs by the U.S. government occurred during the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Counter-Intelligence Program, or COINTELPRO, from 1956 to 1971. The reason the

documentation is available is because a group of citizens broke into an FBI office in Pennsylvania — coincidentally, just a short drive from the warehouse targeted by police in 2000 — and stole files that they then passed to the media. This, in turn, led to congressional investigations, which pried loose more information.

In one notorious example in May 1970, an informant working for both the Tuscaloosa police and the FBI burned down a building at the University of Alabama during protests over the recent Kent State University shootings. The police then declared that demonstrators were engaging in an unlawful assembly and arrested 150 of them.

In another well-known case, a man nicknamed “Tommy the Traveler” visited numerous New York State colleges, posing as a radical member of Students for a Democratic Society. He encouraged acolytes to kidnap a congressman and offered training in Molotov cocktails. Two students at Hobart College acted on his suggestions and firebombed the campus ROTC building. Eventually it came out that his full name was Tommy Tongyai, and he had worked both for local police and the FBI.

The list goes on and on from there. An FBI informant, who said he was also a member of the John Birch Society, helped assemble time bombs and placed them on an Army truck. (The John Birch Society now says it has no record of his membership.) An FBI informant in the radical political organization Weather Underground took part in the bombing of a Cincinnati public school. A prominent member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War — and FBI informant — pushed for “shooting and bombing,” and his advocacy apparently did indeed lead to a bombing and a bomb threat. An FBI informant in Seattle drove a young black man named Larry Ward to a real estate office that engaged in housing discrimination and encouraged him to place a bomb there; the police were waiting and killed Ward. Thirteen Black Panthers were accused of a plot to blow up the Statue of Liberty after receiving 60 sticks of dynamite from an FBI informant. After 28 people broke into a federal building to destroy draft files in 1971, an FBI informant bragged, “I taught them everything they knew.” All 28 were acquitted when his role was revealed.

The FBI also allowed informants within right-wing organizations to participate in violence against progressive activists. Gary Thomas Rowe, who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan in 1960, provided the FBI with three weeks warning that the Klan was planning attacks on Freedom Riders arriving in Alabama from the north. The FBI stood by and allowed the attacks to occur. Local police gave the Klan 15 minutes to assault the activists. In those 15 minutes, the white supremacists — including Rowe — set the Freedom Rider bus on fire in an attempt to burn them alive.

Rowe may also have played a role in the infamous 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed four young girls. He was in the car with three other Klansmen in 1965 when they chased down and murdered Viola Liuzzo, a mother of five from Detroit who’d traveled to Selma. Rowe received immunity for testifying against his compatriots, and was given a job as a U.S. Marshall by Lyndon Johnson’s attorney general.

Local police informants without apparent connections to the FBI got into the act too. A deputy sheriff enrolled as a student at SUNY Buffalo and helped students build and test bombs. Another informant posed as a student at Northeastern Illinois State College, led sit-ins for Students for a Democratic Society, and encouraged compatriots to sabotage military vehicles.

Soon after COINTELPRO was uncovered in 1971, the FBI announced that it was halting all such activities. Mark Felt, the assistant FBI director now also known to be the infamous “Deep Throat” source for Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, later said that the bureau had made no effort to see that “constitutional values are being protected.”

When and whether the FBI ever stopped, however, is an open question. In 1975 an informant told the *New York Times* that he had engaged in COINTELPRO-like activities until he’d left the previous year. This included encouraging a Maoist group to blow up a bus at the 1972 GOP convention in Miami.

In any case, police forces in the U.S. continued the same tactics. In 1978, an undercover officer encouraged two hapless young activists to seize control of a television tower in Puerto Rico. When they arrived, they were gunned down by 10 policemen. Tellingly, when Puerto Rican government asked the FBI to investigate what happened, the FBI gave the government a clean bill of health. A top FBI official later called this a “coverup.”

After 9/11, the FBI got back in the business of encouraging violent acts in a big way — although they were generally much more careful to step in before the violence actually occurred. When journalist (and *Intercept* contributor) Trevor Aaronson examined U.S. prosecutions for international terrorism in the decade after the attacks, he found five examples of actual plots. By contrast, 150 people were indicted in sting operations that existed only thanks to the encouragement of the FBI and its informants. According to Aaronson, “the FBI is much better at creating terrorists than it is at catching terrorists.”

The same tactics have been used to generate purported domestic terrorism plots. In 2008 environmental activist Eric McDavid was sentenced to 20 years in prison for plotting to damage the Nimbus Dam in California. Eight years later, a judge ordered him released because the FBI had withheld evidence regarding a government informant. In 2012, the FBI and its informant essentially created a plot to blow up a bridge in Cleveland out of whole cloth, and dragged five Occupy activists into it.

Most recently, the FBI’s Counterterrorism Division invented something called the “Black Identity Extremism” movement. As portrayed by an FBI report, the threat from the imaginary movement reads as strikingly similar to that allegedly posed by black organizations during the days of COINTELPRO. The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives said this “resurrects the historically negative legacy of African American civil rights leaders who were unconstitutionally targeted and attacked by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.”

That brings us to the present day. On the one hand, this history doesn’t mean that the FBI or local police are currently acting as provocateurs during the current unrest. But it does mean that such activity is clearly one avenue that is open to U.S. police forces looking to undermine protests and escalate violence.

2 Jun - Federal Bureau of Prisons Goes into National Lockdown Over Protests

The Federal Bureau of Prisons announced Monday that they are putting all 165,575 of their inmates on full lockdown for the first time in twenty-five years.

MORE:

by Amy Beeman (*Heavy*)

Their reasons — civil unrest and the ongoing protests around the nation that were sparked when a white police officer killed a black man in Minneapolis on May 25 during an arrest.

This is only the second time all federal prisons have been on full lockdown in the history of the U.S., according to Prison Legal News, a department of the Human Rights Defense Center.

The BOP says they’re taking the action out of “an abundance of caution” as protests around the nation continue to rage, with various groups seeking to be involved in the protests for different reasons — some calling for justice for the black community after years of excessive force at the hands of police, others using the protests to cause destruction, to loot and to do violence.

Heavy has reached out to the BOP for more information and is awaiting a reply.

Inmates Had Already Been on Some Form of Lockdown Amid the Coronavirus Pandemic, Which Has Killed 68 Federal Prisoners

According to the BOP, “There are 1650 federal inmates and 171 BOP staff who have confirmed positive test results for COVID-19 nationwide. Currently, 3613 inmates and 445 staff have recovered. There have been 68 federal inmate deaths and 0 BOP staff member deaths attributed to COVID-19 disease.”

On May 29 the agency tweeted that they had more recovered cases of COVID-19 than currently infected.

The decrease in sick inmates and staff was likely to do with the modified lockdown that was implemented months ago. Inmates lost visitation privileges, had 30-day suspensions on being able to meet with their attorney’s, and have had restricted movement within the facilities in efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, the BOP reported.

Joe Rojas, the Southeast regional vice president at the Council of Prison Locals, told news outlet The Government Executive that the new orders for a total lockdown mean “no movement whatsoever.”

Inmates Revolted in 1995 Causing a Nationwide Lockdown of Prisons & There Have Been Riots During the Coronavirus Pandemic at Multiple Detention Centers

In October of 1995 the BOP issued a national lockdown on inmates due to an internal revolt within the prison system. According to Prison Legal News:

Widespread rebellion ignited by injustices in the imposition and execution of prison sentences was unprecedented in the history of the BOP (Bureau of Prisons). Though its participants caused no deaths, took no hostages, and breached no secure perimeter, their exclamation of discontent resulted in the first nationwide lockdown of federal penitentiaries and correctional institutions and cost \$39.7 million.

More recently, riots, fires, and upheaval at prisons around the country have been reported amid the coronavirus outbreak. While information is limited as to what sparked the revolts it’s been reported that inmates were acting out because they did not feel they were being protected from the potentially deadly coronavirus behind bars.

Since the coronavirus pandemic, thousands of inmates have been released early from jails and prisons in an effort to decrease the number of people in close quarters and not put people at risk unnecessarily.

2 Jun - Solidarity Statement with the Uprising from Ferguson Prisoner Josh Williams

The following is a statement in support of the ongoing rebellion from Ferguson prisoner, Josh Williams.

MORE:

#justice4georgefloyd Let’s get this trending once again. Another black man has been taken from us by white racist cops and once again they will see our power. I send my shout out to everybody out there fighting. I say to you: keep it going, the fight is going to get hard but stay in the fight. We are Michael Brown, we are Eric Garner, let’s fight. #IcantBreathe #HANDSUPDONTSHOOT.

I want to address the nation again and those who are in power as I sit and watch the protest. I call out President Trump on his bullshit ass comment. I say to you: those people who you call thugs, those people who you call criminals, are my people. Those people who are out there and doing what they doing, they doing it out of anger, they acting out of emotion, so calling them thugs is out of the question.

You the thug, Mr. Trump, and if you got a problem with that, I’m at Pacific Missouri Eastern Correctional Center and you can come personally and talk to to me. But calling my people thugs and criminals, watch your fucking mouth when you speak on my people.

If you’d do your fucking job & send these bitch ass cops to jail they wouldn’t be out there in the first place.

Second I want to call out the bitch ass cops in the streets of America. I see you and I see what the fuck y’all doing to my people and that shit not gonna fly. I’m telling you this now: KEEP YOUR FUCKING HANDS

TO YOUR SELF. DON'T ABUSE ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE PROTESTERS, WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THE WORLD, BECAUSE I AM WATCHING.

To the people out there I say to you: keep up the good fight, y'all are standing y'all ground to the max and I love every bit of what y'all doing. I love everybody out there let me tell y'all: if the police try to hurt you, y'all have a right to defend yourself.

Third. I want to call out that bitch ass cop who push that young lady to the ground. Why don't you come push me like that... Don't touch another woman out there, and if you got a problem you can come talk to me. Just set up an interview I'll be more than willing to accept it.

3 Jun - Prison Break: Political Prisoners and COVID-19

Death tolls continue to rise as COVID-19 wreaks havoc across the globe. While Paul Manafort and Michael Cohen received early releases (on home confinement) due to the pandemic, millions of others remain behind bars with little hope of release.

MORE:

by Certain Days (*It's Going Down*)

Political Prisoners Marius Mason and Jalil Muntaqim have recently tested positive for COVID-19. Muntaqim, who at 68 years old having served 49 years in prison is one of the longest-serving political prisoners, contracted the virus while awaiting an appeals hearing on an order that would have had him released from prison in April. You can listen to the audio but a ruling has not yet been announced. On a positive note, Ramsey Orta, scheduled to be released in July, was granted temporary release on May 29.

Turning your *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar from May to June, you will find two pieces by current anarchist political prisoners. The artwork for the month is a vibrant and colorful piece by Marius Mason, an anarchist, environmental and animal rights political prisoner. The essay for the month is written by vegan, anarchist political prisoner Eric King, and touches on the intersectionality at the center of ongoing liberation movements. Be sure to show your support for these political prisoners, on June 11, the International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason and all Long-term Anarchist Prisoners.

Art and essay submissions for the 2021 Certain Days calendar are due by the middle of this month. We welcome any and all submissions that connect to our theme, A Generation of Support Through the Bars, reflecting on the roles of political prisoners in social justice movements. Please share this widely, especially with friends and family currently in prison or jail.

Here's a rundown of what went down in May, and a look ahead at June.

Fundraising

Longtime Black Liberation Army political prisoner Sundiata Acoli, 83, has been imprisoned for 47 years. After being denied parole in December 2019, Acoli is currently fundraising to help with ongoing legal fees.

Political prisoner and vegan anarchist Eric King continues to fight trumped up charges which threaten him with an additional 20 years in Federal prison. He has recently been placed on a 6-month general correspondence restriction, and can no longer receive mail. However, Eric can receive books and magazines, so send him some reading materials. You can donate to Eric's fundraising efforts, learn more about Eric and his case, and listen to a new playlist of Eric's favorite songs at supportericking.org

Making that transition from prison to the outside can be a very difficult switch. Any support that we can provide goes a long way towards showing solidarity with those who gave up so much fighting for our freedoms. Here's a list of places to donate that directly support recently released political prisoners as well as those inside approaching release:

Chuck Africa: gofundme.com/f/help-chuck-africa-rebuild
Janet and Janine Africa: fundrazr.com/janet-janine
Delbert Africa: gofundme.com/f/delafricasupport
Eddie Africa: fundrazr.com/eddie-africa
Little Feather: freelittlefeather.com/donate
Nina Droz Franco: gofundme.com/f/nina-quiere-retomar-su-vida
Connor Stevens: fundrazr.com/d1PY2c

In Case You Missed It

Community organizer, literary agent, and longtime political prisoner supporter Frances Goldin died on May 16, at the age of 96. Goldin published political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal's first book, *Live From Death Row*, and had been an ardent supporter of his release ever since. You can hear Mumia's moving tribute at prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia/frances-goldin-housing-activist-radical-and-literary-agent-712-mumia-abu-jamal

Pressure to release one of New York's oldest prisoners, political prisoner and *Certain Days* calendar inside editor David Gilbert, continues to mount. Gilbert's son, San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin, calls for his father's release, as well.

Anti-fascist political prisoner David Campbell has been approved for early release from Rikers Island, though he remains locked behind bars six weeks later. You can read Campbell's statement at hardcrackers.com/stickup-on-rikers

NSA whistleblower Reality Winner has filed an appeal for compassionate release, a request that has previously been rejected.

4 Jun - Kings Bay Plowshares 7 Update

On Monday, June 8, Elizabeth McAlister, the eldest (at 80 yrs-old) of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 anti-nuclear weapons activists, will be sentenced from her home in Connecticut by video conferencing with Judge Lisa Godbey Wood of the Southern District of Georgia Federal Court, in Brunswick.

MORE:

McAlister will probably not face additional prison time because she has already served 1½ years before trial. The prosecutor is also asking for 3-5 years of probation and restitution.

McAlister's six codefendants asked for a postponement rejecting the idea of sentencing by video. They asked the court to recognize their right to be sentenced in person with the public and press present in the Brunswick, Georgia court. Patrick O'Neill, Clare Grady, Mark Colville, Carmen Trotta, and Fr. Steve Kelly, S.J., and Martha Hennessy's new court dates are June 29 and 30. They haven't been told whether they would be sentenced in person or by video once they get there. Since most of the defendants are over 60, and some have underlying health conditions, they requested home confinement during this time of COVID-19, as entering prison is a death sentence. Their request was opposed by the government because their action involved a threat to human life (their own) by entering a restricted military base where lethal force is authorized against intruders.

The KBP7 calls for the release of people in prisons, in federal and state prisons, county and city jails, especially the elderly, the infirm, and all non-violent offenders.

The KBP7 issued a statement of solidarity with the movement calling for justice for George Floyd: *Our hearts break with each new wave of murders of Black people, men, women, and children. We know that this murder is not new, that Black lives have been stolen, tortured, terrorized, and killed, from the beginning of this nation. We want to acknowledge the resilience and resistance of African Americans that also dates back to the beginning of this nation. We especially want to acknowledge the wisdom and courage of those rising up right now, insisting that*

their humanity be denied no longer. As seven white, American Catholics, who have chosen to nonviolently, symbolically disarm this nation's most deadly weapon, the Trident nuclear submarine, we understand that there is a critical connection between this nation's weapons of mass destruction and guns of the police on the street. Both are used 24/7 to enforce systems of White Supremacy and Global Capitalism. When those of us who are privileged by these systems take responsibility for the crimes of killing millions and stealing trillions, we begin to stop scapegoating those who are on the receiving end of those crimes. In the cries for racial justice and the demilitarization of police forces that today resound through our streets nationwide, we hear anew God's call to disarm and live.

Elizabeth McAlister is a long time peace activist and community builder, who founded Jonah House, in Baltimore, in the early 1970s with her late husband Philip Berrigan. Liz is often known as the “Mother of the Movement” for her insightful analysis, Biblical acumen, indefatigable humor, and courageous organizing. She is also the mother of three grown children Kate and Frida Berrigan both of New London, CT, and Jerry Berrigan of Kalamazoo, Michigan. She is the grandmother of six children ages 6 -16. Liz was a member of the Griffiss Plowshares in 1983 and served the better part of two years in prison for the act of nonviolently disarming a B-52 bomber based near Syracuse, NY that carried nuclear cruise missiles through Canadian airspace twice a day to threaten Russia. She celebrated her 80th birthday soon after the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 trial in 2019 and now lives in New London with her youngest daughter.

June 8th - Frida Berrigan's Statement at Sentencing of her Mother, Liz McAlister

Good morning, friends, My name is Frida Berrigan and I am here to speak on behalf of my mom, Elizabeth McAlister, one of the co-defendants in the Kings Bay Plowshares. I'm here in New London, Connecticut with my husband Patrick and our three kids, Liz's grandchildren- Madeline, 6; Seamus, 7; and Rosena, 13. My brother Jerry is also here, with his wife, Molly and Liz's other 3 grandchildren, Leah, 10; Jonah, 13 and Amos, 16. My sister Kate and her partner Karen are also here, they are now Liz's roommates and live up the street a few blocks.

We are all here to love and support and stand with (sit with, here anyway) Liz as she has sat and stood, loved and supported so many over the last 45/50 years of her life as a nonviolent anti-nuclear activist, ally to those struggling against oppression and advocate for civil and human rights.

Last night, we all logged on to zoom to pray with more than 100 friends and family from around the country. We shared bread and wine and stories and drew strength from one another.

So many of the names that blipped up would be familiar to you; friends who have written letters of support and love from literally every corner of Liz's life; her family members, her fellow sisters from her time as a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, people who have broken bread and broken laws with her over the last 4 or 5 decades, who lived in community with her- in and out of prison. Each of these letters attest to what you, Judge Wood and you, Prosecutor Knocke, know in your hearts and see with your own eyes: that our mother is a good and holy person whose only crime is to attend to the thrum and whisper of her conscience and not allow that still, small voice to be drowned out by the blood thirsty screams and desperate caterwauling of nuclear preparations and constant war making.

As her daughter, I could wish that her hearing was not quite so good. As her kids- my brother, sister and I- wish she had not spent 17 months and 9 days in your county detention centers. We would like to say enough is enough. She has paid too high a price already, and we who love her have paid that price too.

But as a 46 year-old white citizen of a nation that is going to spend \$720 plus billion on the military this year, even in the face of an economy smashing pandemic that has killed 100,000 people and laid bare the stark inequity and fundamental brokenness of every fiber of the social safety net, I am grateful that people like my mother are willing to stand up and say: “Trident is a crime.”

As a 46 year-old white citizen in a country where white supremacy and militarized policing are so emboldened that Derek Chavin can crush George Floyd's life out of him in front of a crowd, in front of cameras, where the McMichaels father and son can gun down Ahmaud Arbery in broad daylight as he

jogged through the streets of a quiet Georgia town, I draw hope and inspiration from white people who continue to invoke Dr. King's framework of the giant triplets of racism, militarism and materialism... these weights that cripple our collective humanity. I draw hope and inspiration from my mom and her friends who declare that "Black Lives Matter" who wed their anti-nuclear analysis with an anti-racist ethos, and declare that the ultimate logic of trident is omnicide.

So, I am here as a daughter who doesn't want her 80 year-old mother sent back to jail and a human being who wonders how anything ever changes if people like my mom aren't willing to take that risk.

I'm hoping you agree with the government that Liz McAlister has served enough time in jail already and you'll help our family close this long and challenging episode of our lives today by sentencing her to time served. I also hope that you will recognize that as a person who owns nothing but the clothes on her back and the water colors she uses to paint with her grandchildren, you will waive all fines and restitution.

June 9th - Plowshares woman, 80, sentenced to time served in Kings Bay incident

by Larry Hobbs (*The Brunswick News*)

An 80-year-old Connecticut woman was sentenced to time served for her role in the April 2018 incident in which a group known as the Plowshares broke into and vandalized Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Camden County, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Elizabeth McAlister had served 17 months since her arrest along with six others involved in the symbolic protest at the base, which is home to nuclear powered submarines. Plowshares is a Christian-based pacifist and antinuclear group that supports demonstrative acts of resistance.

She was the first in a group of codefendants to be sentenced on charges of conspiracy, destruction of property on a naval installation, depredation of government property and trespass. All were found guilty in October 2019 during a four-day jury trial presided over by U.S. District Court Judge Lisa Godbey Wood at the Frank M. Scarlett Federal Building courthouse in Brunswick.

McAlister was also ordered to pay \$33,500 in restitution. She will serve three years of supervised release.

"In recent weeks there have been dozens of peaceful protests held throughout the Southern District of Georgia as citizens exercised their constitutional right to peacefully assemble," said Bobby L. Christine, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. "In contrast, the protesters at Kings Bay broke into a nuclear submarine base where they damaged and vandalized government property. Such violent, illegal behavior will not be tolerated."

Late on the night of April 4, 2018, the seven Plowshares members cut through a padlocked gate to a perimeter fence at Kings Bay. They proceeded to damage and vandalize property inside before naval security guards intervened.

They videoed the acts and freely admitted to their roles in the incident, an act of symbolic protest. The videos were shown to jurors.

Others involved in the protest will be sentenced at later dates.

6 Jun - Brooklyn Man Was Arrested for Curfew Violation. The FBI Interrogated Him About His Political Beliefs.

Joel Feingold was in his apartment in Brooklyn when he heard the sound of police beating protesters outside of his building Wednesday night.

MORE:

by Ryan Devereaux (*The Intercept*)

Having spent much of the week in the streets joining the waves of demonstrations against police brutality currently sweeping the nation, Feingold rushed outside. He was swiftly tossed to the ground by a senior New York City police officer in a white shirt, thrown in a police van, and placed under arrest along with four other individuals for having ostensibly violated a recently imposed curfew on NYC residents.

Feingold and the others were taken to the NYPD's 78th Precinct, where they were told that they were being cited for violating the city's 8 p.m. curfew. It was there, Feingold told *The Intercept*, that they were interrogated by the NYPD and the FBI about their political beliefs and their reasons for participating in the nationwide protests — subjects that should, under the Constitution and local NYPD rules, be off-limits from law enforcement inquiries following an alleged curfew violation.

After being processed and taken to a cell, Feingold said he and the three men he was locked up with were approached by two men in plainclothes. "One of them is from NYPD intelligence and the other is an FBI agent," he said. Feingold said a third officer confirmed the affiliations of the two men as they were being discharged. The FBI agent's line of questioning was clearly focused on his political views.

"We want to know who's hijacking your movement and making it violent," Feingold recalled the agent saying. "That is what he said verbatim."

The FBI's involvement in protest interrogations is part of an emerging pattern, New York City civil rights attorneys say, that seems to have followed Attorney General William Barr's designation of the leaderless movement against fascism known as antifa as a domestic terrorist organization. President Donald Trump and his allies have repeatedly alleged that outside agitators affiliated with the movement are stoking violence and unrest across the country.

Feingold's account follows a story published by Univision on Thursday, which reported that individuals arrested by the NYPD in recent days have been questioned about their views on anti-fascism. On Thursday afternoon, the National Lawyers Guild of New York City urged anyone who had been contacted by the NYPD or FBI to reach out to their office. Gideon Oliver, former president of the New York chapter of the organization, said the NLG was running down multiple reports of politically focused law enforcement interrogations in multiple boroughs. "There are others," Oliver told *The Intercept*, adding that the interviews signaled a "very serious and disturbing development."

"To turn arrests for violations or misdemeanors at a protest into a dragnet for gathering political intelligence about protesters is inherently problematic," Oliver said. If demonstrators find themselves under arrest, Oliver went on to say, they should not consent to law enforcement searches, remain silent and invoke their right to speak to an attorney.

The NYPD referred questions for this story to the FBI. The FBI did not respond to a request for comment.

The three men he was detained with described their interviews once they were returned to their cell, Feingold said. The first came back to his cell joking that he was "the king of antifa." According to Feingold, "They had clearly asked him about outside agitators." The second arrestee was asked, "What do you think you were protesting?" The third, who had a long conversation with the law enforcement officials, was from Missouri. "They asked him if he had been at Ferguson," Feingold said, the site of the historic 2014 protests against police brutality and the killing of Mike Brown, an unarmed black teenager who was gunned down by a white police officer.

Feingold, who told *The Intercept* he had been arrested at protests before, was the last to be interviewed. He said he made an effort to keep the conversation as short and detail-free as possible. "The NYPD intelligence officer looked like a normal NYPD cop," Feingold said. "The FBI guy was very slick." Following a brief bit of small talk and general questioning, which Feingold interpreted as an effort to "soften him up," the agent raised the question about the protests being hijacked for violent purposes. "I have nothing more to say," Feingold told him.

Feingold and the others were released with summonses for violating the city's curfew.

Marty Stolar, a veteran New York City civil rights attorney, whose legal work around law enforcement surveillance of political activity led to the creation of a set of rules prohibiting the NYPD from engaging in wanton political spying, said Feingold's interrogation was one of several he has heard of in recent days. "I've got a couple of other names that I'm running down," Stolar told *The Intercept*.

The rules Stolar and others helped to establish, known as the Handschu agreement, have gone through many iterations over the past several decades, particularly following the September 11 attacks and the expansion of law enforcement surveillance powers that followed. In 2004, after the court-imposed guidelines were watered down in the wake of the attacks, Stolar and the other attorneys responsible for ensuring that the NYPD was in compliance with the agreement learned the department was using so-called demonstration debriefing forms to probe protesters about their political views. "They had been lying to the judge, they'd been lying to us, they had no explanation for it," he said. "It pissed off the judge, and the guidelines then became part of the court order once again."

"This whole demonstration debriefing bullshit was theoretically out the window," he said. "And lo and behold, it's surfacing again."

Feingold told *The Intercept* that this week's interrogation would not stop him, or the men he was detained with, from attending New York City's ongoing protests — though the experience did underscore the state of the government's relationship to those demonstrations.

"That this FBI sweep is going on during a Black Lives Matter protest is very troubling," he said. "It's further federal repression of black and brown people in this country. The Trump administration's orientation towards authoritarian rule is being borne out now in the street, and its targets are black and brown people, and dissenters."

11 Jun - June 11th Statements

June 11th is recognized as the international day of solidarity with anarchist and earth & animal liberation political prisoners. Below we offer statements written by prisoners for June 11th.

MORE:

MARIUS MASON

Marius was unable to write a statement for this year's International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason & All Anarchist Prisoners. Marius' attorney wrote a beautiful statement in his stead. Please read below: The other day when I spoke to Marius on the phone he was dealing with worries ranging from uncertainty about whether or not he might be immune to COVID-19, to the national BOP lockdown. And still! He was so focused on the well-being of everyone out here. He was very worried about me — whether I was getting enough rest, whether he was bothering me at a time that I needed to be talking to other clients. He was worried for the protesters suffering at the hands of law enforcement and the black and brown people trying to live their lives under a regime of daily violence and indignity. He expressed so much love for the people agitating for an end to white supremacy. "Racism is the poison at the heart of America," he said. "Everybody knows it, and this is the conversation we need to have."

Marius is an example of someone suffering unduly at the hands of a government that was more interested in punishing him under the rubric of "terrorism" than in ending the atrocities against the environment that he has spent his life trying to correct. And now once again he is watching the state manufacture an imaginary threat: Antifa. No matter that Trump lacks any authority to designate "antifa" a terrorist threat in any legally meaningful way. His announcement will function to broadcast to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, & juries that they may severely punish people for their conduct and for their *political beliefs*.

Just as Marius must endure an unconscionably long sentence for actions that would otherwise have been less severely punished, we can anticipate similar state repression of many others painted with the intentionally broad brush of “Antifa.” The protections of the first and fourth amendments will lose force in the face of law enforcement and prosecutors invoking the specter of the terrorist at the gate. The deeply racist and anti-semitic discourse of the white outside agitator will authorize the same kinds of outrageous prosecutions and draconian sentences that Marius was and is now subject to. We must gather together in solidarity and make clear: our speech will not be chilled, our actions will not be quelled, our righteous anger and commitments to justice will not be diminished by these bullies and these laughable claims about our beliefs. Our communities are strong. We fight for and stand with each other in a genuinely anti-racist, gender inclusive, class- and ability-conscious coalition.

This is the conversation we need to have. Marius stands with all oppressed people, and the political uprisings that represent them, from Stonewall, to Black Lives Matter, to concerted antifascist action, Marius sends deep revolutionary love and solidarity.

JEREMY HAMMOND

Revolutionary greetings, it’s Big Jerm. I’m doing this video message to commemorate June 11th, the International Day of Solidarity with Long Term Anarchist Prisoners.

I wanna pay my respects to the comrades, locked down doing hard time and staying strong, and show my appreciation for the ABCs, the books to prisoners, the *Certain Days* calendar, those who wrote letters, those who visited, those who attended court dates, I appreciate you.

I also wanna make this video to show some of the artwork I made for the occasion. [Jeremy reaches off camera and comes back with a drawing.] I got the drawing right here, says “June 11 Solidarity”. [As he speaks, he holds the drawing close to the camera.]

[The drawing is incredibly detailed, with a large circle A in the middle surrounded by red flames. Behind the circle A are figured of people holding hands. Around the circle A, text reads “June 11 Solidarity”. Around the outside of the circle A there are many smaller drawings.]

[Some of the smaller drawings include a falling prison guard tower, a red and black flag, a black flag, a burning cop car, people holding a banner that says “International Day of Action! Free the Anarchist Prisoners!”, & so much more. It is obvious a lot of work was put into it.]

I don’t know if you see the details to much, but it’s got the burning cop car, the fallen guard tower – I’ll post it online, you can check it out later. The red ink is made from Kool-Aid, and the pen is stolen from a police officer.

[Jeremy briefly ducks off camera and returns with origami.] And then, I wanna show you an original origami model I made for the occasion. [Jeremy holds up an model of a person.] See, it’s a “power to the people” raised fist, the person is wearing a hoodie with a fist in the air.

[Jeremy puts down the origami model.] And that’s why I made this video, I wanted to share a fist in the air with y’all [Jeremy briefly raises his fist, and when he does, you can see tattoos on his arm] for the struggle.

We can’t be with you in the streets, but we can certainly be connected to each other through the movement. Power to the people!

ERIC KING

This is my sixth year in prison and has easily been the hardest. After being accused of assaulting a lieutenant on August 17, 2018, I’ve been in the SHU since. The past two years have shown me a wide scope of state brutality: physical beatings and tortures, psychological games like being kept in bare rooms

with no contact to the free world, and their legal power – bringing serious new charges that could carry 20 additional years. Resistance is not a game.

During this time I've learned a lot; that A LOT of people get set up this way, that prison support is priceless, that they can always turn it up, and that WE can always turn it up also. Despite the harsh sanctions and restrictions, I've refused to be a wilting willow. Now has been the time to face them head on – whether legally with motions and pressure; casual bucking; hard bucking; leading protest for basic rights; having long talks about social, class, and prisoner consciousness; and organizing the other prisoners. Anarchists don't hide.

One thing I couldn't have done this without has been the outpouring of support. Fiscal support to my canteen and legal fundraiser (keep it coming pls), the uptake in letters, those who sent magazines, books and articles after we won those rights. I let me supporters and Team know this wasn't going to be a smooth ride, that resistance is in my blood, and they've stuck it out. People new and long lasting have shown up when needed most. We cannot fight on the inside, without you on the outside. We are fighting cases, fighting injustice, fighting the same battles happening in the streets, inside, in close quarters.

Prisons need to be demolished, it's a fight that can only be won on two fronts – unity inside and solidarity outside. We chop this dragon's head off, relegate it to horror stories and museums of resistance. Together, it's possible.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way, whether being kind to my partner, donating funds, showing up to trial (August 10th, see you there!).

June 11th - A few notes on this world (for Marius Mason, in solidarity)

"A few notes on this world" was especially written and performed by French band Non-Serviam for the 2020 Mixtape for June 11th, International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason & All Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners.

A note by Non Serviam for the Mixtape: We have a strong relationship of hate with the prison complex, not only because most of the members of our musical collective have visited its cells on occasions, but also because it is the reason why this world of greed and control that we despise and suffer from keeps on existing. Society needs prisons to instill the fear of breaking the law and all of its rules. Marius Mason was convicted for breaking the rules, like any anarchist with a practical sense of theory and courage, therefore Marius needs all our solidarity. Because this world he's still fighting against from inside the walls is everywhere, there is no escape from it, and escape could never be enough anyway: this fucking world has to burn and everything else is poetry. *Compagnons dedans, dehors, le cœur bat encore...*

The song is here: nonserviamband.noblogs.org/post/2020/06/11/a-few-notes-on-this-world-for-marius-masion-june-11th

The mixtape: june11.noblogs.org/2020-mixtape

14 Jun - New zine on Black Liberation political prisoners

The Page One collective has a new zine of currently imprisoned veterans of Black liberation movements.

MORE:

Print and hand out at protests! Send it to your mom. Spread the word. Write these folx, bring up their names, keep their struggles alive: pageone.noblogs.org/files/2020/06/BL_PPzine5.pdf