



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for April 18th

9 Mar - New Writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal

We have new essays by Mumia, as well as updates on his ongoing pursuit of freedom.

MORE:

March 9th - Straight out of Memphis

San Francisco Bay View

It could have been anywhere, but fate chose Memphis, Tennessee, the place where Martin Luther King, Jr. breathed his last breath, and a musician named Elvis was crowned king. Memphis. In ancient Egypt, it was a city on the Nile. In the U.S., it's a city on the Mississippi.

Now it's known as the city where a young Black man, Tyre Nichols, was brutally beaten by five Black cops. On camera, the five members of a so-called Anti-Crime Unit, known as the since-disbanded Scorpions, forced the 29-year-old Nichols to exit his car while they tased him, chased him, and literally beat him to death.

Protests have erupted across America, but who really believes that real substantial change will come? These cops had body cameras on them, but it didn't stop them from punching, kicking, tasing, and assaulting Nichols with a metal retractable baton. So much for thinking that body cameras would slow down brutality. Indeed, it didn't even deter such events.

Once again, a Black man in the hands of cops, sensing impending death, calls for help from often the only person who loves him: his mother. The video of the beating is a lesson after George Floyd of how much nothing has changed.

March 12th - Women of the Party

San Francisco Bay View

Today, after over a half century, we can speak out in open praise of female members of the Black Panther Party, members who served with heart, honor and distinction. Whom did they serve? They served the party, obviously, but more importantly, they served their people, working through a slew of community programs, they worked daily to ease human suffering.

One sister, Naima Major, had just graduated high school when she ditched college to join the Black Panthers of San Francisco. Major's experiences rang true for thousands of young brothers and sisters who were hungry for being a part of a revolutionary movement. Majors wrote the following:

"Devoted to the Black revolution and the Ten Point Program, I commenced with [inaudible] to doing the hard community work required of all Panthers, organizing poor women like myself, planning and supporting free schools, writing letters for people who couldn't write, demanding decent housing for people who are afraid of the landlord, helping get the paper out."

That's the newspaper, "The Black Panther" she's speaking of.

"Health cadres, food cadres, you name it. Did some dangerous work too, and studied Hegel, Marx, Lenin, Fanon, Mao, like a religious zealot. Mostly, with the brothers, they fought with them over Bakunin and Stalin. Just because I was the only woman in my group, husband gone, baby at the breast, nobody cut me any slack, but nobody molested me either. I had to learn what the brothers learned." That's from my book

“We Want Freedom,” page 181. Comrade sister Naima Major, San Francisco branch of Northern California Black Panther Party.

Recently, as years passed, scholars feel it’s safe to now write about one of the most radical groups of the twentieth century, the Black Panther Party. What role did women play? They played a pivotal role. Indeed, women were a majority of members of the party. In the newly published book, “Comrade Sisters: Women of the Black Panther Party” by Stephen Shanes and Erica Huggins, Angela Davis, who worked with the Party in LA, writes that 66% of the party members were women. Imagine that, 66 percent. No movie has dared come close to that reality, right?

And when you come down to it, who do you think ran most of the community programs serving the community? Women did it. They made it happen. And they make it happen today. Breathing life into families. Healing, helping, loving, struggling, still. They enrich our today as they enriched our yesterday.

April 3rd - Philadelphia Judge Denies New Trial

Democracy Now!

Supporters of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal are raising alarm after a judge on Friday denied his request for a new trial. Philadelphia Judge Lucretia Clemons dismissed evidence the case was tainted by judicial bias, police and prosecutorial misconduct, and that key witnesses were bribed or coerced. Mumia is 68 years old and suffers from numerous health problems. The journalist and former Black Panther has maintained his innocence for the four decades he’s been in prison after being convicted of murdering a police officer.

28 Mar - Man charged with firebombing Wisconsin anti-abortion office

After nearly a year of searching, investigators used DNA pulled from a half-eaten burrito to capture the man they believe firebombed a prominent Wisconsin anti-abortion lobbying group’s office.

MORE:

by Todd Richmond (*Associated Press*)

The U.S. attorney’s office in Madison announced that police arrested 29-year-old Hridindu Sankar Roychowdhury at Boston’s Logan International Airport on Tuesday. He was charged via the complaint with one count of attempting to cause damage by means of fire or an explosive.

He made an initial appearance in federal court in Boston on Tuesday. U.S. Magistrate Judge Donald L. Cabell set a detention hearing for Thursday. Roychowdhury’s attorney, Brendan O. Kelley, who is listed in online court records as a federal public defender, declined comment when reached by phone after Tuesday’s hearing.

Federal agents have been searching for almost a year for whoever tossed a pair of Molotov cocktails into the Wisconsin Family Action office in Madison on May 6. One of the firebombs failed to ignite; the other set a bookcase on fire. The message “If abortions aren’t safe then you aren’t either” was spray-painted on the building’s exterior. No one was in the office at the time.

The attack came about a week after a draft opinion suggesting the Supreme Court would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the decision that legalized abortion, leaked. The release sparked abortion rights supporters to mount protests across the country. Two Catholic churches in Colorado were vandalized in the days leading up to the Madison firebombing. And someone threw Molotov cocktails into an anti-abortion organization’s office in a suburb of Salem, Oregon, several days later.

The court officially overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, putting Wisconsin’s 1849 ban on abortion back into play.

According to the criminal complaint against Roychowdhury, investigators pulled DNA samples from three individuals from evidence at the scene of the Wisconsin attack. But the samples didn't match any profiles in the U.S. Department of Justice's DNA database.

As time went on, Wisconsin Family Action President Julaine Appling offered a \$5,000 reward for any information leading to an arrest. She accused Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes of being more interested in empathizing with abortion rights activists than bringing any suspects to justice.

This past January, police assigned to protecting the state Capitol building in Madison reviewed surveillance video of a protest against police brutality. The footage showed several people spray-painting graffiti on Capitol grounds. The graffiti resembled the graffiti at the Wisconsin Family Action office.

The footage showed two people leaving the area in a white pickup truck, which investigators tracked to Roychowdhury's residence in Madison, according to the complaint. Police began following him.

On March 1, he pulled into a Madison park-and-ride and threw away a bag of fast food. After he left, police retrieved the bag from the trash can. DNA on a burrito in the bag matched DNA taken from the Wisconsin Family Action office, according to the complaint.

The U.S. attorney's office said in a statement that Roychowdhury traveled from Madison this month to Portland, Maine. He had a one-way ticket for a flight from Boston to Guatemala City, Guatemala, that was scheduled to depart Tuesday morning when he was arrested, the office said.

Investigators have been unable to match the other two DNA profiles from the scene to anyone, the complaint said.

Appling had no comment Tuesday on Roychowdhury's arrest.

"I'm very proud of the tireless and determined efforts the combined federal, state and local team put in to identify and arrest this individual," said William McCrary, the special agent in charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' St. Paul Field Division, which handles crimes in Wisconsin. "It is very satisfying to me to see that this alleged perpetrator has been placed in custody."

3 Apr - Letter from Anarchist Prisoner Jorge "Yorch" Esquivel

Letter from anarchist prisoner Jorge "Yorch" Esquivel, showing solidarity with Alfredo Cospito and Miguel Peralta, and announcing his next hearing.

MORE:

Hey everyone, I send my greetings from the Reclusorio Oriente (Eastern Prison in Mexico City). My stay here hasn't been that bad because of the support you've all given me. Life here is expensive. You have to clean (wash dishes, bathroom, cells, fill barrels with water, etc.) buy soap, bleach, brooms. Everything here costs something.

The food provided by the prison is awful and not clean. As some of you already know, I recently had an operation on my abdomen, and now I have to eat right. With the support that you all have sent me, and the food that my guardian angel brings me, I can prepare my food and eat good. Thanks, because if I didn't have that support it would be very difficult. I see that with the other compañeros who are here without visits and without anybody supporting them. The system of security here is disgusting, the fucking guards are more thieves than those who are prisoners. They are abusive and crooked. Here one has to always be aware of everything and everyone, because in the end it is always a prison.

In the area where I live there are two cats, one of them was born two months ago and the other is pregnant. I have a great time with these little animals. I miss my family of the Okupa Che who are always present in my thoughts, my cat Lucio who eats a lot, my punk brothers, and all the others I know who have not forgotten about me.

On April 14 is my next hearing. I hope everything goes in our favor so we can finish this process faster. I send much strength to the Italian Cospito thanking him for his struggle against the prison system of his country, to the brother Miguel Peralta who is a very cool guy, I hope to see him in the streets. That's all compañeros. I will write soon.

3 Apr - John Oliver: 'Putting people in solitary is torture, so let's stop'

John Oliver condemned the continued use of solitary confinement in American prisons on the latest episode of Last Week Tonight.

MORE:

by Adrian Horton (*The Guardian*)

The incarceration method, used any given day on 50,000 inmates in the US (almost definitely an undercount, given poor data collection), keeps people in a solitary cell that's roughly 6ft by 9ft. "Which is way too small for a person to be stuck in for days, weeks, months or even years on end," the HBO host said on Sunday evening.

In 2011, the UN declared solitary confinement to be a form of torture due to its physical toll and mental anguish, and called on all countries to abolish indefinite and prolonged solitary confinement in excess of 15 days. "Which really is not asking that much, but is also something that we in the US have, to put it mildly, not done," Oliver explained, calling solitary confinement in the US "just appalling, as solitary really takes a toll on people".

"Human beings are not meant to sit in a bathroom for 10 years with nothing to do," he added. "You're thinking retainers. Those are the things that we place in a bathroom and fully neglect for an entire decade, everybody knows that."

Oliver briefly surveyed the history of solitary confinement, which was first developed by the Quakers – "if you gave me 50 guesses for which [religious group] invented locking people in a small room to feel guilty for 24 hours a day, I'd have guessed Catholics 50 times in a row," he joked.

The Quakers assumed solitary reflection time with a Bible would lead to repentance and healing, but the psychological harms of the punishment were clear by the mid-1800s. In 1890, the supreme court declared that it made prisoners "violently insane". The punishment was largely abandoned until the 1980s, when mass incarceration overcrowded prisons, increasing prison violence and leading prison officials to institute the practice as leverage.

Modern solitary confinement in the US, Oliver explained, entails being alone for 22-24 hours a day in a small cell with little to no contact with others, and minimal reading materials or access to radio or TV. Some cells are lit around the clock, or filled with continuous sounds of banging and moaning.

Unsurprisingly, such treatment results in lasting mental damage after just a few days, with even worse damage to children – "Oh yeah, in case I forgot to mention, we subject children to solitary in this country, too," Oliver remarked.

Corrections officers have downplayed the distasteful reputation of solitary confinement via euphemisms such as "segregation", "protective custody", "restricted housing units", "security housing units" or "room restriction".

In a recent TV interview, the mayor of New York City, Eric Adams, tried to differentiate between "solitary confinement" and "punitive segregation" – which, according to the NYC board of corrections website, is the same thing as solitary confinement.

Oliver dismissed arguments by corrections officers that solitary confinement is a necessary tool to punish violators and preserve order. Researchers have found that violence is not the most common reason that people are sent to solitary confinement; a group in Oregon found that the most common cause was disobedience, such as not making one's bed, using Facebook, or having too many envelopes.

"The truth is, petty rule infractions are a very common cause of landing people in solitary, and that is not at all," said Oliver. People who are considered vulnerable in the general prison population, because they are young, mentally disabled, gay or transgender, have been put in solitary confinement for "their own protection", which is "absurd" logic, he added. "It's like arguing the only way to keep you hydrated is to waterboard you."

And a 2016 justice department report found there was "little evidence" that "administrative segregation" had effects on overall levels of prison violence. "You don't have to have been in solitary to understand that talking through your issues with other people is probably better for you than being locked up in a concrete toilet cave," Oliver noted.

"The solution should be simple here: putting people in solitary is torture, so let's stop doing it," he added. "But exactly how we do that is absolutely critical to any reform actually working." He cited efforts by North Dakota to shift from solitary confinement to a behavioral intervention unit with counselors and treatment, which has led to an overall decrease in prison violence over several years.

"I know that some corrections officials will still insist that they need solitary," Oliver said, "but I would argue that if you find yourself making the case that you need to torture people to keep your facility safe, that in itself is an admission of catastrophic failure, and you may need to go.

"It is important to remember just how lasting the damage can be," he continued, pointing to testimony from Anthony Graves, a former inmate kept in solitary for 18 years after being wrongfully convicted. As Graves put it: "Solitary confinement makes our criminal justice system criminal."

"He's right," Oliver concluded. "Solitary isn't something we do to people behind bars. It's something we do to them forever. And it needs to be universally understood how utterly indefensible it is."

4 Apr - No Cop City Anywhere: Governor Unveils Cop City NJ Plans

This piece from Jersey Counter-Info begins by quoting the recent press release from the New Jersey governor's office.

MORE:

"The Governor's budget continues to support initiatives that keep communities safe, including supporting law enforcement personnel and community-led prevention programs. As part of the Governor's efforts to reduce violent crime in the State, the budget makes significant investments in the Division of Criminal Justice to staff new units and expand existing units with a focus on reducing gun violence, auto thefts, and exploitation, such as human trafficking and labor cases.

The budget also makes significant investments to strengthen the ranks of the New Jersey State Police, allocating \$120 million to begin building a new training center for the next generation of New Jersey State Police and proposing an additional \$5 million for the 166th State Trooper recruit class.

In an effort to ensure that the State's first responders and law enforcement professionals receive the training and equipment necessary to protect and serve the State's nine million residents, the Governor has proposed doubling the successful Firefighters Grant Program, bringing the total to \$20 million.

The Governor is also recommending over \$8 million in increased State funds for the first-in-the-nation statewide expansion of the Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation – the ARRIVE Together program – which pairs police officers and State Troopers with mental health professionals when responding to a person who is experiencing a mental health crisis.”

It is our firm belief that what is to be done here is obvious.

The U.S. white power establishment wants to build cop city everywhere.

You are encouraged to heed the call and example from the Welaunee Forest: give them hell, everywhere.

Your courage, creativity, and connections will determine just how badly the U.S. empire will regret their choice to double down on policing the planet after 2020.

5 Apr - Alfredo Cospito, April 5 Updates

Important updates on the detention and health conditions of anarchist Alfredo Cospito.

MORE:

Alfredo has NOT ended his hunger strike! The reports that have been circulating in the media these days are false and slanderous, as is now the custom in this story: he was offered milk, but Alfredo refused it. If he decides to start feeding again, he will follow the instructions given to him by his trusted doctor long ago. Ahead of the April 18 hearing, he decided to resume supplements: potassium to stabilize his heart, vitamins to try to curb the neurological problem in his lower limbs, and protein. After the hearing at the Constitutional Court in Rome, which is called to rule on the legal legitimacy in granting or not granting mitigating factors in relation to the conviction for 285 c. p. (“massacre for the purpose of attacking the security of the State,” which only provides for life imprisonment) decreed by the Cassation as part of the Scripta Manent trial, he will decide how to proceed.

He is tired and at times struggles to maintain concentration, but he is lucid and present. In the prison ward of San Paolo, he is NOT getting mail, not even telegrams. They are NOT delivering books to him, not even the ones he bought through the Opera prison after authorization. In the room where he is hospitalized he has only artificial light, it is not possible for him to distinguish day from night. And finally, the doctors in the prison medicine department at San Paolo, who are following Alfredo, still have a provision not to talk and confront the doctor of trust, but to hand over only medical records. Which in fact prevents him from being cared for in the best way.

7 Apr - 'Cop City' protesters charged under revamped Georgia law. Advocates call the charges 'baseless.'

Amid ongoing protests against the construction of a police and fire department training facility near Atlanta, advocates and experts are raising concerns about demonstrators who remain jailed on domestic terrorism charges.

MORE:

by N'dea Yancey-Bragg (USA TODAY)

Dozens gathered at City Hall last week to oppose the construction of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, informally dubbed "Cop City," a \$90 million, 85-acre training space, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported.

Activists have occupied the forested area near the site since late 2021, after the project's lease was approved, because of concerns the facility will destroy important habitat for wildlife and leave the area surrounding South River Forest vulnerable to stormwater flooding, according to a letter signed by multiple environmental groups.

A protester was also fatally shot by police in January after allegedly shooting a state trooper. Then in March, 23 people were charged with domestic terrorism. Atlanta police said "violent agitators used the cover of a peaceful protest" to throw large rocks, bricks, Molotov cocktails and fireworks at police officers and destroy multiple pieces of construction equipment with fire and vandalism.

Advocates for protesters say scant evidence presented in arrest warrants show the charges are unfounded. Both activists and experts say the charges, which are believed to be one of the first uses of Georgia's recently broadened domestic terrorism law, could be intended to quell legitimate protests.

Fifteen of the people arrested, including a legal observer from the National Lawyers Guild, were granted bond last month. The remaining eight were denied bond.

"The repression that we're seeing against this political movement is unprecedented," said Marlon Kautz, an organizer with the Atlanta Solidarity Fund, which provides resources to protesters. "Because it's part of a strategy of keeping people in jail for as long as possible, creating headlines with the word 'terrorism' in them and just kind of creating a chilling effect around the movement."

Domestic terrorism charges could test Georgia law

Officials have been labeling environmental activists domestic terrorists and applying a terrorism enhancement to their sentences for decades, said Keith Woodhouse, an associate professor at Northwestern University in Illinois and author of "The Ecocentrists: A History of Radical Environmentalism."

Protesters in Georgia have been charged with violating a specific state domestic terrorism law amended in 2017 after a white supremacist killed nine people at a historic Black church in South Carolina. Civil rights groups opposed the law at the time and raised concerns it would be used to restrict freedom of speech and the right to peacefully protest.

The arrests are believed to be among the first uses of the law since it was updated, according to Christopher Bruce, policy and advocacy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia.

When asked about the domestic terrorism charges, a spokesperson for the Atlanta Police Department referred to previously released public statements and directed further questions to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. A spokesperson for the GBI also referred to the agency's news releases and declined to comment further on the domestic terrorism charges.

Georgia law previously defined domestic terrorism as crimes "intended or reasonably likely to injure or kill not less than ten individuals." In 2017, lawmakers removed the 10-victim criteria and redefined the offense as a felony intended to harm or kill people or destroy "critical infrastructure" with the intent to intimidate the population, change government policy or affect the government's conduct "by use of destructive devices, assassination, or kidnapping."

"Domestic terrorism charges should not exist in the first place," said Bruce, who recently joined Mayor Andre Dickens' task force on the training center. "They quell political speech and there are other ways of handling this rather than locking up protesters and individuals who are simply voicing their concerns on 'Cop City.'"

Multiple states have domestic terrorism laws, but there is no national or universally accepted definition of terrorism, which can make using the term subjective, according to David Malet, an associate professor in the justice, law and criminology department at American University in Washington, D.C.

"They are not consistent between states so that they at least risk looking very political for the reasons that we're seeing right now," he said. "So when one is particularly broad like this law in Georgia it can certainly be questioned what the people who introduced the law we're trying to achieve."

The charge carries a maximum sentence of 35 years in prison and lawmakers are considering classifying domestic terrorism as a serious violent felony, which would mean anyone convicted must serve their full sentence, can't be sentenced to probation for their first offense and can't be paroled until they serve at least 30 years.

"One of the big stories coming out of Georgia is the disparate treatment that left-wing extremists get," said Daryl Johnson, a security consultant and former senior analyst for domestic terrorism at the Department of Homeland Security.

"It's meant to quell free speech and to send a message to those that are part of the social justice movement that you're going to be treated harshly, you're going to be treated very seriously for whatever interference or protests that you're participating in," he added.

'Cop City' activists plan to fight 'baseless' charges

Dozens of environmental and human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch and chapters of the National Lawyers Guild signed a letter urging officials to drop the charges, calling them an "escalatory intimidation tactic and a draconian step that seems intended to chill First Amendment protected activity."

The law enforcement response to the protests is "the very reason why we are opposed to building a 'Cop City,'" said Kamau Franklin, director of Community Movement Builders, an Atlanta-based organization opposing the project.

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr previously told Fox News, "Protesters use words, rioters use violence. And again, in Georgia, you can be charged with domestic terrorism for engaging in this type of behavior."

Kautz said many arrest warrants for the protesters don't accuse them of serious crimes, but "guilt by association." Some of the arrest warrants filed in December and January obtained by Grist accuse demonstrators of "participating in actions as part of Defend the Atlanta Forest" – a group the documents claim is classified as domestic violent extremists by the Department of Homeland Security – citing behavior including criminal trespassing, throwing rocks, possessing incendiary devices and posting on social media.

Defend the Atlanta Forest describes itself as a decentralized social movement with no official leadership, "not an organization or group of people." A spokesperson for the DHS said in a statement to *USA TODAY* the department uses the term to refer generally to individuals who use violence to advance their social or political goals, but does "not classify or designate any groups as domestic violent extremists."

Malet said many groups that are generally considered violent extremists don't have formal memberships, "but it's really hard to say an individual – unless they've committed an act of terrorism – is a terrorist just for being associated with them."

Police said 17 of the 23 people arrested after a music festival in early March were wearing muddy clothing and carrying shields, which law enforcement claims is evidence they were among those who attacked the nearby construction site earlier that day, according to arrest warrants obtained by *The Associated Press*.

Warrants for five others don't include details to explain their arrests.

Kautz said his organization is working to get a hearing for the demonstrators who are being held without bond and to combat fears of activists who may want to get involved in the demonstrations.

"We're quite confident at this point that these charges are baseless, that the prosecution does not have a case to successfully prosecute them," Kautz said. "The real purpose of bringing charges like this is to stoke fear, to make people worry about what could happen to them."

8 Apr - New Poems and Essay by Eric King

We fan out on Eric's poetry and are happy to share new poems below.

MORE:

Abusive Smiles
Abusive smiles
Years of waiting to be seen, bucking, grievances, lawsuits
All in the hope that a doctor
Will hear you, take you serious
Finally you get cleared to go!
W/50,000 volts strapped to your arm
You step into a doctor's office
His smile instantly tells you,
This will not be your day
your pain is ignore, down played
previous ultrasounds disputed
of ever having been done
the lump isn't concerning
three years of discomfort and pain
reduced to nothing
have I been grinding my teeth?
Have I been hydrated?
Have I tried yoga?
No, he can't do a biopsy, no,
he can't do an MRI or ultrasound
bureaucratic brutality
all with a smile
Oh, here's the first ultrasound results
Found it i guess
I guess we'll recommend another one,
it's up to the prison to set it up though
3 years of pain and waiting, all to be ignored
Over a 7 minute meeting
Then return to the arms of my enemy
7 minutes of smiling and my pain in fear
Would have rather took the volts

Scars
I've got scars, courtesy of guards
That'll Mark me my whole life
Some of them, they like to hunt
They prowl inside my mind
Others, they like to taunt
And lurking plain sight
Every time I see my face and head
They're so quick to remind
The consequences that are in store
If I speak out a line
All the gifts prison left me with
I wish I could return
All the lessons that they've taught
I wish I could unlearn
The bureau left its marks on me
In ways that I can't hide
The bureau attacks with savagery
That's why we must fight

April 9th - My Brother

My brother Mike died on December 17th 2017... I was at Florence medium in OA. We were locked down due to some serraño nonsense, when the guard came to direct me to the chapel, I knew something bad had happened. My wife had chronic health issues and my family is cancer-prone, so my first fears were one of them were seriously sick or had passed...The chaplain didn't tell me anything, he just handed me the phone.

The first thing I heard was my mom crying, which didn't rule out anything... she told me, through choking breaths, that Mike had died. I was stunned, Mike was young and relatively healthy, his dying hadn't even crossed my mind as a possibility. His lifestyle was on the reckless side comma as for many living in poverty comma but not anything over the top. The details were beyond belief. Mike had been shot the week before in a robbery. He was on anti-anxiety and strong pain meds, so his head wasn't clear at all... Then

late at night someone lit his Home on fire he died in the kitchen closet, right next to the outside door... a few feet to the right he would have survived.

Mike and I had a very complicated relationship... growing up we were very poor and understanding mental health wasn't a priority... My mom was working 70 hours a week to keep us fed with shelter she didn't have the time or energy to understand why he was behaving so irrationally, she could only react to the behavior..., he would have two or three months of great behavior bright ideas, hopeful future. Mom would poor support in during those times then a switch would flip and it'd be back to the nightmare, back to being cruel and abusive...looking back he clearly had some sort of personality disorder, maybe sort of bipolar? He wasn't cruel during his "up" days, he'd be full of love and empathy, guilt for his "down" behavior...this was the saddest when his "down" behavior led to consequences that he paid for during his "up" time. Juvie relationship breakups, short jail sentences...he was soft and sweet when he was "up" but not built to emotionally deal with the unlimited cruelty of jail/prison life.

After the call I went back to my cell and wept...my poor cellie must have been so uncomfortable. I didn't get to call my wife for another 3 days...I'm not sure I fully worked through this we weren't close when he died and I feel it took me too long to develop empathy for his internal struggles. I think of him often.

8 Apr - Monica Caballero and Francisco Solar's words in view of the upcoming trial

May 19, 2023 is the date set for the beginning of the trial against the Chilean anarchist comrades Mónica Caballero and Francisco Solar accused of various attacks on power and the powerful.

MORE:

Justice is already fine-tuning all the details for his big celebration, he will choose his best clothes and meticulously sharpen his sword. Nothing can go wrong at the moment when he will show himself as he is: the executioner of the powerful.

The sword of justice has been kept in storage waiting for the key moment to strike the right blow to our bodies. That moment translated into punitive punishment will find its climax in the oral trial, which is already set for May 19. This trial is expected to be a long process of several months.

During the month of March we were in the preparation of the oral trial – an instance prior to the trial – where the court, which until now had conducted our criminal proceedings, decided the basis of what will be our next trial.

Basically, the trial will use against us all the legal process for which we were convicted for the placement of an explosive device in the Basilica del Pilar in Zaragoza, as well as practically all the documented evidence of the prosecution, ranging from pamphlets to anarchic books found in our homes.

The recycling of the case already completed in Spain is part of the stubborn insistence of the prosecutor to validate all the antecedents that position us as repeat offenders of the same crimes.

We are approaching difficult days and the outlook ahead is complex. We will once again be sitting in the dock accused for the actions we are accused of and for the propagation of the set of ideas and practices antagonistic to the domination that we have always upheld, no matter how many years of sentence we risk.

We have waited for this moment for almost 3 years, in which we have constantly tried to be coherent with our ideas and betting on establishing the necessary harmony with the like-minded environments of comrades in the street, avoiding falling into the recurrent assistentialism and giving way to a genuine revolutionary solidarity.

We are proud of the road chosen and traveled, without leaving aside the indispensable self-criticism that allows us to grow. May our mistakes serve others who are passionate and love the beautiful moments of confrontation against Power, which for us are where we feel most alive.

Moments of life that in these moments the Italian State intends to take away from the anarchist comrade Alfredo Cospito, condemning him to a gradual and brutal death. May the determination and will of the comrade be a nightmare for the powerful wherever they are. Anarchist and subversive prisoners to the streets! Long live anarchy!

15 Apr – Update/Urgent Call-In Campaign for Political Prisoner Ed Poindexter

We just received news that Ed Poindexter's left leg was amputated below the knee earlier this month due to lack of proper medical care.

MORE:

Ed has diabetes and receives dialysis three days a week. He underwent triple bypass heart surgery in 2016.

Ed has a cataract in one eye that makes it difficult for him to read, so please type your letter in 18 point or larger font. The Nebraska Department of Corrections does not plan to allow Ed to have surgery for the cataract because "he has one good eye."

PLEASE CALL:

- Warden Boyd of the Reception and Treatment Center 402.471.2861
- Warden Wilhelm of the Nebraska State Penitentiary 402.471.3161
- Governor Pillen, the State of Nebraska Office of the Governor 402.471.2244
- Director Rob Jeffreys, Nebraska Department of Corrections 402.471.2654
- The Nebraska Board of Pardons (Email: ne.pardonsboard@nebraska.gov)

Please sustain calls daily from April 15th to May 30th, 2023 for this intensive campaign, and thereafter as you can.

[Any relief for Ed will be announced via email and social media].

Sample Message:

"Ed Poindexter's family noticed blood on his feet several weeks ago. Then in April 2023, his niece and brother found out that Ed's leg had been amputated earlier in the month. All of this happened without notifying Ed's family, within the 'skilled nursing facility' at the Reception and Treatment Center, which specializes in behavioral issues and suicide watch, and is not primarily a rehab medical unit. Ed is on dialysis several days per week and is wheelchair bound, and is not able to shower or change without much more direct support than he is currently getting. The Nebraska Department of Corrections admits that their facilities are severely overcrowded and understaffed. I, _____, join Ed's family in demanding that Ed be given a compassionate release, and that he be immediately transferred to a local hospital or rehabilitation facility, not under direction of the Department of Corrections—where the standard of care is decent and humane."

15 Apr - 'I'll Bury That N—r In My Fields': Police Probe Exposes 'Very Disturbing' Texts Sent In Personal Chat Among Dozens of Officers In Bay Area; City's Black Mayor Not Exempt from Threats

Dozens of police officers in the San Francisco Bay Area city of Antioch are under fire after excerpts from their personal group chat filled with racist and homophobic text messages have been made public.

MORE:

by Nicole Duncan-Smith (*Atlanta Black Star*)

Citizens and the city's mayor are outraged and question if the bigoted sentiments in the exchanges color how officers police the community.

The texts came to light on April 11 after The Bay Area News Group obtained a copy of an investigative report written by Contra Costa District Attorney Senior Inspector Larry Wallace about the group's messages to each other.

The texting scandal is at the center of an FBI investigation and Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office investigation into Bay Area police departments that dates back to 2019, according to ABC 7 News.

The investigations identified 17 officers as participants in the chat, making up approximately a quarter of the Antioch Police Department, but the East Bay Times reports that 44 Antioch officers have gotten at least one message included in the investigation of the group.

By Wednesday, April 12, 17 of those officers had been placed on leave. Some have resigned, and others are working on the force but not in roles that are public-facing.

The texts excerpted in the reports from a second, 14-page report emerged Friday, April 14, reveal a pattern of officers using racial epithets to refer to African-Americans and expressing both a desire to use violence against them and satisfaction at doing so.

"I'll bury that n—r in my fields," Antioch Sgt. Joshua Evans texted Officer Morteza Amiri in December 2020.

In February 2020 Amiri texted Officer Eric Rombough, "No they didn't push it that far. Bunch of gorillas surrounding us and taunting a fight since we were hooking [epithet]."

The messages, which weren't always limited to Antioch officers, sometimes show officers openly admitting to violating citizens' constitutional rights.

"Since we don't have video I sometimes just say people gave me a full confession when they didn't. Gets filed easier," Amiri texted an officer in Brentwood, another Contra Costa County city, in April 2020. The Antioch City Council voted the following year to equip its officers with body cameras.

Other messages showed officers carrying out their expressed wishes for violence.

In March 2021 Antioch officers were planning a raid to arrest 22-year-old Terryonn Pugh and Trent Allen. One report document shows Officer Rombough texting Detective Robert Gerber, "Bro I can't wait to forty all of them," referring to using the nonlethal sponge rounds officers use during a raid.

Days later, after the raid, Rombough messaged another officer, "Bro, my foot hurts." Asked if he'd kicked one of the men, Rombough replied, "Yup, like a f— field goal," before adding, "Gotta stop kicking n—s in their head."

Pugh's lawyer Carmela Caramagno told ABC7, "It is clear that the Antioch Police Department has treated that community like a war zone, and the community members as if they were hostiles." Antioch's population is around 24% Black, according to 2020 census data.

Mayor Lamar Thorpe called for a special meeting to discuss the text messages, a town hall discussion that ended with heated emotions and many up in arms.

The mayor, an African-American man, said he was "disgusted" by what he learned about the text messages. The report showed that during a chat about a Black Lives Matter demonstration in June 2020 Officer John

Ramirez sent a text saying he'd buy a prime rib dinner at a steakhouse to officer who used .40mm sponge bullets against Thorpe.

"I'm blown away that there were threats to my personal life in those text messages," Thorpe said this week about the threat, CBS News reported.

The mayor is calling for all of the officers featured in the investigation to be fired.

During the meeting, Thorpe snapped at one of his constituents. The person asked for the mayor also to be investigated.

"I am sick and tired of being attacked by these people in this community apologizing for the racism going on in this community," Thorpe said, adding, "You're the problem! You're the problem!"

At one point, the mayor seemed to invite the man outside to a fistfight, saying, "You want to go outside? Let's go!"

"It's not just the police department who provides cover for people like this who are on these text messages," Thorpe later told local station KTVU. "There are residents in this community who will put up a fight to protect the culture that exists in that department."

The FBI began looking into the APD and the Pittsburg Police Department after reports suggested officers were engaged in illegal activity. The officers were not only accused of violating citizens' civil rights but also alleged to be dealing cocaine and steroids, intentionally using excessive force, and accepting bribes.

16 Apr - June 11, 2023: Against Oblivion, Against Despair

Call for June 11th, and international day of solidarity with Marius Mason and long-term anarchist prisoners.

MORE:

Another year passes, and another June 11th is upon us. Once again we're appreciating all that has unfolded in anarchist struggle over this period, both triumphs and hardships, outside the prison walls, and within. We're appreciating the beauty in fighting back, and the strength that can be fostered when we refuse to succumb to both oblivion, and despair.

Against oblivion: we refuse to let the state disappear rebels, to erase their sweet or sharp words from our discussions, or to remove or obfuscate their contributions to our shared struggles. Instead, we remember them. Their actions, words, laughter, potential, and humanity. We can act as conduit for each other through prison walls and among generations. They can be kept involved as our struggles shift and change, and we can keep them connected to the outside world, and too the outside connected to them.

Against despair: up against the power of the state, it can feel as if nothing can be done. Despair is a very particular space to inhabit. Despair is not hopelessness, as hopelessness can be a fair assessment of circumstances. One can see and acknowledge hopelessness with a full heart and strong spirit. But despair, despair destroys courage. What is despair, but to value the knowing of suffering without acting against it. We refuse to wallow in the realm of despair, indefinitely. We refuse to let despair destroy our courage.

Instead, we will offer hope to one another. Not a naive or misguided hope that offers false solutions. But instead, an impassioned belief in our capacities as individuals, and capabilities together, to continue on. We can learn from people, like prisoners, who face the full power of the state in isolation and maintain their principles, their humor, their courage, and their resolve. We will act not just based on what's possible or "strategic," but on what we know to have value and meaning both out of care and love for each other and in an acting for our own selves, our own aliveness and spirit. Imprisoned comrades are often an incredible

example of persevering in the face of hopelessness. Of coming out on the other side of it to the fierce activity of nothing to lose, and nothing worse to be feared.

Spreading Embers

Many of us know what it is feels like to sink into despair. When the losses add up, and pushing through feels insurmountable. But an integral part of the anarchist spirit is facing that despair head-on, with a determination to burst through it and continue on, fighting. Anarchist prisoners are a prime example of this spirit: they have faced the state head-on, faced the uncertainties of felony trial and state pressure, and remained courageous in the face of repression, as well as the daily dehumanization and violence that occur inside prisons. Their cases can teach us about tactics, approaches, and the case against them can illuminate the arsenal of tools utilized by the state. Rebel prisoners show us what it means to live courage, resiliency and determination.

The terrain of struggle looks wildly different than it did even ten years ago, and we are constantly adapting to a changing context. But our struggles remains interconnected, and they carry on. Sometimes the impact of things feels pointless; intangible. But the reality is that the struggle for freedom is constantly unfolding, and is yet, unwritten. Anonymous actions from across the world remind us, here and now, that we are not alone in our anger at this system, and that is possible to move through fear, anxiety and despair in order to continue to fight. Rebels, known and unknown, illustrate that it is indeed possible to act for our freedom, here and now.

Two tools of the prison system are isolation, and time. Isolation that wears on the spirit of those locked away and time that passes as we on the outside can become distracted by all that grasps for our attention. But we can refuse to allow these approaches the success they seek. We can remind prisoners that they are not forgotten, that their contributions are a part of a continued fight against domination, and in search of total freedom. The stakes are indeed high, and wanting to avoid the atrocities of prison are very understandable. But when we continue to include anarchist prisoners as a important part of our struggle, we pay homage to their contributions, and show that we are not backing down, despite the risks.

Allowing the prison's tactics of division to be unsuccessful is a small but vital contribution to weakening its totality. When we show that being locked up will not make someone forgotten, we demonstrate that the horror and alienation that prison thrives upon does not have to take root. For every coward that has sold away their friends, lovers, comrades and values for the paltry offerings of security or comfort, there are strong hearts who refuse to abandon their commitments in the face of repression. Let us celebrate their additions, their heart and spirit, and their lives as we refuse to let our passion for freedom be obliterated.

We are here because we refuse to fall victim to despair. Neither will we allow our friends, compas, comrades, or homies to disappear into oblivion. We reach out to them however we can: with letters and visits, with money on their books, by shouting their names in the streets and writing them on walls – while the imprisoned continue with their contributions from the other side. No struggle or its gatherings can occur without others being reminded of those that fought and got locked away – nor those who died.

Not least of all, we carry all of them in our hearts as we carefully proceed through the darkness, continuing our collective fight. This way we keep them close – no one forgotten and not one fiber of this society forgiven. Those intricate strings tying together the means of domination are within reach, and we carry on the efforts to sever every one.

We do not rely on empty slogans, letting anarchy die like a shallow breath exhaled from our tepid mouths. Acting on our desires, we reinvigorate the life blood of our fight time and again. So we continue to breath fire upon the machinations of civilization, and all those attempting to police our revolt. Increasingly isolated, with spreading embers lighting the path to their uncertain footing, we will collapse the pale corpses propped up as dominant edifices above us.

Alfredo reminds us that there is no losing when we choose how we live, and may well vanquish death upon being sown back into the earth.

In the ruins of the old world we will gather as patient swarms, finding those once taken from us standing proudly beside us, and begin to look toward tomorrow.

21 Apr - Karaoke Against Cop City

WHAT: Karaoke Fundraiser

WHEN: 6:00pm, Friday, April 21st

WHERE: Los Colibríes Community Garden - 219 34th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE, but this is a fundraiser, so please open your wallet.

MORE:

Come to Los Colibríes Community Garden to sing karaoke and raise money for the Atlanta Solidarity Fund, which supports people arrested in the movement to STOP COP CITY!

23 Apr - MACC Organizing Assembly

WHAT: Assembly

WHEN: 2:00pm, Sunday, April 23rd

WHERE: Brooklyn Public Library, Meeting Room 214, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

The Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) is hosting our next Organizing Assembly. The meeting will be hybrid. You can call in or join us in person. See above for physical location information or RSVP to get the online call in details.

Organizing Assemblies (OAs) differ from Care Assemblies in that we encourage people already involved in some way (this can be even participating some time ago, in a working group, assemblies, etc.) to join. We don't have an orientation at these assemblies and we prefer brand new folks come to the Care Assemblies. We deal with monthly business and major decision making at these OAs.

We encourage everyone to participate in the meeting with ideas about what they would like to see for future campaigns or actions and what direction they'd like MACC to take to build a more powerful, militant anarchist movement.

For more information visit macc.nyc or contact us at maccmutualaid@protonmail.com

23 Apr - Back to the Commons: A Feminist Propaganda Party

WHAT: Button/Sticker/Flyer/Poster Making

WHEN: 3:00pm, Sunday, April 23rd

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join us, Undocumented Women's Fund, and Women's Strike NYC to imagine feminist futures through media making! We'll be screen printing and making button and zines using historical and contemporary graphics. We will explore the commons as a means to transcend austerity politics and move toward a radical transformation of everyday life.

This event seeks to continue the conversations from the recently celebrated Women's Strike NYC Fest, "Back to the Commons" and is organized in conjunction with our current exhibit take-away archives.

Together, we will create movement materials, explore strategies to create feminist spaces, and envision what a social order and built environment that centers life-sustaining systems looks like.

We will raise funds to support the Undocumented Women's Fund's work with asylum-seeking women and children.

What is a propaganda party?

It's where we invite organizations, activists, designers, and folks like you to come together in our archive of material produced by social movements to hang out, meet each other, and create and distribute material in support of a cause.

Why do we use the word "propaganda"? "Propaganda," from the same root as "propagate," refers to information that is shared in support of a cause. In modern times, the word propaganda has been weighted with negative connotations; we aim to reclaim the word. Our daily lives are saturated with supposedly "neutral" material that implicitly supports existing power structures. We use the word propaganda because we have no desire to feign neutrality.

28 Apr - May Day Card-Writing for Anarchist Political Prisoners

WHAT: Card party

WHEN: 2:00-5:00pm, Saturday, April 29th

WHERE: Woodbine (585 Woodward Avenue, Queens)

COST: FREE (Donations to cover the cost of stamps greatly appreciated)

MORE:

Join NYC Anarchist Black Cross for a May Day card signing party for U.S. held political prisoners!

May Day is an anarchist holiday, for over 150 years it has been a day to celebrate the struggle against capitalism—which logically extends to active resistance against all forms of oppression—and to honor those who struggle. We want to both honor our political prisoners and to help them celebrate by sending our love through the walls.