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Updates for February 18th

5 Feb - Man sentenced for 2023 arson at UPS after previous ‘anarchist’ behavior

As always, since this is a corporate news article, please read the following with a critical eye.

MORE:

by Michaela Bourgeois (KOIN)

A man has been sentenced to 10 days in jail after intentionally setting a UPS facility on fire in 2023 — following his previous “anarchist” behavior, according to court documents.

The case stems from January 20, 2023, when crews from Portland Fire & Rescue and the Portland Police Bureau responded to the Swan Island UPS distribution center.

Police reported multiple large windows were broken at the facility, which also sustained visible fire damage from what appeared to be road flares, according to probable cause documents.

Authorities were able to match blood on the broken windows to the DNA of 25-year-old Jarrid Huber, who was in the Oregon State Police DNA database from a previous arson conviction in 2021, court documents state.

In the previous arson case, a group of people, including Huber, pushed a burning dumpster against the Justice Center in Downtown Portland during an “anarchist/Antifa protest,” authorities said, noting Huber proceeded to march the streets of Portland, smashing windows and spray-painting anarchist symbols during the 2021 incident.

During the UPS arson investigation, authorities arrested Huber in May of 2024 on several charges, including second-degree arson, first-degree criminal mischief, and reckless burning.

Court documents state that Huber “initially minimized his conduct by saying he was down there in the area generally but didn’t remember what happened.”

However, “When confronted with the fact that his blood was on the broken windows, (Huber) then admitted that he was there, and he was with a group of ‘unknown’ people that he met at the book fair,” court documents say. “He explained that they went to that location because UPS was providing financial support for the Atlanta Forest police training facility (referring to the January 2023 large national Antifa/anarchist protest occurring outside of Atlanta, Georgia due to construction of a police training facility).”

Regarding UPS’ relationship with Atlanta police, a UPS spokesperson told *KOIN 6 News* on Wednesday, “The UPS Foundation supports several hometown Atlanta youth and workforce development programs and initiatives, including the Atlanta Police Foundation’s At-Promise Initiative youth centers. The At-Promise Initiative is designed to reduce recidivism and provide wrap-around social services for Atlanta youth including therapy, tutoring, mentoring, GED classes and workforce preparation. The funding UPS has provided to the Atlanta Police Foundation is exclusively to support the At-Promise Initiative and offer a brighter future to many young people in Atlanta.”

On January 9, 2025, Huber pleaded guilty and was charged with first-degree arson.

Huber was sentenced to 10 days in jail with a mental health evaluation, three months of supervised probation, and 120 hours of community service.

5 Feb - Commentaries by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Prison Radio transcribes the audio commentaries of Mumia Abu-Jamal and we're lucky enough to be able to pass them along to you.

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February 5th - The Betrayal of Gaza Again

It was by any measure a stunning moment. An American president essentially offering to gentrify the Gaza Strip, suggesting that they, should they resist, be forced to leave their historical homeland by the Armed Forces of the United States. "They're living in hell," Trump said, as he sat next to the man who ordered the hell bombed into hell, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Trump said these coastal lands could be made into a lovely kind of Riviera. "It'd be beautiful," he said. Netanyahu beamed at every word, and while Trump saw it as a grand real estate deal perhaps, Netanyahu saw it as the ultimate Zionist dream. Palestinians saw it as the ultimate nightmare for they have lived for the better part of a century with political betrayal since Israel's founding in 1948. For over 70 years they have lived under an occupation that the UN has called illegal, but that doesn't mean a thing.

Now the US exhorts an illegal removal of Palestinians, millions of them, from their own homeland. Is this the gentrification of Gaza? Probably not. But who can really say? Who indeed? We can only hope that Palestinians have the last word. With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

February 11th - A Light In The Night Air

In every day something extraordinary happens. Such was the case on Wednesday, January 22nd, when a plane and a helicopter collided in the night sky over the Potomac River with a fireball, briefly turning night sky bright. Athletes, their parents, and a military training crew lost their lives that night, but they weren't the only ones. A young, talented civil rights lawyer was among them, and her unexpected death sent shockwaves throughout her friends and colleagues at Harvard Law School.

She was Kiah Duggins, only twenty-one years old, but already a legal spitfire. While at Harvard, she was the President of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, where she and her team worked to prevent evictions during the harrowing pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, thereby saving families during a national crisis. Remarkably, she worked as a law student and as a lawyer after earning her law degree, working with the ACLU of Northern California, but this was not all, for this young woman, buoyed with the expansive energies of youth, worked with the law firm of Neufeld, Scheck and Brustin, as well. Also, she worked with the Civil Rights Corps, a non-profit dedicated to fighting systemic injustice. Kiah Duggins, at only 21 years old, was a lawyer's lawyer. Harvard Law School mourns her passing, as do, of course, her family and many who saw the radiance of her light.

An American president, I speak of Herr Trump, opined that the accident that caused her death happened because of DEI, shorthand for Diversity Rules. Kiah Duggins, Esquire, had she not been on that plane, would probably have smiled before suing him for slander. With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

5 Feb - Raffle in Solidarity with Indigenous Anarchist Miguel Peralta

Mexico: For more information about Miguel Peralta and the persecution he has been facing for the past decade, read this update from his support group: tiny.cc/MiguelRuling

MORE:

If you are located in what is called the United States and would like to participate in the raffle, Miguel's support crew welcomes your participation! Please contact scott@fallingintoincandescence.com for more information. The suggested price of the raffle ticket is \$50 MXN (\$2.50 USD), but you are welcome to

contribute more if you would like. Prize winners will be responsible for covering shipping costs and will not be eligible for prizes that contain perishable items. A continually updated list of prizes can be found on the event's Facebook page: tiny.cc/MiguelRaffle

As you know, the case of Miguel Peralta Betanzos and the persecution and repression that his community, Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, is experiencing, have been going on for more than ten years.

After years of imprisonment, hunger strikes, legal games, going back and forth in court at different judicial levels, etc., Miguel Peralta's case reached the Supreme Court, which represented the possibility of putting an end to his persecution and obtaining his full and absolute freedom. However, things were not as favorable as one might think, and on November 6, the Supreme Court issued a resolution in which it limited itself to recommending that the Collegiate Court of the City of Oaxaca make review of Miguel's case from an intercultural perspective. With this, the case returned to those instances, which are far from his community, family, legal team and support group.

This decision places us in a complicated economic situation, given that it implies finding resources for transportation, expenses derived from the process itself, and a long list of et ceteras. For this reason, and as we have done on other occasions, we will organize a raffle to obtain resources to cover part of this expenses of this new stage in Miguel's legal process.

We invite you to participate in the raffle. Soon we will be informing you about where you can buy tickets, the list of prizes for the raffle winners, and the activities during the event on this Day Against Prisons. The raffle will be held on Saturday, March 1.

It is clear to us that without your collaboration and solidarity, these processes would be much more frustrating, difficult and lonely than they already are.

5 Feb - Illustrated Guide Version 18.1 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2025/02/05/guide_18_1

MORE:

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

5 Feb - Further statements at the Sibilla proceedings

Italy: Statements read by Matteo Monaco, Sara Ardizzone, Paolo Arosio, Michele Fabiani, and Francesco Rota during the preliminary hearing in the Sibilla proceedings.

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via *La Nemesi*

Matteo Monaco

I take the floor well pleased to be able to do so in person this time.

I would have liked to be here as early as October 10 on the occasion of the preliminary hearing that was then postponed, but unfortunately the work commitments to which I have to submit for a living and the one thousand five hundred kilometers separating my residence from this courtroom prevented me from doing so. I am not going to rage about the gross errors, certainly not mine, that led to the failures of notification against me and resulted in the postponement of the hearing. They qualify themselves. And they also qualify much more actually. I face this hearing, as well as the eventual trial that will ensue, with serenity. Aware that I have nothing to defend myself against in a political trial such as this one. Proud to be on the stand together with some of the comrades dearest to me. Happy to finally be able to greet to Alfredo and express

all my closeness and solidarity with him. Determined to look those who claim the right to judge me in the face.

We are here because we have to answer, in particular, the charge of incitement to commit crimes for the purpose of terrorism and subversion of the democratic order. Good. I'm not interested in going into the merits of the charges, let alone, as already mentioned, defending myself against these crimes of opinion. What I am interested in is to make my considerations clear with respect to this charge.

In my conception of anarchism, as well as of life itself, there is no instigator-instigated binomial, there are no empty heads to be filled, there are no masses to be directed and steered, and I do not claim to instigate anything. The very term "instigation" has a negative, devious meaning, implying a kind of persuasion of the other by deception or trickery or manipulation. And that is precisely why, gentlemen, I believe that there is no better instigator of crime than the state itself. What do you think engenders feelings of revenge and revolt among the exploited and oppressed all over the world? The export of war or anarchists? Are you really convinced that if someone decides to take charge of his life and revolt, it is because the anarchists whispered it in his ear? Does it not occur to you that the systemic violence perpetrated through laws, institutions and repressive apparatuses, always directed toward the proletariat and always in defense of the bourgeoisie, may genuinely produce a backfire? What then is the question? If anarchism propagates ideas of revolt? Whether I as an anarchist point to the destruction of this miserable system? Of course, I do. If I write and applaud theories and practices of subversion? That seems like an open secret to me.

The truth is that the state, capital, its apparatuses and their concrete personifications, including you, are afraid. Not afraid of anarchists let's be clear, they are afraid that the situation will get out of hand, that the control they claim to have over the world may falter. Any sick system inevitably tends to put itself on the defensive, taking measures to try to maintain an internal balance and trying to annihilate threats, whether internal or external. The creaks of this imbalance can be felt just about everywhere, and slowly they are beginning to become more and more evident and, above all, the perpetrators increasingly clear in people's eyes: economic disasters, environmental disasters, wars, pandemics. Crises, you know, generate discontent, discontent very easily turns into anger, anger triggers riots. And this, all of you, you certainly cannot afford. So you try to act in a preventive way, going to strike relentlessly at those who have already declared war on you for a century and a half and those who consider you enemies regardless of crisis and discontent, trying to prevent certain ideas from spreading among those who have begun to harbor a certain distrust and resentment toward you. Because they are dangerous ideas for your stability and for your comfortable places in ivory towers.

The world in which you believe and in which you force us finds its fulfillment in war, poisoning, deprivation, blackmail, extermination, repression, torture. I could go on and on but I am closing this list here, which I understand may be perceived as rhetorical and nothing more. But evidently there is still a need for some rhetoric if we persist in pretending not to understand what drives individuals to rebel and try to locate the cause in anarchists. And so. War, against the proletarians of half the world to ensure power, wealth and supremacy for the plutocrats of the planet. Poisoning, of everything around us and our bodies with the filth we are forced to breathe, eat and absorb for the profit of those you defend. Expropriation, of lands, cultures and human material for the extraction of raw materials useful to keep the capitalist machine, green or burning, ticking over. And then the blackmail of wage labor, without which it is impossible to survive in this sick and pervasive society; slaves condemned to sell out their free time to swell the pockets of unscrupulous bosses and where they often end up killed or maimed, the Eni workers in Calenzano know something about it, just to give an example. The extermination of the oppressed, such as the one underway in Palestine with which Western death factories make lavish profits and in which, personally, I consider you all accomplices. The repression and elimination of those who do not conform to your idea of normality, productivity and utility, of those who cross your imaginary lines you call borders, of those who try to escape the bombs you yourselves drop and the hunger you yourselves procure, of those who raise their heads against the master, against uniforms, against laws. And torture, that which you reserve for those who end up in your grip, but whom you fail to bend; that inherent in the annihilation regime of 41 bis under whose shroud you wanted to wall up alive, as well as so many others, our anarchist comrade Alfredo

Cospito, a project of which the so-called Operation Sibilla represents a fundamental piece. For me, a part of the struggle that Alfredo undertook between October 2022 and April 2023, and which comrades followed up on through protests and direct actions internationally, making you pay the price for this despicable arrangement, continues today in this courtroom.

From my side you will only and always have hostility.

I would like to express my support for those who take to the streets these days and don't care about rules and moderation, against the Zionist massacre and its financiers, against the monopoly of violence by the police and the state.

Internationalist solidarity with all comrades and comrades deprived of freedom. My memory is for Kyriakos, who died in action in Athens on Oct. 31, 2024, my affection to Marianne, wounded in the same and currently confined to a cell in Korydallos prison.

Sara Ardizzone

I am an anarchist. As an anarchist I am as much an enemy of this state as of any other state, since this in its essence presupposes the exercise of military and economic power of some men and women over other people and the planet in general. I am an enemy of any form of government with which it endows itself, from the moment that the choice between democracy and dictatorship is only the one most functional to maintain control over the population or to be more precise: over the oppressed class. I hate the current existing order and those who hold it therefore I believe in the rightness of the violence of the oppressed against their chains and against those who tighten them.

To sit in the dock to answer for damage against the cars of the Italian postal service, a company responsible for the forced repatriation of hundreds of migrants who have fled the wars in which Italy is a co-participant causes me neither upset nor shame.

What instead, to put it mildly, leaves me outraged is the construct you have made about anarchism. A castle of lies aimed only at increasing years of imprisonment for comrades, aimed only at justifying the implementation of special regimes where they otherwise could not go. Therefore, the prosecution has created a world, an anarchist world made up of leaders, where newspaper articles become "orders" where there are those who give commands and those who receive them where there are those who instigate and those who are instigated.

The most surprising thing is that what you accuse anarchism of, is actually your world. In front of every carabinieri barracks stands the inscription "obey by keeping silent and be silent by dying," a motto that leaves ample room for individual justification for those servants who perpetrate state violence on a daily basis. A motto designed ad hoc either to ease one's conscience from the daily barbarities or, perhaps, more likely, to extricate oneself from some trial initiated only when the actions of the so-called guardians of public order are too egregious to be silenced.

Individual responsibility is, on the other hand, a foundation of anarchism. I neither take orders nor give them: neither from anyone nor to anyone. I act responding only to my conscience, which has no parameters of interest or advantage and remains the only voice I can hear.

Seeing an anarchist, in this co-indicted trial of mine, in 41 bis is not a deterrent to conviction in my ideas in fact it is a reinforcer. It convinces me more and more of your hypocrisy, it convinces me more and more that beyond the injustice of 41 bis in its specific location, 41 bis in general is torture. Because you cannot keep human beings indefinitely without physical contact or without seeing the sky. It convinces me that there is a huge difference between the violence of the oppressed and the violence of the oppressors: the former follows an ethic, the latter none.

Paolo Arosio

It is not my habit to speak before a court or tribunal. If today, however, I have decided to do so, it is because I see in this measure against us some specificities that should be emphasized. As a first thing, however, I would like to make it clear that these brief words of mine are certainly not spoken to provide the court in any way with additional elements of judgment or, even less, to justify in any way what you accuse me of having done. As obvious as the paradoxical and contradictory aspects of the investigation of which, together with my comrades, I have been made the subject of, on the one hand, I lack legal and judicial expertise and, on the other, I have too much respect for my intelligence and dignity to lose myself in legal quibbles and subtle discriminations. Instead, I would like to emphasize, and this is the reason I have taken the floor, that the charges and measures against us today before this court have a character that certainly goes beyond the legal justifications with which the prosecution has cloaked this affair. There are precise choices that have moved the inquisitorial bodies in their choice to conduct this operation, choices that draw on the sphere of politics and ethics far more than on that of legality. I think it is obvious to anyone that there are at least two orders of reasons that led to this investigation.

First, on the one hand, the gradual escalation of social and political tensions, in Italy and around the world, pose the state apparatuses with the real possibility of explosions of social anger and revolt against them. From the forms of popular and national resistance of Palestinian populations opposed to the genocide perpetrated by Israel to the genuine outburst of anger that is crossing the streets in Italy following yet another racist murder by law enforcement in Milan; from the hundreds of thousands of defections and sabotage that, on both sides of the frontline, have become a daily occurrence in the conflict over the partitioning of zones of influence between the Russian Federation and NATO to Luigi Mangione's "beautiful and avenging" action in Manhattan; from the wild strikes in Iran and India to the mobilizations of the German proletariat, increasingly the tensions that capitalism and states are provoking are stirring up an upheaval of the oppressed masses that threatens to spiral out of their control. Terrified of losing the monopoly of violence and the opportunity to exploit other human beings the oppressors, and you who defend their interests along with them, must attempt to put into place ever more repressive and vicious policies. Policies of war, because the acceleration of internal contradictions within capital only war can bring, which have the specific intent to strike, both within their own borders and outside, at the enemies who have always been exploited and killed, the oppressed.

In this sense the charges of instigation and organization against us seem absurd. The dramatic emergence of social contradictions certainly does not need the instigation of a handful of anarchists to give vent to their anger nor do the struggles of the oppressed need who knows what clandestine organization to understand and act against the apparatuses of their oppressors. It is at least a fact that ever since the anarchist newspaper *Vetriolo* ceased publication or since your censorious work has silenced the counter-information sites *Malacoda* and *RoundRobin* the social conflict has certainly not waned but, on the contrary, has become more and more exacerbated.

The second order of reasons, which certainly does not fall outside the first but is, rather, a tragic corollary of it, draws on the "personalities" of the protagonists of this judicial affair. There has been an ongoing political clash, for decades now, over the repressive strategies that the Italian state must deploy to manage the inevitable crisis and its consequences. In this sense, the National Anti-Mafia and Counterterrorism Directorate represents a strategic public order management option that has its own power groups, propaganda organs and specific interests. It is therefore no coincidence that this operation, with its clear censorious and intimidating character, had enormous specific weight in the decisions to subject fellow anarchist Alfredo Cospito to the 41 bis detention regime. 41 bis represents, from the propaganda as well as the legal point of view, the flagship of an entire system of apparatuses aimed in fact at establishing a "police state" regime in which the repressive needs of public order are prioritized in the management of the state. Comrade anarchist Alfredo Cospito was thus subjected to this inhuman regime because of the rightness and dignity of his actions and thought.

The attempt, however, to demonize and isolate him failed first and foremost because of the fighting skills he himself was able to express and, also, because of the mobilization of hundreds of people in solidarity with his plight. A mobilization that, once again, certainly did not need instigators or instigators to express

itself but had the ability, thanks to Alfredo's strength and integrity, to open contradictions even within the state apparatuses by questioning the strengths of the political current that belongs to the DNAA [Direzione Nazionale Antimafia e Antiterrorismo]. Here, then, is where, in order to justify the repressive choices on the life and body of the comrade, this court is asked to open a new trial against him in an effort to look for legal fig leaves that can cover the vindictive and censorious will of the police apparatus to strike at the coherence and dignity of a revolutionary anarchist.

These, briefly, are the few exceptions I wanted to bring. It is now up to your false conscience to find the loopholes with which to refute the obviousness of these claims and proceed to prosecute us.

Michele Fabiani

Legalitarian rhetoric sees trials as a moment in which truths are established, in which a person endowed with willpower must willingly or unwillingly assume responsibility with respect to malicious episodes. To the point that one is in effect acquitted when it is established that the accused is not of sound mind. I have never believed anything like that in my entire life: I think it is an ideological junk typical of bourgeois liberalism to crush necessity, need, material conditions, personal formation, innate impulses within the concepts of guilt and innocence. But today I want to follow, in the economy of this speech, the commonplace. Not least because today marks the likely beginning of a particular trial, a trial against books and newspapers.

What kind of truth does Operation Sibilla conceal? And what responsibility are the protagonists taking on?

For consistency I start with my own, of responsibilities. I have written articles, I have published and disseminated anarchist press, I have published anarchist books. I published, through Monte Bove Editions, the book *Which International?* by Alfredo Cospito and many others. And I am so proud of having done that, that just last October-in a deliberately provocative gesture toward the previous preliminary hearing-I printed its third edition.

However, there are responsibilities that will also have to be assumed by those who support the prosecution, in a trial in which the body of the crime are books and newspapers. I say this with extreme sincerity, I just do not understand how the state cannot comprehend such elementary evidence: since the world began, he who is censored, gagged, interned, tortured for his ideas gains popularity and fame from the very action of censorship. Everyone knows who Socrates and Giordano Bruno are, I don't think anyone in here knows the names of Meleto or Cardinal Giulio Antonio Santorio.

Which side of the story do you sit on?

When it comes to accountability there is one that is greater than all and frankly crushes jurisprudential technicalities. When it comes to truth, I cannot be silent about the most shameful truth of this trial. As we discuss criminal procedure there is an elephant in the room. Right in here.

I just cannot keep quiet about the scandal that there is a co-defendant of mine, a comrade of mine, locked up in 41 bis and connected by video conference. When we talk about truth, no one can deny that this investigation played a central role in the decision to lock Alfredo Cospito up in 41 bis. The minister of justice spoke about it in parliament, chief prosecutor Cantone himself spoke about it during a hearing.

This is a scandal not only because 41 bis is an international disgrace, a torture prison regime to which no one should be subjected. Above all, it is a scandal because we anarchists say things clearly. In this book, *Which International?*, you will not find a cabal of cryptic messages. The writings of anarchists are not pizzas! Nor will you find orders, because anarchists have no leaders and take orders from no one.

Books are not for giving orders, but for thinking for oneself. Books teach how to disobey orders. That is why they are so scary.

Moreover, this process generates some interesting contradictions. Consider the fact that I am not free to send this book, just as I am not free to send the newspaper “Vetriolo” to Alfredo in prison. This is simply absurd because it is clear that I do not hide in the seams of Which International? a razor blade, or a transceiver, or narcotics, nor did I layout the book in such a way that reading it according to a clever puzzle key might contain coded messages. Neither does the prosecution, to tell the truth, support that.

That these provisions are applied against our comrade should then make us reflect on three important considerations. The first, is that the way the anti-mafia/anti-terrorism bandwagon thinks and operates is inspired by what we might call “paranoid thinking.” The second, is that these measures are all the more absurd to an anarchist. The third, is that in fact these measures have no precautionary reason, but aim at a single purpose: the annihilation of the prisoner.

This generates a short circuit with respect to our trial as well. How can Alfredo defend himself against a charge concerning his ideas and writings if he cannot read them? Clearly, only the prosecution papers are not enough, since these contain specially selected passages.

There are also even greater contradictions produced by the overall context. Evidently investigations such as this one fit into the context of war into which we have all been plunged. There is indeed a close connection between war and censorship. When a country is at war, there are things that cannot be said and there is information that cannot circulate. The 41 bis to Alfredo Cospito, Operation Sibilla, liberticidal laws against strikes and protests in prisons such as those contained in the former 1660 bill are to all intents and purposes expressions of war policies.

While this is an operational necessity, it also generates a contradiction: with what face does the Italian state demand sacrifices from workers, raise the cost of utility bills or the cost of fuel, claiming that these are sacrifices made necessary because we have to fight against autocracies, or against some perfidious Middle Eastern regime, and at the same time it tries books and newspapers and locks up political opponents in 41 bis? A state that tries us for our violent speech while exporting weapons to Israel and Ukraine.

On this ground the state is weak, and a trial like this can be an opportunity to nurture the struggle instead of repressing it. Today’s authoritarian turn is in the context of war measures against the internal enemy. But so much rattling of troops has served no purpose.

The Cospito case turned out to be a boomerang that came back in the faces of those who orchestrated it. They wanted to close the comrade’s mouth, and his ideas were never more widely disseminated. Publications of Alfredo’s writings multiplied. Which International? had three editions and seven reprints. There were dozens of demonstrations, marches, street clashes. Anarchism was so revitalized that new anarchist songs were even born, perhaps after half a century away. There have been—I read on one website—almost a hundred and twenty destructive direct actions in the world. The symbolic or civil disobedience actions, the banners, the writing on walls, the buckets of paint, the occupation of theaters or Amnesty headquarters or a radio station, those are counted in the thousands.

You are deluding yourself if you think that this can be stopped by shutting up a single comrade. You lie if you claim that all this was moved by the evil mind of a troublemaker, an instigator. Moreover, you got yourselves into this mess. Of course, if the ruling class of this country is made up of Delmastro and Donzelli, Manuela Comodi or Roberto Sparagna, Alfredo Cospito will look like a giant in comparison. And even today, in here, as the poet sang, the dwarves still demand censure against the scary giants.

I do not fear this trial because a trial against books and newspapers is a trial in which—even for the general public and not only for anarchists, for whom this is always true—the most honorable seat in which to sit is the defendant’s bench.

I do not fear this trial because in this trial the state is weak. What happened last October 10 is indeed significant: in my certainly undesirable trial experience I had never witnessed a hearing in which the defendants want to speak and the prosecutor seeks technical shortcuts to get a continuance.

What happened out here is also significant; the threat by the quaestor of Perugia to issue travel warrants for a demonstration in which – alas – nothing particularly confrontational happened, is certainly a sign of the times, it may be an expression in some way of a certain arrogance, but it is certainly above all an indication of all your weakness.

If only for one fact, which is that Alfredo's mere presence—even if it is in the ghostly, phantasmal form of a videoconference link—represents a living contradiction to all those who would like to keep our comrade walled up alive.

I would conclude, therefore, with the obvious. Anarchism is not the product of a scholar or a philosopher, it is not the harvest of an intensive cultivator of brains, but it is a wild plant of class struggle. Those who act do not need to be instigated. Those who do so have matured from themselves the need to struggle. The irresistible instigation is that caused by the injustices of your society.

As we race with rapid strides toward nuclear war and helplessly witness the first automated genocide in history, it is precisely the answer to that question – Which international? – that is dramatically topical today. And it is not found in any book. Books only ask the questions.

If I am indicted, I will do my worst to exacerbate these contradictions. I will try to use the “Vetriolo” trial as a forum to propagandize the ideas and theses expressed in that newspaper. Above all, I will do everything to turn this trial into an opportunity to sabotage 41 bis, to dialogue with Alfredo, to communicate with him.

I want Alfredo to know that the struggle he has carried out has moved mountains. Don't let it bring you down. You are an example of consistency and courage. The road to Ithaca is fraught with terrible obstacles, but it is also full of wonderful adventures. We are waiting for you at home comrade.

Francesco Rota

I would never have written this statement if I had not felt that under attack was not only a path of analysis and critical insight, thus an important portion of my life, but above all a fellow anarchist whom the state in recent years has intended to bury under a blanket of isolation aimed at annihilation, because according to the anti-terrorist organs he was representative of decades of experience in revolutionary struggle. Then again, it was clear that a transfer to 41 bis and a life sentence amounted to attempted annihilation. The international solidarity movement of the years 2022-'23, however, by the force of the actions taken, first broke the silence and later spoiled the precarious political balance on which this attempt was based.

After several years of investigations by the Milan prosecutor's office, aimed at attempting to somehow link the defendants to actions of attack, the Perugia prosecutor's office inherited as part of an investigation into an anarchist space those acts of investigation concerning the editing and distribution of the newspaper for which indictment is being sought today. Coming to these last years, here then appears the shameless intention to employ this proceeding as a 41 bis support function against Alfredo Cospito. This intention, together with the ongoing attack against revolutionary anarchist publications in the context of the belligerent policies of the last executives, is therefore one of the reasons why I am filing this statement today. In this sense, I again express my solidarity with Alfredo Cospito without half-measures, reconfirm what I have already stated at the review hearing on the precautionary measures on March 14, 2023, and reiterate the reasons for my visceral participation in the 2022-'23 mobilization against 41 bis and hostile life imprisonment.

How to act against the overall technological turn that has been taking place for decades by fighting it now, before it is too late? What implications in social confrontation and revolutionary struggle do the ongoing

technological process and the changes that have taken place in social reality in recent decades have? And how to equip for this? What clash can take place in a society where capacities for class struggle and organization are manifesting with extreme difficulty? Who are the exploiters, the masters, today? These are some of the questions posed between the pages of the newspaper under indictment, where the prosecution instead intends to see at all costs instigation and orienting and terrorist capabilities. However, this is not what I am talking about: analyses on the terrain of revolutionary struggle are not the concern of the courts, which by their very constitution cannot comprehend the essence of anarchists' struggles.

I have known anarchism for as long as I can remember and, amazed, without anyone having pointed me in any direction, I discovered the ideas and practice of anarchists from the words of comrades, from their example and from the writings found in that anarchist propaganda that is today being prosecuted as incitement to crime with the aggravating circumstance of the purpose of terrorism. It is therefore difficult to describe what the texts of anarchism meant to me, with their density and depth of analysis of social reality: some had the revealing ability to shed light on only apparently marginal aspects that I had never before considered, concerning the things of the world and life in their totality; others, on the other hand, shocked me in their being a slap in the face against all accommodation and compromise.

Anarchism does not only imply the existence of a movement, the anarchist movement, which only at the cost of a gross oversimplification we could call first and foremost a political movement, but it has always been something more, something profoundly different that speaks of the dream and possible realization of a different life, radically different from the one we live today. Anarchism implies the undermining of our guarantees, of many of our certainties. Fighting for anarchism therefore inevitably means entering the dimension of risk inherent in the desire for integral, authentic freedom, certainly not the artificial democratic "freedoms" of which courts, inquisitors and butlers of the state stand as champions.

This knowledge of anarchism of mine has therefore been an enormous fortune, and today I cannot help but think of the absence of an anarchist, of my father, who made this fortune possible, untying the intuitions of the heart from the strings of petty logic and bringing up that cry for freedom that cries out in our hearts.

So, you will understand that I do not turn to you today to beg for something, to advance justifications, to initiate a confrontation, to deny something that for me is not only the passion of all time, but the indissoluble essence of my ideas, my very life.

6 Feb - "Florida 4" Defendants Share Their Experiences Inside Federal Prison

Report from the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) about the case of the Florida 4.

MORE:

by Civil Liberties Defense Center (*It's Going Down*)

For many of you that follow the work of CLDC, as well as issues like the Dobbs decision and the resulting impact to reproductive rights in this country, the Jane's Revenge trial of the "Florida 4" has been a bellwether case. The creep of authoritarianism we currently face and the resulting loss of bodily autonomy across the United States is not only a wildly unpopular lurch to the right, it's a vitally important issue of healthcare for over half the country's population. CLDC's Lauren Regan was the attorney of record for one of the three defendants who pled guilty to a felony conspiracy charge based on the "heinous" crime of spray painting the outside of a fake abortion clinic when it was closed. Such law breaking in any other situation would have led to a misdemeanor charge and perhaps a small fine.

However, in the authoritarian lab that is Florida, and the political climate we all are currently subject to, this act of defiance against the overturning of a broadly popular right to have an abortion resulted in prison terms of varying lengths for the three defendants that took a plea deal to avoid further destruction to their communities. The fourth, Gabriela Oropesa went to trial and was found guilty, but sentencing has been scheduled for March 2025 as of this publication.

This week the CLDC had an opportunity to catch up with Amber Smith-Stewart and Annarella Rivera following their release from federal prison where they were each sentenced to 30 days (and served slightly less than that). Caleb Freestone is still incarcerated, sentenced to a year in federal prison due to alleged violations of his pretrial conditions while awaiting a resolution to the case. We wanted to hear their reflections on the case, their time on the inside, and the effects this experience had on their personal activism.

When asked about how it felt to bravely stand up for their belief systems only to be subjected to political gamesmanship to advance a Christian Nationalist anti-choice platform:

Rivers (Annarella Rivera):

I felt alone, I was sideswiped by the experience of being subjected to the FACE Act, an act that was designed to protect abortion providers and their patients. It was abundantly clear that they (the Florida AG, the Biden D.O.J., Florida Senators and Congress people who opined on the case) were not interested in patient care but were instead interested in using our case to demonize the left and advance their agenda.

Amber:

It felt unreal, when I first got into activism I followed the Eric King federal trial very closely, after he caught a charge for defending himself from assaults from correctional officers. Never in my life did I imagine I'd end up at the defendants table in a federal courthouse. I never could have imagined my face and name would be splashed all over the news and social media. The way we were used ignited something in me, we faced the beast close up and personal and the fire that was lit from this experience will never be put out.

Reflecting on how it felt to be sentenced to even a short term of federal incarceration for an action they believed at the most would result in a misdemeanor charge and a fine.

Amber:

My biggest fear going in was my ability to cope with day-to-day life and the trauma of my mom's death. My mom's passing in prison was a direct result of the Dept. of Corrections medical neglect. I lived with the trauma of my mom's death every single day I was in there. At night that prison is very quiet, there is only the sound of the jingling keys of the guards on duty and the sound of your bunk snoring. I would stay up at night, looking out the tiny window onto the Miami skyline and only think of my mom. While I was in there I was seriously injured and was denied access to something as simple as ibuprofen. This triggering experience really illuminated the circumstances around my mom's death.

Rivers:

I was fearful of the unknown. Before I went in, I was really looking at the experience from a negative perspective. After getting out I look at my experience in a positive light. I'm happy I was on the inside, albeit for a short time. I was in there with so many good people. I felt guilty about getting released after thirty days. Being in there only reinforced my beliefs about the injustice of incarceration and our prison systems.

We asked Rivers if there were any regrets stemming from her entire experience.

Rivers:

My only regret was missing time with my son, I was unable to continue living with him after the raid and arrest, we lost the house. He was 16 when I was arrested, he chose to stay in the area we were living before all this went down. The government took my ability to make new memories with both my sons, one of which is 30 and grown. My kids are my best friends though and they're proud of me. We'll be together again soon.

Amber and River both reflected on the experience of either being represented by a movement lawyer (Amber was represented by Lauren Regan), or being a co-defendant of someone represented by a movement lawyer. (Rivers was represented by a public defender but understood Lauren was also on her team.)

Amber:

Having a movement lawyer changed everything, in the end it made all the difference in the world. Lauren always kept her eyes on the other attorneys and reminded everyone, both defendants and lawyers, that this case was about the political fight for rights to bodily autonomy and not just the criminal case we were facing. Lauren would always ask

me really tough questions and help me to stay focused on what was important to me– the movement implications. I thought about this every time I had to make an important decision.

Rivers:

Although I had a public defender, three actually, her (Lauren's) addition to this case was so incredibly helpful. After going through multiple public defenders Lauren really helped to keep the focus on what the important goals of the case were, both personally and for the greater good. CLDC is still standing with us and supporting us even after the case has been resolved and we've been released. This is very special.

General reflections on the impact of this experience on their activist life.

Rivers:

This experience has only increased my resolve as an activist. There are so many ways to stand up and fight for your belief systems! After going through this experience, I've decided I'd like to really focus on supporting political prisoners, doing prisoner solidarity work, and working towards the end goal of abolition of our prison system.

Amber:

There's nothing I can say to someone who hasn't experienced political persecution and resulting incarceration to get them to better understand what it feels like to have your rights taken from you for something you so strongly believe in. Without a doubt this has strengthened my decision to be an activist and to keep fighting for what's just. I'll be focusing my work on rights of political prisoners and the solidarity work that is a lifeline for the people on the inside.

CLDC would like to thank the Jane's Revenge defendants for their bravery as well as their steadfast decisions that not only increased the public's awareness around the harm inflicted by fake abortion providers on vulnerable communities, but also for setting such a good example for other young activists coming up right now on what being a strong non-cooperating defendant looks like. Amber and Rivers and their 2 codefendants were all facing 2 federal civil SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suits filed by the Florida Attorney General and one of the fake clinics, and by taking the negotiated plea to conspiracy, they were also able to ensure less jail time, and have the civil suits dismissed, thereby putting an end to the personal and community risks brought by the federal lawsuits and discovery threats—something they had both committed to no matter what the end results were. We remain proud to stand with you both.

One of the many perks of being represented by CLDC is our network of amazing past political clients that often stand by willing to lend support to our current clients facing state repression in new and scary ways. In this case, Amber and Rivers were connected to past CLDC client, advisory board member and friend, Daniel McGowan. Daniel was one of the non-cooperating Green Scare defendants (another unprecedented prosecution) and not only offered information, wisdom and support about being targeted by the feds and doing time, but he was also instrumental in fundraising for support funds for them and their families. Thanks to all that supported them and their community! We've got each-others' backs! Support Amber & Rivers!

The work of CLDC does not stop with the end of a protest, a trial, or a training. We strongly believe that movement building and organizing require cultivating long-term relationships and mutual support. Much in the way we ask you for your continued support of CLDC's work, we endeavor to have the backs of our clients and allies long after their names have dropped from the headlines.

This week, we are reaching out to our supporters for a very specific ask. Amber Smith-Stewart and Annarella Rivera put their collective freedom and safety on the line to defend the right of bodily autonomy and choice in this country. They, along with two other defendants were arrested, prosecuted, and jailed in Florida for calling attention and focus to the unpopular and dangerous changes that are underway in this country regarding the right to choose when and if a pregnancy is carried to term. For their bold actions they were hit with FBI raids, family separation, loss of employment and housing, as well as time in federal

prison, house arrest, and the lifelong burden of being federal felons. With the “privilege” of house arrest comes additional costs – including that of purchasing and wearing an ankle monitor. CLDC is asking for you to help them — and the movement at large — by covering the cost of their ankle monitors that are a requirement of “post-prison supervision.”

The cost of each monitor is \$250 so we are asking for donations totaling \$500 to support them both at a time in which money and transition back to “normal” life are challenging (while being forced to stay in their homes). By continuing to stand with these two individuals we are ensuring that the support of activists, and their continued ability to operate in activist spaces continues to thrive and grow.

*If you do donate, please earmark your donation, “For Amber and Rivers.”

10 Feb - ‘Some people leave the country, others turn to explosives’

In letters from jail, a Russian-Italian anarchist recounts how he turned to sabotage to combat the Kremlin’s war

MORE:

via *Meduza*

In December 2023, Russia’s Federal Security Service (FSB) announced the arrest of a dual Russian-Italian citizen accused of attacking a military airfield and sabotaging a railway line. The suspect was Ruslan Sidiki, a 36-year-old anarchist, long-distance cyclist, and electrician. Now in pretrial detention, he faces a potential life sentence. *Mediazona* published a collection of letters from Sidiki, in which he describes why he turned to sabotage, how he planned and carried out the attacks, and why he considers himself a prisoner of war rather than a political prisoner. *Meduza* summarizes their contents.

Ruslan Sidiki was born in Ryazan, Russia, but spent much of his childhood in Italy after moving there with his mother. After finishing school, he attempted to join the Italian military but didn’t make the cut. He stayed in Italy for several years, working and visiting his family and friends in Ryazan whenever he could. During one of those trips, he was offered a job as an electrician — and decided to stay.

“Life was pretty good here until 2008,” he recalled. “I missed my grandmother and my friends, and back then, Europe felt a little too dull.”

Before Russia’s annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of war in eastern Ukraine in 2014, Sidiki made frequent trips to Ukraine, where, among other things, he went on hikes through the Chernobyl exclusion zone. He liked the challenge of navigating difficult terrain, evading patrols, and using military gear. Through these trips, he built a network of like-minded adventurers, including friends from Ukraine.

In his letters, Sidiki describes himself as an anarchist. He says his ideas about a just world without a state began forming long before he ever encountered anarchist philosophy. While he dislikes what he calls the rigid ideology of some anarchists and communists, his opposition to fascism and totalitarianism, he says, has never wavered.

On the day Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Sidiki recalls feeling an overwhelming sense of powerlessness. “I saw trains loaded with military equipment rolling by, and the despair made me want to chew through the barrels of the cannons,” he wrote. Convinced that armed resistance was the only option left, he decided to act. The Russian government, he believed, had “cut off all peaceful means of influencing the situation” by cracking down on anti-war activists. “Anyone who speaks out against the war is labeled a traitor and faces repression,” he wrote. “In such circumstances, it’s no surprise that some people prefer to leave the country while others turn to explosives.”

Sidiki set his sights on Dyagilevo Air Base, just 10 kilometers (about six miles) from his home. The idea took hold when he realized that the low hum of aircraft over Ryazan often coincided with reports of

Russian airstrikes on Ukraine. He shared his plans with a “Ukrainian comrade,” who put him in touch with “someone experienced in this field.” At that person’s suggestion, Sidiki traveled to Latvia to “test his skills” — he had been interested in explosives for years and had learned to make homemade bombs around the age of 18.

In July 2023, he carried out his attack. Using drones with a delayed launch function, he set up three unmanned aerial vehicles to take off three hours later and left the site. Later, he learned from the news that only one drone had made it to the base. The other two, he suspected, had been knocked over by a fox he had seen nearby but hadn’t bothered to chase away.

“To be honest, I was worried they’d track me down,” he admitted. “But I had planned my route carefully, alternating between blind spots and areas with cameras. And the three-hour delay between my departure and the drone launch made it even harder to trace. If not for the drones left behind, they wouldn’t have been able to pinpoint the launch site at all.” Still, he spent the next month on edge, listening for footsteps outside his door. “But after a month, the anxiety faded. If they had figured it out, they would have caught me within a couple of weeks.”

Two months after the attack, Sidiki’s grandmother passed away. The loss hit him hard. “It affected my clarity of mind and my caution,” he wrote. “Honestly, I should have given myself a couple of months to recover. But I didn’t.”

After abandoning drone attacks — having determined through trial and error that the area was protected by electronic warfare systems — Ruslan Sidiki set his sights on the railways. He scouted a route in Russia’s Ryazan region used to transport military equipment, then built two bombs and a video transmitter with a self-destruct mechanism. According to him, the entire operation cost just 10,000 rubles (about \$100).

In November 2023, Sidiki biked to the site, planted the explosives, and positioned a camera to capture the moment of detonation. At dawn the next day, after ensuring the approaching train wasn’t carrying passengers, he remotely detonated the bombs. Nineteen freight cars derailed, and the train conductor’s assistant sustained minor injuries.

Afterward, Sidiki hid his bicycle and the clothes he had worn in the forest and returned home via a different route. He later sent news of the derailment to his contact in Ukraine. “A few days later, he told me his superiors had decided to send me \$15,000,” Sidiki wrote. “I was shocked — I had never held more than 1,000 euros in my hands in my entire life. I told him I wasn’t in need of money at the moment and asked him to hold off on the matter for now.”

Three weeks later, the authorities caught up with Sidiki. Investigators managed to identify him using footage from a surveillance camera — captured five hours after the explosion — showing him walking along a paved road. “I was exhausted and figured the danger had passed, so I walked the last kilometer on asphalt instead of avoiding the cameras,” he wrote.

Even then, tracking him down wasn’t easy. “The security forces told me they had no way to trace where I had come from that night. They struggled to piece it together — they had been at a dead end, just like with the drones. Even when they detained me, they still weren’t sure I was involved,” Sidiki recalled.

At the police station, he said, unidentified men in civilian clothes tortured him for several days. They beat him severely, electrocuted him, and filmed it all on a phone. By the time he was transferred to a pre-trial detention center, the facility’s medical staff were visibly shaken by his condition. “The medic was stunned — my entire body was covered in bruises,” he wrote.

Sidiki was charged with committing a terrorist act, manufacturing and distributing explosives as part of an organized group, and undergoing training for terrorist activities. He’s currently awaiting trial and faces a

possible life sentence. “I understand I’m going to get a long sentence. I don’t indulge in false hope about a favorable outcome,” he wrote.

Sidiki does not consider himself a political prisoner but rather a prisoner of war. In his view, his actions were part of the larger conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

“My actions fall under the definition of ‘sabotage,’ not ‘terrorism,’” he argued. “I never intended to instill fear in civilians. My goal was to destroy aircraft so they couldn’t be used to bomb, to destroy railways so they couldn’t be used to transport weapons.”

Despite his capture, Sidiki said that he has no regrets. “The war is over for me — I’ve been caught. But I’m genuinely grateful to the Ukrainians who trusted me. If anyone is to blame for my imprisonment, it’s me alone,” he wrote. “I hope Ukrainians endure every trial with resilience. I wish everyone peaceful skies.”

10 Feb - Anarchist Prisoner Jorge “Yorch” Esquivel Transferred, Appeal Denied

Mexico: Letter from anarchist prisoner Jorge “Yorch” Esquivel following his recent transfer and the denial of his appeal.

MORE:

Hey compas. How’s everything? I’m adjusting to the new system here in the Reclusorio Sur. On the one hand it is a little bit better than the prison I was at before, the Reclusorio Oriente. Here there are less people and because of that it is a lot calmer. There is less opportunity to generate money but it is cleaner so I feel better here.

As you all already know, my appeal was recently denied and my sentence was confirmed. Now we will have to try another appeal with the writ of amparo and hopefully this time we receive a more favorable result.

Thanks to all the compas for the economic support and the letters. I really enjoy reading them. Thanks to the compas at Calpupan for the seeds that they sent me. They will be very useful as I am thinking about planting a small garden to occupy my time here.

Also, a big hug to the compas of the Anarcopunk Space. Thanks for the support. Also, to the compas in Veracruz, thanks for everything,

I hope you all can continue supporting me providing political pressure to accompany the writ of amparo so that I can leave this terrible place.

Also, I encourage everyone to buy tickets for the raffle in solidarity with Miguel Peralta and to share information about his case (tickets can be purchased [here](#)).

For those who want to support me by buying my artwork, it is available at the Clandestina in Mexico City. Or if you want to donate other stuff, like materials to make art—threads, beads, or other materials—they can be dropped off there as well.

14 Feb - Leonard Peltier Update

Thank you to all of Leonard Peltier's supporters who have donated their lives, their money, their tireless work to see Leonard Peltier breathe free air.

MORE:

We have raised \$5,355 to support Leonard's journey home and his independence. Please visit freeleonardpeltiernow.org to see our progress and profound thank you.

Leonard will be released on February 18th [NOTE: He was released!]. We do not know the time. When we have information on how you can contact Leonard who he gets home, we will let you know.

Please contribute what you can. Share this fundraiser: zeffy.com/donation-form/support-leonard-peltiers-journey-home

You can also donate via Cash App to: **\$PeltierOfficialComm**

14 Feb - Cameras have appeared outside homes of Atlanta's 'Cop City' activists. Why are they there?

Cameras are hidden in unmarked boxes on utility poles in a move residents and advocates call 'creepy' and 'corrosive'

MORE:

by Timothy Pratt (*The Guardian*)

What appear to be cameras hidden in unmarked boxes have appeared on utility poles outside the Atlanta homes of some people connected to the movement against the police training center known as "Cop City", raising constitutional concerns, the Guardian has learned.

The development comes after several years of ongoing state surveillance of some Atlanta residents opposed to the \$109m training center, including officers following people in patrol cars and blasting sirens outside bedroom windows at 3am.

At the same time, the use of hidden cameras "categorically poses a new threat to privacy", said Nathan Freed Wessler, of the Speech, Privacy and Technology Project at the ACLU. "The surreptitiousness is pernicious."

The boxes are attached to utility poles about 30ft (9 meters) off the ground. They don't bear the names of any law enforcement agency and have a clear plastic or glass panel. What appears to be a camera lens can be clearly seen through the panel in photos of one of them.

Three of the cameras are pointed at homes that Atlanta police, the FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, jointly raided in February of last year, in search of evidence behind the arsons of police motorcycles. One camera is pointed at a cultural and social center.

Georgia Power, the utility company that owns the poles, told the Guardian the boxes are not their property. The FBI and the ATF denied any knowledge of them.

Atlanta police spokesperson Chata M Spikes initially responded to an email query from the Guardian by saying: "I'm not sure which boxes you're referring to." After receiving a follow-up email with a photo of one of them attached, the agency said: "Due to possible on-going investigations, we are unable to answer any questions related to your inquiry."

The training center is soon to open on a 171-acre (70-hectare) footprint in a forest south-east of Atlanta. Opposition to the project has come from a wide range of local and national organizations and is centered on concerns such as unchecked police militarization and clearing forests in an era of climate crisis. Atlanta police say the center is needed for "world-class" training.

The movement against the center dates to 2021 and has included the destruction of construction equipment and the arson of Atlanta police motorcycles and a car. It has also included efforts to mount a referendum on the training center that gathered the signatures of more than 100,000 voters, historic levels of public participation in city council meetings, lawsuits, numerous protests, and national environmental and civil rights groups.

The three houses with cameras outside were the subjects of a pre-dawn raid a year ago during which one person was arrested and charged with first-degree arson in connection with the burning of police motorcycles in 2023. Police had offered a \$200,000 reward and put up 450 billboards across the country around the same time as the raid. A trial is forthcoming.

One camera also points at a self-described “free social center” with a community library that holds events drawing hundreds of Atlantans, including readings, concerts and food giveaways.

Residents of one of the houses first noticed the cameras in the fall. Wessler, at the ACLU, noted that the highest courts of Massachusetts, Colorado and South Dakota have ruled that long-term utility pole camera surveillance of someone’s home requires a warrant. But other federal courts of appeals and state supreme courts have been divided on the question of whether such surveillance falls under the fourth amendment, which protects people from “unreasonable searches”.

The supreme court declined to take up the issue in 2023, leaving “people across the country ... vulnerable to law enforcement’s claim of unfettered authority to surveil any of us at our homes, for as long as they wish, with no judicial oversight”, said Wessler at the time.

A non-profit organization grouping together several utility companies recently published an article on its website advising them to “always require search warrants” and what the author, an attorney, called “licensing agreements”, when police seek to use utility poles for surveillance.

John Kraft, Georgia Power’s media relations manager, did not reply to repeated requests about whether a search warrant was given to the company, or if it created a licensing agreement. Atlanta police also didn’t respond to the same query. A person on the legal support team of the arrestee in last year’s raid said the police had not produced a search warrant authorizing the surveillance.

This is not the first-time police have hidden cameras in boxes on utility poles for surveillance of activists. Activists in Memphis, Tennessee, fighting for a \$15 minimum wage and labor rights discovered a similar setup in 2020. One of them climbed the utility pole, opened the box, took pictures of the camera inside and posted them on social media.

Press coverage followed, and the box was taken down the next day.

A person who lives at one of the houses being surveilled and who preferred anonymity for safety concerns said the camera pointing at her house is “humiliating”, an extension of what she felt after the raid, when police found a nude Polaroid of her and left it displayed on a table. The Guardian reported on the incident. “They displayed a naked photo of me ... and now there’s a camera looking into the house,” she said. “It’s creepy.”

Meanwhile, Mallory, a volunteer who helps run the cultural center and declined to offer her full name due to safety concerns, said she “feels a sense of fear when I’m going to open the community library, or clean up after a show ... There’s this dynamic – the camera is hidden, but you know it’s there.”

Wessler said that the camera “pointing at a public space runs into not just fourth amendment concerns, but first amendment, right to association concerns. To automate the surveillance of lots of innocent people ... is really corrosive, and should be unsettling.”

19 Feb - Bikes For Migrants Fundraiser

WHAT: Raffle and movie night!

WHEN: 6:00pm, Wednesday, February 19th

WHERE: Woodbine, 585 Woodward Avenue, Queens

COST: BRING YOUR WALLET

MORE:

Bikes For Migrants is hosting a fundraiser and raffling off truly outstanding prizes from Topos Bookstore, Leftfield NYC, tattoo artist Theresa Escobedo, La Cantine Bushwick, m.train.ultra, Molasses Books, The Rooted Refuge, Toad Style, Bike Plant, Sunbeam Colleen, Father Knows Best, Mama Jewelry, Variety Coffee, Asher Caswell, Ollie's Ice Cream, and many more, and watching Wild at Heart by David Lynch. We need funds to continue repairing bikes and donating them to migrants. Come through, come raffle, come donate, come talk to us, come hangout!!

21 Feb - BombaYOL

WHAT: Kamau Sadiki Fundraiser

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

WHERE: AM:PM Gallery, 108 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: \$5-20

MORE:

An event featuring Afro Boricua Bomba y HipHop highlighting the African diaspora and their contributions to culture -- From NuevaYol to Puerto Rico.

We will be raising funds to free a Political Prisoner for our siblings of the Black Panther Party -- Kamau Sadiki

All ticket entrances will be donated to his release. Live DJ, Live Bomba, Art Vendors, Performances, Refreshments

22 Feb - House Is Liberation

WHAT: House Music Fundraiser

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, March 22nd

WHERE: 450 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: \$10-50, suggested donation

MORE:

DJs K. Tea, Ali Coleman, Moonbabe3000, Amber Brooks keep you dancing to raise funds for political prisoner Kamau Sadiki and families in Gaza. Expect DJs, dancing, vendors, food, and more!

22 Feb - Let's Discuss Anarchism

WHAT: Police Abolition Discussion

WHEN: 5:00pm, Saturday, February 22nd

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

Curious? Skeptical? Come to this informal discussion, organized by an autonomous group of anarchists.

22 Feb - Abolition is a Family Affair

WHAT: Rattling the Cages panel talk

WHEN: 7:00pm ET, Saturday, February 22nd

WHERE: Register at firestorm.coop/events/3312-rattling-the-cages-abolition-is-a-family-affair.html

COST: FREE

MORE:

In this Rattling the Cages panel talk, Eric King speaks with family members of political prisoners about how the repression and violence of incarceration impacts more than just those imprisoned. Sharon Shoatz (daughter of former political prisoner Russell “Maroon” Shoatz), susie day (partner of former political prisoner Laura Whitehorn), and Rochelle Bricker (partner of former political prisoner Eric King) speak to the familial harm of prison repression and the unswerving love and solidarity that keeps hope alive.

Published by AK Press, Rattling the Cages: Oral Histories of North American Political Prisoners is a project of abolitionists Josh Davidson and Eric King. The book is filled with the experience and wisdom of over thirty current and former North American political prisoners. It provides first-hand details of prison life and the political commitments that continue to lead prisoners into direct confrontation with state authorities and institutions.

3 Mar - Community Seed Exchange

WHAT: Seed exchange

WHEN: 12:00pm, Sunday, March 3rd

WHERE: Woodbine, 585 Woodward Avenue, Queens

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join us for our sixth annual community seed exchange! We have a wide selection of seeds to share - whether you have your own garden, a plot in a community garden, or just a little bit of window space in your apartment.

If you are bringing seeds to share, please make sure they are two years old or younger to ensure max success for all gardeners. We'll provide seed bags. All seeds leftover at the end of the exchange will be added to our seed library, which can be accessed anytime the space is open. We'll have local gardeners on hand to answer any questions.

2 Mar - Letters for Liberation

WHAT: Letter writing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Sunday, March 2nd

WHERE: Bluestockings Books - 116 Suffolk Street, Manhattan

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Black and Pink NYC to answer letters from LGBTIA and HIV impacted prisoners to build community and support. No experience required. If it's your first time joining us, take a moment to read/skim through our mail processing guide

Bring a laptop (or another WiFi-enabled device) if you can. Phones work, but laptop (or an iPad/keyboard situation) is highly recommended. As always, everyone is welcome, snacks are provided, donations of stamps/envelopes are always useful, and formerly incarcerated volunteers get a \$20/hour stipend.

Virtual option: bit.ly/bpnycsundaymail

Entrance via one 9" step or wheelchair lift. More access info at bluestockings.com/about-us/access-info

Please note: COVID-19 and other public health risks continue to present severe threats to our communities. We continue to require participants to be masked while attending in-person events and encourage vaccination. We have free KN95 masks for use during the meeting and extras to take home.

3 Mar - Artists Rapid Response Team

WHAT: Art making and meeting

WHEN: 4:00pm, Sunday, March 3rd

WHERE: Brooklyn Apple Academy - 545 5th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Everyone—>>> Artist Rapid Response NYC is critical movement infrastructure, we are the art team "at large" for every activist, community, and mutual aid group that needs visual support. We make your banners, signs, puppets, your patches; and design your stickers. We hook you up with graphic designers, face painters, and puppeteers. Contact us if you need help!

Artists!—>>> Join us for the 2nd meeting of the nyc chapter! Art making 4-10 pm, meeting and vegan dinner at 7 pm. All art abilities and modalities welcome! We have air purifiers, and ventilated masked only rooms available.

Disabled—>>> Can't join in person? We can give you remote work assignments and get you plugged into movement work!!

Everyone—>>> Do you have resources? We'll be buying art supplies, legal assistance, lentils, rent, and hopefully some honorariums for some broke voices. Reach out.