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Updates for March 18th

2 Mar - Activist Charged with RICO Sues Atlanta Police Department for Adopting Policy of “Systemic Arrests and Pretextual Charges” of Stop Cop City Protesters

The Atlanta Community Press Collective reports on a new federal lawsuit against the Atlanta Police Department.

MORE:

by Matt Scott (*It's Going Down*)

A new federal lawsuit alleges that the Atlanta Police Department, at the direction of Chief Darin Schierbaum, instituted a policy to have law enforcement officers systemically use pretextual charges and arrests against Stop Cop City protesters, targeting people for their political views, not their actions.

“It really has nothing to do with the activity and everything to do with the topic,” said Xavier T. de Janon, one of the attorneys who filed the lawsuit. “It’s that it’s a ‘Stop Cop City’ thing that gets police to respond, not what people are doing on the ground.”

Attorneys de Janon and Drago Cepar, Jr. filed the lawsuit on behalf of Jamie Marsicano in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. It asserts six different civil rights claims, including for violations of the First and Fourth Amendments, against the City of Atlanta and individual defendants with the Atlanta Police Department (APD), the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Natural Resources, among other agencies. The complaint alleges that “defendants were recklessly and callously indifferent to [Marsicano’s] federally protected rights.”

Marsicano, who alternatively uses she/her and they/them pronouns, was arrested on March 5, 2023, during a multi-agency police raid of a music festival in Atlanta’s South River Forest, or the Weelaunee Forest by its Mvskoke name. Marsicano and 22 others arrested that night were charged with domestic terrorism and later with violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) in a sweeping indictment that resulted in racketeering charges against 61 people alleged to be part of the Stop Cop City protest movement.

The complaint alleges that APD Chief Schierbaum created a policy of pursuing “pretextual criminal charges against ‘Stop Cop City’ protesters.” The policy has resulted in “an express instruction” that officers with APD and other agencies arrest and charge Cop City protesters, “particularly if they are close or present at the Weelaunee Forest,” according to the complaint.

The Atlanta Police Department did not respond to a request for comment.

Marsicano’s arrest and charges were “not based on sufficient facts,” de Janon said.

The complaint uses the term “the Stop Cop City policy” to refer to the “inter-agency policy [of] swiftly arrest[ing] and pursu[ing] pretextual criminal charges against ‘Stop Cop City’ protesters, that is, a person who is perceived to oppose Cop City and publicly express this political opinion in a protest.”

A report by the Brennan Center for Justice analyzed 2,365 pages of APD emails and intelligence reports. The Brennan Center found that APD monitored 155 community events between 2021 and 2024, 111 of which were allegedly related to the Stop Cop City movement and ranged “from community gatherings and pizza parties to public rallies and calls for action.”

“From a legal side,” de Janon said, “law enforcement looks at these events with the preparation of responding. Otherwise, why surveil it? That’s part of this Stop Cop City policy.”

The complaint alleges the Stop Cop City policy resulted in so many arrests between 2021 and 2024—including those of journalists—and was so pervasive that it amounted “to a custom and practice.” Those allegedly pretextual arrests have led to over a dozen civil lawsuits against the department. De Janon noted that the policy also resulted in the death of Manuel “Tortuguita” Paez Terán.

“Every case that involves Atlanta police’s behavior is traceable to Tortuguita,” de Janon said. “It’s not like that was an outlier or Jamie’s case is an outlier. These are all part of the same story.”

Harm and Remedy

Since their arrest, Marsicano has had difficulty finding work and housing.

“Anytime Jamie applies for an apartment, they run a background check and it shows pending domestic terrorism and RICO charges,” de Janon said. “Many jobs won’t hire you if you have a pending DWI; they definitely won’t hire you if you have a pending domestic terrorism charge out of Georgia.”

At the time of her arrest, Marsicano was a law student at the University of North Carolina. The university banned her from campus, forcing Marsicano to complete her law degree through a combination of remote classes at UNC and courses at other nearby universities. She recently took the North Carolina bar exam. If she passes it, she will still face difficulty obtaining a license to practice law, due to their pending criminal charges.

Beyond that, de Janon said, Marsicano has faced significant doxing.

“Many of [Marsicano’s co-defendants] face doxing,” de Janon said, “but especially because of Jamie’s gender identity, she’s suffered a lot of it. That’s really just destroyed her mental health.”

The lawsuit seeks monetary damages for the harm Marsicano faced as well as punitive damages against the individual officers. De Janon does not anticipate the lawsuit moving forward until after the criminal charges against Marsicano are resolved.

2 Mar - Packed Courtroom As 12 Defendants Face Court For MVP Resistance

Report on court appearance by community members targeted for resisting the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) in Appalachia.

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On Tuesday, Feb 25 in Giles County General District Court, 11 out of 12 defendants accepted non-cooperating plea deals for charges related to actions against the Mountain Valley Pipeline. These court proceedings related to three direct actions that occurred between October 2023 and March 2024 on Peters Mountain in and around the Jefferson National Forest, including where MVP was drilling through the mountain under the Appalachian Trail. The 11 defendants who accepted deals were all facing absurd felony charges, including felony abduction and felony “unauthorized use of a vehicle.” Throughout the day, all felonies were dropped or nolle prossed.

The plea agreements included probation and community service, but no jail time. Those who pushed to go to trial ultimately received more favorable deals from the Giles County prosecutor Bobby Lilly. One person’s charges were dropped in full on the condition of six months of good behavior.

One of the defendants who pushed for a better plea agreement said, “Today we proved that co-defendant solidarity works. We were able to see how different strategies against a stacked system play out. It is in the

courts best interest for us to take a deal out of fear of trial, but today we showed that they are just as afraid of an uncertain outcome and we can use that to our advantage when we work together. The people who went to trial, or pushed it to the brink, got objectively better outcomes than those who took deals ahead of time.”

Some agreements included paying restitution. Madeleine Fitch, an Appalachian mother, writer and activist who locked herself to an MVP drill that was boring under the Appalachian Trail, contested \$15,000 restitution in a hearing (this amount far exceeded restitution in other plea deals). The judge set a hearing about the matter over to April.

The day ended with the trial of a protester who stopped Mountain Valley Pipeline construction on Peters Mountain by suspending themselves in a pipe for 48 hours. They were found not guilty of 2 misdemeanors (obstruction and “conspiracy to interfere with the reputation of a business”) and guilty of 2 other misdemeanors (trespassing and “interfering with property rights of another”). They were sentenced to community service and probation.

The absurd felony charges issued by Giles County were part of an escalated wave of repression against people resisting the MVP. In the fall of 2023, Virginia police issued felony warrants for eight defendants from this case, and two others were re-arrested in court during arraignments when felony charges were added to their case- a highly irregular practice. More broadly, around 50 pipeline opponents are being sued by MVP in twelve separate lawsuits across multiple jurisdictions, including many of the defendants who had court Tuesday.

Despite MVP’s attempts to stifle resistance, people continued to fight the toxic project through its completion, and there remains sweeping opposition to the pipeline today.

One defendant said, “All of the solidarity today and outpouring of support truly made a difference and today gave me hope. The state may try to divide us but it will only bring us together...going through this whole case for well over a year has only cemented that no matter what happens I will never stop fighting. People will never stop fighting.”

On Tuesday, from 8:30 am-4:00 pm the Giles County courtroom was full to capacity with people in support of the defendants.

One local Giles County supporter, Carolyn Givens, whose land was taken by MVP through eminent domain said, “I have enormous admiration for every person who has had the courage to step up to the plate and publicly demonstrate for what we all know, and that is that the Mountain Valley Pipeline is dead wrong, on so many counts...Thank you to those who have taken public action to stop MVP’s work, at a price to themselves, but to benefit the earth and its inhabitants. You are brave and you are in the right.”

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a 303-mile-long fracked gas pipeline tearing through West Virginia and Virginia, crossing delicate mountain ecosystems, karst terrain, and over 1000 streams and waterways. A series of direct actions and legal challenges helped delay completion of the pipeline for over 5 years, until congress and the Biden administration fast tracked the pipeline as a concession to Joe Manchin in the summer of 2023. The pipeline was finished in June of 2024, more than 6 years past its original projected completion. It is more than \$6 billion over budget (well over double its original budget).

3 Mar - Sindre Is Free!

Sweden: At the end of February, we received the wonderful news that Sindre has been released.

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via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

We congratulate Sindre on the release! We hope that he and his loved ones, as well as his best friend, a pit bull mix named Kenzo, now can spend more time together.

Sindre is an animal rights activist from Sweden. In October 2023, Sindre was sentenced to forensic psychiatric compulsory care, for an indefinite period. (Sindre was also sentenced to pay SEK 10,000 in damages) The verdict refers to prosecution for actions in 2021, against the former fur farmer Niklas Pettersson (the fur farm is now closed, due to years of action). Sindre denies the alleged crime! Sindre was detained immediately after the trial, and then locked up, without an end date. Now he is finally free!

If Sindre had not been sentenced to forensic psychiatric care, his prison sentence would have been four months. Instead, he was locked up in forensic psychiatric care, for almost a year and a half.

March 10th - A Talk with Sindre

Last week we were glad to inform you about that Sindre, an animal right activist from so called Sweden, has been released from the closed psychiatric ward.

Since last week we had the opportunity to talk to Sindre, where he among other things spoke about his time incarcerated, what he thinks can help prisoners, and what he wants to do in the future.

UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL (UA): Congratulations on your release! When were you released?

Sindre (S): “Thanks, on the 25th February I got the final notice that I’ve been transferred to the open psychiatric care.”

UA: How are you?

S: “I am good and very happy to have gotten rid of the closed psychiatric wards.”

UA: How has the time been since we last spoke? What have you done, what has happened?

S: “It’s been better & better since I’ve gotten more and more time to stay at home with my family and my animal companions. I’ve read a lot of books and taken a lot of long walks with my best dog friend when I’ve been at home.”

UA: Last time we spoke you told us you have been getting to visit/sleep at home, outside of the closed psychiatric ward. Where you allowed to do so the whole time?

S: “I have been allowed to stay more and more at home until the recent months where I finally have been able to only visit the hospital for a few hours a week to pick up medication with the doctors approval.”

UA: What can you tell us more about your time in prison?

S: “My time incarcerated has been hard. But compared to other inmates I’ve had it easier since I was released after little more than one year while many others have been locked up for much longer before getting free.”

UA: What helped you specifically get through this/your prison time. And what do you think people can do to support others incarcerated?

S: “The biggest part was definitely the support from my family and comrades. Both the ones I know and all the kind people who I don’t know that sent me letters, drawings, and postcards while incarcerated. Also, the fact that I knew taking action against animal abusers is the right thing to do helped in getting me through this period. The best way of helping incarcerated people in my opinion is to let them know that they never

are alone, to support them with contact because prisons & institutions are often very isolating and they try to tell you that you're the one who done wrong while in reality the system is in the wrong."

UA: Have you missed anything during your time in prison?

S: "I've had amazing support and can't say I missed much at all except my freedom."

UA: What do you want to do now?

S: "Now I want to continue fighting for animal liberation in every way I can since my commitment to it remains the same. I also want to enjoy spending lots of time with my animal friends, family & comrades."

UA: Is there anything else you want to say?

S: "No I think it's good."

3 Mar - Leonard Peltier, Finally at Home.

At 80 years old, Leonard has finally arrived home following one of the last presidential orders Joe Biden would sign before leaving office.

MORE:

via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

He was accused of the murder of two FBI agents in Pine Ridge, during an armed altercation that also saw a member of the American Indian Movement dead back in 1975. Since the beginning of his imprisonment, he has maintained his innocence, and multiple groups have shown that the FBI had no evidence that Peltier was the shooter that made contact with those two FBI agents.

Joe Biden did not pardon Peltier. He signed an allowance to serve the rest of his life sentence in house arrest, so Peltier now is confined to his house and immediate community. Nevertheless, this means he has access to the people around him without the oppressive eyes of the prison system, and it also means he now can access medical care he so immediately needs. When being asked why he wouldn't plead guilty and remorse in front of parole boards in an attempt to gain his freedom sooner, he says "Well, that's just not what I'm fighting for, grandson," "I'm sorry for what happened to those agents, but I'm not going to sit here and admit to something I didn't do. And if I have to die in here for that, I'm going to."

Now, back in North Dakota, he says sometimes he still wakes up terrified that it was all a dream and he is still in a cell, but he feels positive about young natives still keeping up the fight. "It makes me feel so good, man, it does," "I'm thinking, well, I didn't give my life for nothing."

Welcome back home, Leonard. We all keep fighting.

March 15th - Leonard Peltier Medical Fundraiser

Leonard Peltier has endured 50 years of medical neglect. He has asked us to raise funds to ensure he receives the medical care necessary for many healthy years ahead. Medicare does not cover everything. We are also seeking a German Shepherd service dog for Leonard. Donate: tiny.cc/LeonardMedical

4 Mar - Support Priscilla: A Birthday Gift to Keep Her Safe & Housed

Local anti-Cop City defendant Priscilla Grim has a birthday coming up and could use the gift of support as she fights the charges against her.

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For her birthday, let's help Priscilla raise \$1,475 to cover her rent. A safe home is the foundation of any fight for justice, and this immediate support will ensure she can focus on her work instead of financial survival.

The fight against Cop City is the fight against state repression, environmental destruction, and the criminalization of dissent. Right now, Priscilla, dedicated to movements birthing a better future for all of us and standing on the frontlines of this struggle, faces a weaponized court system that seeks to silence those who dare to resist.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please send a message to team@priscillacgrim.com, and we will put you in touch with the organization now fiscally sponsoring Priscilla (but we need a bit more time to set up the giving portal).

As one of the Stop Cop City RICO defendants, charged in a sweeping, baseless attempt by the Georgia Attorney General to criminalize protest and suppress public opposition to a militarized police training facility, these charges are an attack on all who believe in a just, open, and free society.

Through this ordeal, Priscilla has endured immense financial hardship. The relentless legal battle, combined with blacklisting from sustainable employment, has pushed her into a period of economic instability. But resilience runs deep in her bones. She is emerging from this crisis with exciting new opportunities, working to support both the investigative journalist Greg Palast and the visionary team of The Church of Stop Shopping with Savitri D and Reverend Billy. These positions will support her financially while allowing her to continue using her voice for truth and justice—but she needs our help to bridge the gap. If you cannot make a donation to her legal defense fund, please consider sharing this appeal with your networks.

The state wants to isolate and break those who resist its power. We won't let that happen. Priscilla has always shown up for her community—let's show up for her now and turn this birthday into an act of resistance.

5 Mar - Salem man charged in connection with vandalism cases at Tesla dealership

Please read the following corporate news article with a critical eye.

MORE:

by Matthew Nuttle (KATU)

A Salem man appeared in court on Wednesday facing charges in connection with vandalism at the Tesla dealership in Salem.

Adam Matthew Lansky is charged with illegally possessing an unregistered destructive device.

Two incidents occurred at the dealership, located at 2755 Mission St. SE. On Jan. 20, 2025, Salem Police officers were called out to a report of a person throwing Molotov cocktails at the dealership. Then on Feb. 19, police returned to the dealership after someone shot out windows at the business.

According to the US Attorney's Office in Oregon, surveillance footage helped link Lansky, 41, to both incidents.

That footage allegedly showed Lansky throwing Molotov cocktails that struck the dealership building and several vehicles, which then erupted in flames, investigators said.

Dashcam footage from a patrol car recorded a car parked near the dealership on the date that the business was shot up. Investigators later learned the car was registered to Lansky.

Officers arrested Lansky on Tuesday. He appeared in court on Wednesday where a judge ordered him to remain behind bars pending.

The case is being investigated by the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the Salem Police Department.

6 Mar - March Update For Jack

We just wanted to provide a brief update on where things are at with Jack and his case.

MORE:

First, some good news! Jack was recently given permission to leave Georgia for a week to spend time with his family in Florida. He was able to leave the Atlanta metro-area for the first time in over a year and was able to jump in the (freezing cold) ocean which brought him a lot of joy (see above :^)). He also just celebrated his birthday and was grateful to spend it with friends and family after spending his last one in Fulton County Jail.

Jack's case continues to move forward at a very slow pace. His last court date was on December 2nd. At this court date the state argued 8 motions to admit various things into trial. These included alleged reimbursements from the nonprofit entity at the center of the stop cop city RICO case for things like stickers and yard signs, photos of Jack from the city council meeting where funding for cop city was approved, and a video and article that the state alleges connect Jack to a New Year's Zapatista gathering in the mountains of Chiapas, Mexico. The prosecution believes these things prove that Jack is a leader of the movement. They did not, however, demonstrate how any of these things are related to the act he is being charged with. The Judge was skeptical of the state's narrative and told the prosecution that they should not expect anything related to the RICO case to be admitted. She said she would have to review the motions before issuing a verdict on them and that she would do so before the end of 2024. As of March 2025, she has not ruled on the motions and no next court date has been scheduled.

It has been over a year now since Jack was arrested in his home. He continues to have an ankle monitor and an 8pm curfew despite not being convicted of any crime. In the face of this state repression, Jack remains strong and grateful for all the support he has in his life.

We still need to raise the remaining funds required for Jack's legal defense, consider dropping him some coin for his birthday. Tabling materials and additional resources can be found here, please continue to uplift Jack and all Stop Cop City defendants!

6 Mar - The Hidden War Fueling New York's Prison Guard Strike

New York state prison guards have been on strike since February 17.

MORE:

by Orisanmi Burton (*Inquest*)

The strike began in part as a result of attempts by the state to prosecute the death of Robert Brooks, a forty-three-year-old Black father who was serving a twelve-year prison sentence at Marcy Correctional Facility when he was fatally beaten by guards on December 9, 2024. (He passed away at a nearby hospital the following day.) Guards have also complained of out-of-control facilities, understaffing, and new regulations curtailing the use of solitary confinement. During the strike, the New York National Guard has been temporarily acting as guards at many of the unstaffed facilities.

On February 28, the administration of New York governor Kathy Hochul reached a temporary agreement with the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) to end the illegal action. The agreement stipulated that guards who returned to work by March 1 would not face penalties for violating the state's Taylor Law, which prohibits public employees from going on strike. It also offered other concessions related to the guards' working conditions and overtime pay. But the deadline

has come and gone and many of the guards have refused to return to work. On March 2, Daniel Martuscello, acting commissioner of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), began sending out letters informing guards that they were being fired for "unauthorized absences."

Meanwhile, incarcerated people and their families are bearing the brunt of this crisis. The guard strike has interrupted critical services—such as the provision of food and medication delivery—as well as the delivery of mail, family visitations, educational programming, and counseling services. It has also meant that most of the population has been locked in their cells twenty-four hours a day for weeks. "The guards who walked off their jobs to engage in an illegal work stoppage are leaving people to die and the tragedies are mounting," said Jose Saldaña, executive director of advocacy nonprofit Release Aging People in Prison.

For some, the strike has indeed been deadly. This week the *New York Times* reported that, as of Tuesday, the strike has been linked to the deaths of at least seven incarcerated people. On February 22, sixty-one-year-old Jonathon Grant was found dead in his cell in Auburn Correctional Facility after pleading for medical attention to no avail. On February 24, forty-year-old Jeffrey Bair died in Auburn after complaining of chest pains. On February 26 at Sing Sing, Anthony Douglas was found hanging in his cell, and hours later Franklyn Dominguez was found unresponsive in his cell and died soon after. On March 2, twenty-two-year-old Messiah Nantwi was reportedly beaten by guards in Mid-State Correctional Facility, across the street from Marcy. We do not yet know the names and details of the remaining two deaths reported by the *New York Times*. The guard strike has clearly accelerated the death-dealing function of prisons.

In my recent book *Tip of the Spear: Black Radicalism, Prison Repression, and the Long Attica Revolt*, I argue that prisons in the United States should be understood as institutions of low-intensity warfare that masquerade as apolitical instruments of crime control. Although it focuses on the 1970s, the book offers war as a framework for understanding how and why today's prisons function as they do.

In what follows, I recount key aspects of this multifaceted crisis that has unfolded across the New York state prison system over the past three months and demonstrate that seemingly inscrutable aspects of the guards' demands make sense when the prison is understood in its proper context as warfare.

Someone dies inside a New York state prison every three days, and in most of these cases the general public never hears about it. Given this reality, Robert Brooks's death could have easily received no public attention. But in the days after his passing, incarcerated people and their loved ones—amplified by groups such as Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP), the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), and the Correctional Association of New York (CANY), among others—called for an investigation into reports that prison guards at Marcy Correctional Facility had beaten Brooks to death.

On December 27, 2024, under mounting pressure, New York attorney general Letitia James released body camera footage depicting multiple white guards savagely beating and kicking a handcuffed and shackled Brooks, while medical staff and other guards stood by. The assailants did not intend for this graphic footage to be recorded by their body cameras, which none of them had activated at the time of the incident. Rather, the video was recovered using a little known "video recall" feature, which allows administrators to access archived footage, even when recording has not been manually switched on via a button press. Impossible to dismiss, justify, or spin, the video of what advocacy groups call a "lynching" circulated widely on social media and the press, where it was held up as proof of endemic brutality. In early February, news outlets began reporting that the Onondaga County Medical Examiner had ruled Brook's death a homicide, resulting from "compression to the neck and blunt trauma to the body," confirming that Brooks was indeed killed by agents of the state.

On December 22, five days before the video's release, Governor Hochul attempted to head off the mounting controversy by ordering the immediate termination of thirteen guards and a prison nurse. Then on February 14, a grand jury charged six guards with murder and other crimes; four others were charged with manslaughter and evidence tampering. "This reprehensible act of violence demands the full force of our

justice system—the family of Mr. Brooks deserves no further delays," Governor Hochul said in a statement. These swift moves are exceptional given how rarely guards are held accountable for abusive behavior.

Two days earlier, however, on February 12, another event took place in a New York prison that would come to play a defining role in prison guards' attempt to regain control of the public narrative. On that day, a minor prison uprising erupted at Collins Correctional Facility. Initial reports indicated that the event developed after guards forcibly confiscated a contraband cell phone. What ensued was a "chaotic" scene in which guards were reportedly forced to retreat, leaving incarcerated people in control of three dormitories for several hours.

Five days after the uprising in Collins, guards in that prison and at another in distant Elmira inaugurated the strike. The illegal action quickly spread to nearly all of New York's forty-two prisons, where guards refused to report to work and instead set up encampments outside the facilities. Amid the protests, which intensified over several days, a DOCCS bus was set on fire and another was spray-painted with the words, "Can you hear us now." Acting Commissioner Martuscello placed most of the state's prisons on lockdown, while Governor Hochul activated the National Guard to staff the prisons.

On February 20, eight days after the Collins uprising and with the strike underway, another uprising took place at Riverview Correctional Facility. At midnight, according to WNYTV 7 News, "prison staff decided conditions were unsafe and pulled staff back into a visitors area," then to an "administrative area . . . where they felt safe." Incarcerated people reportedly controlled the prison's ten dormitories until about 7 a.m. At both Collins and Riverview, military-style correctional emergency response teams (CERTs) were called in to reestablish state control—"including several [correctional officers] who stepped off the picket line," in the case of the Riverview uprising.

How are we to make sense of this chaotic series of events?

In *Policing the Crisis* (1978), cultural theorist Stuart Hall and his coauthors demonstrate how mainstream media relies on agents of the state to be the "primary definers" of any given situation. Think of the press conference after any major crime: police and other civic authorities make statements that become the official narrative about what has happened. By contrast, incarcerated people, their loved ones, and advocates constantly struggle to have their voices and perspective heard and taken seriously. This asymmetrical struggle to define the truth and narrate history is what I call narrative war, and it has important consequences for what we think we know about prisons and political struggle.

For example, there is reason to believe that prison guards attempted to leverage this narrative asymmetry to actively deceive the public. An ongoing investigation by New York State Police has, among other things, raised questions about the extent to which guards who claimed they were forced to retreat from the dorms in Collins were legitimately in danger of harm.

In fact, this is not the first time New York prison guards have been suspected of creating untenable conditions with the intent of inciting a riot, which they could then leverage in collective bargaining negotiations. Back in 1970, imprisoned Black Panther Ricardo De Leon wrote a letter to the Black Panther newspaper describing a similar scheme in the lead up to a massive rebellion in the New York City jail system.

We found out about the campaign the correction pigs have to increase their manpower and their appropriations. To do this they instituted the slowdown and harassment programs with the purpose of provoking an incident, so that they could use their goons on us and call it a 'prison riot'; in other words, no matter what we did, the pigs would achieve their objectives and our conditions would remain the same. The demands of the pigs for more pigs, more jails and more money for them are in contradiction to our needs and interests.

But Governor Hochul's narrative is no less fraudulent, albeit in a different fashion, for its attempt to promulgate the notion that Brooks's killing is exceptional and his killers simply bad apples. Nothing could be further from the truth. Prisons in the United States are saturated with white supremacist ideology and anti-Black violence. As such, they can be accurately framed as sites of normalized race war.

Formerly incarcerated journalist JB Nicholas has reported in the *Freelance* that, back in 2022, an incarcerated man named William Alvarez testified under oath that Glenn Trombly and Anthony Farina, both now under indictment for Brooks's killing, were part of Marcy Correctional Facility's "beat-up squad" and are well-known for terrorizing incarcerated people with impunity. At roughly the same time that Alvarez was testifying, a prison watchdog agency released a report citing accusations by incarcerated people that Marcy Correctional Facility was beset with "rampant abuse by staff," including "physical assaults," a "retaliatory environment," and "a significant number of instances of racialized abuse and discrimination." Early last year, attorneys filed a lawsuit on behalf of two people incarcerated in Great Meadow Correctional Facility, who were allegedly waterboarded and, along with dozens of others captives, systematically beaten, reportedly while representatives of DOCCS's internal investigations unit—headed by Chris Martuscello, the prison commissioner's brother—watched these abuses occur.

This normalized race war is also a gender war, as racial violence is often enacted in intensely sexualized ways. Late last year, Governor Hochul attempted to contain the intensifying public relations crisis at Marcy by replacing the prison's beleaguered warden, Danielle Medbury, with NY DOCCS veteran Bennie Thorpe. But shortly thereafter it was revealed that Thorpe has two pending court cases in which he is accused of raping women while they were incarcerated in Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Sexual violence against people of all genders and sexualities is endemic to prisons; in half of reported instances, the alleged perpetrators are guards.

It is crucial to recognize that these nominally illegitimate and illegal acts of carceral violence—assault, harassment, murder, rape—have analogues that are seen as entirely legitimate and legal. For example, Columbia University's Center for Justice refers to New York's "new death penalty" to draw attention to the growing number of people who die in prison, often in unspectacular ways. Similarly, strip frisks and body cavity searches are entirely normal aspects of incarceration, despite being recognized as institutionalized forms of sexual assault.

Consider that one of the primary demands of the striking guards—which the state appears poised to grant them—is that New York cease enforcing the Human Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act, otherwise known as the HALT Act. Passed into law in 2022 as the result of a protracted grassroots campaign, the act limits the length of time incarcerated people can be subjected to solitary confinement and prohibits using the practice against people who are pregnant, disabled, under the age of twenty-one, or over the age of fifty-five. It also provided incarcerated people with a process for contesting their isolation. Multiple pending lawsuits reveal that the HALT Act was not being effectively enforced before it was temporarily suspended as a result of the strike. Nonetheless, the HALT Act has shifted the balance of power within the prison system and the strike is the latest move in a protracted effort by prison guards to "eliminate" the law.

In *Tip of the Spear*, I show how the massive proliferation of prison-based solitary confinement was part of New York's counterinsurgency response to the historic 1971 rebellion in Attica and to anti-carceral Black radicalism more broadly. Widely recognized as a form of torture that produces lasting psychological and physical disability, solitary confinement is asymmetrically weaponized against Black and Latinx people, those with a high level of political consciousness, and those who refuse to submit to state authority. As an extreme example of the harm these wartime conditions produce, twelve people held at Virginia's Red Onion supermax prison recently set themselves on fire, largely in protest of the prison's use of solitary confinement and to expose what they describe as a culture of racial violence.

About their experience working in the New York State prison system during the guard strike, one of the National Guardsmen said the following: "Each prison is different but across the board it's just terrible. We

all agree that Afghanistan was better than the conditions in these prisons." Perpetuating the dominant narrative, the press seized upon the soldier's apt comparison to affirm the guards' demands for improved working conditions: wage increases, staff increases, more overtime.

But what the reporting left out is that more than 30,000 incarcerated people—most of them Black and Latinx—are literally trapped within this same war zone. The fact that people incarcerated in prisons and people working in prisons—all trapped, though in different ways—universally find them deplorable should cause us to think seriously about what prisons are and what they do.

Prisons, in fact, do quite a lot, and how they work has everything to do with class warfare. On one side of the bars, prisons function as receptacles for society's outcasts—the racialized poor, the unemployed, the mentally ill, gender rebels, what Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels called the "relative surplus population." On the other side of the bars, they function as a jobs program for those tied to rural geographies, places that have been ravaged by what abolitionist geographer Ruth Wilson Gilmore terms "organized abandonment."

The war-like working conditions of the guards is a testament to the fact that, within the broader structure of racial capitalism, their social position is not much higher than that of the incarcerated people over whom they exercise the power of life and death. They too are expendable. The state made this clear when, in response to the Attica rebellion, it sent in armed state and local police, mercilessly killing ten guards who had been taken hostage. "I don't have any memory of signing a paper where I was to expect that my employer might kill me or consider me disposable," said John Stockholm, a surviving guard who had been captured during the rebellion.

As I show in *Tip of the Spear*, prison construction exploded in the wake of the Attica rebellion. State actors justified this massive project by highlighting that it would improve two types of security. They claimed, on the one hand, that more prisons would provide the public and the guards with greater security from the criminalized and racialized poor. On the other hand, they maintained that more prisons would provide economic security for upstate New York's mostly white workforce as it struggled to make ends meet in a rapidly deindustrializing economy.

As this post-Attica carceral development strategy continued into the 1980s and 1990s, prisons were transformed into an important wedge that encouraged white guard laborers to see their class mobility as necessarily tied to the criminalization and subjugation of the racialized poor. It mystified the ongoing class war between labor and capital and naturalized the white supremacist race war. This partly explains why the guards remain unable to forge political solidarity by linking their abysmal working conditions with incarcerated people's abysmal living conditions. This lack of solidarity (lack even of public recognition that solidarity might be possible), is consistent with the long history of how carceral "fraternal organizations" function as a reactionary political force against progressive and working-class movements, including organized labor.

By thinking about the prison as war, we disabuse ourselves of the misconception that the prison system is broken and needs fixing. Rather, the war analytic helps us conceptualize carceral institutions as engines of disinformation, white supremacy, violence, and class antagonism, processes that stabilize a social order structured by inequality and exploitation. The framework of war also helps us orient our response. The contradictions of the New York guard strike reveal that prisons are not only instruments for controlling those locked inside cages; they also control those guarding the cages. The prison has incarcerated the guard's imagination such that the only way they can envision themselves moving up is by stepping on someone else's neck.

7 Mar - Anarchist Black Cross Moscow launches a Telegram channel

Russia: Anarchist Black Cross Moscow has been helping imprisoned anarchists, anti-fascists and their allies since 2003.

MORE:

Now we are facing a level of repression against members and participants of the anarchist and anti-fascist movements unprecedented in Russia's recent history. We can oppose the repression they want to shut our mouths with by standing in solidarity with our imprisoned comrades and comrades-in-arms.

You may join our channel at t.me/abc_moscow_en

In this new channel we will highlight the repression of anti-authoritarians and how we can support our comrades and comrades in captivity.

The most basic form of support is to write to our comrades. We publish lists of addresses of political prisoners so that any sympathizer can correspond with them. Note that as a rule, letters should be written in Russian — you may use online translation tools for that. In addition, we have a fund from which we allocate funds for material support and legal defense; the fund also finances the sending of literature to prisoners.

We not only respond to the most blatant attacks on our freedom, but also disseminate our views on what should be an alternative to the police-prison system. We try to pre-emptively counter repression by spreading information about proper behavior during arrest, interrogation and other similar situations.

11 May - Then They Came for the Palestinians

How to Respond to the Kidnapping of Mahmoud Khalil

MORE:

via *Crimethinc*.

On March 8, Department of Homeland Security agents kidnapped Mahmoud Khalil, a Palestinian organizer and graduate student at Columbia University who had permanent residency in the United States. Donald Trump's State Department arbitrarily revoked his residency. They are holding Khalil in Louisiana, over a thousand miles from his home.

This is part of Donald Trump's promised crackdown on Palestine solidarity activism at Columbia University and other schools around the country. Above all, however, it is a test, and how we respond will determine what happens to the rest of us later—as Martin Niemöller described in his well-known poem.

Here, we will explore the stakes of this moment and share experience from anarchists whose comrade was similarly kidnapped for participating in the Occupy ICE movement in San Antonio, Texas in 2018.

The Antisemitic Plan to Smear Palestine Solidarity as Antisemitic

The Trump regime has promised to deport millions of undocumented people, and their efforts are already underway. The kidnapping of Mahmoud Khalil is something different. Khalil is a permanent resident of the United States who is being targeted for political reasons. Trump is seeking to set an additional precedent in order to open a new front in his campaign to purge the United States of dissidents.

This is the culmination of two years of planning. In April 2023, the billionaire-backed Heritage Foundation published Project 2025, a playbook to overhaul the federal government of the United States in order to consolidate autocratic power in the hands of Donald Trump. Although Trump temporarily distanced himself from Project 2025 during his campaign, it proved to be a solid predictor of his game plan once in office.

In October 2024, the Heritage Foundation followed up Project 2025 with Project Esther, a playbook for repressing those who oppose the genocide of Palestinians. In the text of their report, the Heritage Foundation depicts all concern for Palestinians as participation in “a global Hamas Support Network” and

explicitly accuses Jewish Voice for Peace and many other Jewish people of being “antisemitic” for refusing to support Zionism. At the same time, the report relies heavily on anti-Semitic tropes such as fearmongering about George Soros. This exemplifies the way that the far right has sought to appropriate concerns about antisemitism to promote racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitic conspiracy theories.

The chief source of Trump’s appeal is that he has been able to channel the considerable anger of the downwardly mobile away from those who hold power and towards scapegoats, creating a pressure valve for a wide range of resentments. But in order to scapegoat people without consequences, it is necessary to undermine their social ties, to prevent others from identifying with them, to carve up society into isolated and mutually hostile factions.

Reducing all empathy for Palestinians to support for Hamas is a discursive maneuver intended to frame all who speak out against genocide as legitimate targets for Trump’s government. In addition to demonizing Palestinians, Project Esther lays the groundwork to attack Jewish people as “antisemites” if they don’t get on board with Christian Nationalist priorities. This strategy weaponizes an existing rift that cuts through the Democratic Party—the question of whether Palestinians deserve to be treated as human beings—in order to create the conditions for a fascist takeover of the United States as well as further colonial violence abroad. The ones who stand to gain the most from this strategy are not Zionist Jews, but authoritarian Gentiles.

In view of the significance of Project 2025, we should not underestimate how central Project Esther is to the Trump administration’s strategy. This will help us to understand the kidnapping of Mahmoud Khalil.

The core of Trump policy is performative violence. That is why they have kidnapped an activist who has never been charged with a crime, whose wife—an American citizen—is eight months pregnant, who has a legal right to reside in the United States according to all established precedents. That is why they intentionally targeted a negotiator, the same way that the Israeli government routinely murders negotiators in Palestine. The point is to be shocking, to terrorize, to show that they can do things in public that the Biden administration had to do secretly.

Everyone who has excused or minimized the genocide of Palestinians—for example, by spending at least as much time talking about the 1139 Israelis killed on October 7, 2023 as they do addressing the tens of thousands of Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian people slaughtered since then—must understand that today, supporting Israel means supporting Trump’s brand of fascism. The escalating violence of the Israeli colonial project helped create the conditions for Trump’s return; now that he is back in office, excusing Israeli colonialism can only facilitate Trump’s own consolidation of power. As we argued on the night of the 2024 election,

The Biden administration has already done much of the work to desensitize the general public to the program that an emboldened second Trump administration will attempt to carry out—above all, by supporting the Israeli military in carrying out a brutal genocide in Gaza. In so doing, Biden and Harris have accustomed millions of people to the idea that human life has no inherent value—that it is acceptable to slaughter, imprison, and torment people based on their status in a targeted demographic.

You either embrace the struggle for the liberation of Palestine or you become an accomplice in the rise of fascism. This was always true, but today there is no possible excuse not to recognize it.

Even if your sole concern is fighting antisemitism and you do not care what happens to people of any other ethnicity, you pave the way for antisemites to gain power by standing aside as Palestinians are kidnapped. Like Palestinians, Jewish people are on the hit list of potential scapegoats, and what befalls one scapegoat will eventually befall another.

If there are no serious consequences for the kidnapping of Mahmoud Khalil, then soon enough, the Trump administration will push the envelope, moving on to kidnap other activists who obstruct the far-right agenda. Likewise, the Israeli genocide of Palestinians is a template for bloodshed that will be used again

and again as long as there are no significant consequences. If politicians like Trump retain their sway by inflicting violence, they will have to continuously expand the range of people they target and the intensity of that violence, just as the Nazis did between 1933 and 1945.

What Will It Take?

For now, a judge has ordered a temporary delay in the expulsion of Mahmoud Khalil from the United States. But this should reassure no one. If we count on judges to restrain Trump, we will have no recourse when Trump's administration simply ignores the laws, and no plan when he manages to replace them with loyal flunkies—or has his flunkies replace the laws themselves.

On March 10, demonstrators gathered in New York City for a protest that took the streets, resulting at one point in tussles with police. On March 11 and 12, further protests will ensue in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, and elsewhere.

But the point of these protests must not be to petition the authorities. Donald Trump is not a well-meaning public servant looking to represent his constituents. He is a power-hungry sadist who benefits from our displays of grief and impotent rage. Politics in the United States today is a question of relations of raw force. When we take the streets, we are not addressing Trump or his ghoulish underlings; we are addressing each other. We are setting out to demonstrate that resistance is possible, that there are tactics that can exert concrete leverage against our oppressors, that there are enough people invested in solidarity that it can become a social force capable of compelling Trump and his lackeys to stand down.

At the March 10 demonstration in New York, participants handed out fliers to this effect:

Fascist politicians need the police. But we know masses of people can get the better of the police, their cars, equipment, cameras. All we have to do is to start acting like our friends, neighbors, and our own lives are at stake. All other options have been exhausted. We have to pull down the new fascism before it consolidates control. If we settle for waving signs and chanting, our fate is sealed. If we remember the summer of 2020, we stand a fighting chance.

Learning from Experience

Mahmoud Khalil is not the first person in recent history to be targeted by ICE for political activism. To get more perspective, we reached out to anarchists in San Antonio whose comrade was kidnapped during the Occupy ICE movement in 2018.

This isn't the first time that something like this has happened. In 2018, ICE targeted a filmmaker and student for their participation in the Occupy ICE camp in San Antonio. They were targeted as a consequence of their activism; the authorities used their political beliefs and tweets as evidence against them.

Both our movement and the campaign to free our friend were held back by our decision to defer to the lawyers. The lawyers wanted to run a PR campaign based on respectability politics and innocence narratives, erasing our radical politics from the conversation. As time went on, the lawyers related with hostility and suspicion towards some participants in the movement.

Deferring to the lawyers and separating the legal support from the movement itself was detrimental to both. We gave up many tools that we could have used to fight; this contributed to fragmenting our movement. There was no rally, no day of action, no unrest, no political scandal. Not even a phone zap!

In 2018, we were aware of the example of the Northwest Detention Center resistance, at which ICE detained the activist Maru Villaplanado. Maru Villaplanado was ultimately released and granted legal status due to a campaign of pressure and mobilization. Unfortunately, this knowledge did not lead us to take the kind of action that could have made a difference for our friend.

Many of us were young and inexperienced. We did not know better than to trust the lawyers. We didn't know how to draw on the experience of other movements before us or around the country. Since then, we have learned that lawyers

should have a very limited influence on our movements. They should focus on their work in the courts. We must prioritize organizing a strong political response, as that is the only real source of power and pressure that we can draw upon outside the legal system.

There is no silver bullet or magic combination of tactics that would be guaranteed to stop Mahmoud's deportation. However, if we limit ourselves to depending upon a legal system that has no regard for the humanity of its captives while the state targets an activist on explicitly political grounds, we will fail while simultaneously sabotaging ourselves. We wonder how differently things might have gone if we had called for national days of action. We wonder if there was some chance that we could have stopped them from deporting our friend. We don't know the answer because we didn't try.

To have any chance of saving Mahmoud Khalil or any of the millions of immigrants in the crosshairs of the white supremacist state, we will need movements that are resilient, that grow in numbers and combativeness. Palestinian, immigrant, Black, Indigenous, and working-class organization and action must create a political crisis that interrupts the deportation machine. If we lead with an organized political response, we will have a better chance of stopping the deportation of Mahmoud and our other comrades and of interrupting the entire system it relies on. I hope that everyone who is confronting this tragedy today can learn something from our experience and put those lessons into practice.

This is not the first time this has happened. If our enemies have their way, it won't be the last. It is up to us to organize in defense of our friends, families, and neighbors.

-Some Cicadas from Abolish ICE, San Antonio, Texas

We Are Made for Each Other

Let us conclude by expressing gratitude for the courage of Mahmoud Khalil and others who have risked their own freedom in order to express solidarity with other people. In doing so, they show us what is best in humanity—and that gives us a reason to fight for ourselves and each other. Khalil has already distinguished himself in the fight to create a world without ethnic cleansing or genocide. It remains for us to do the same in return.

For everyone who has met Mahmoud, they can attest to his incredible character, humbleness, selflessness, and his love for helping others. He is always willing to stand up for the oppressed. He is funny, kind, and sometimes a little messy. He constantly puts his needs last when it comes to helping others. I always tell him that sometimes he needs to put himself first. He always responds with, "People are made for each other, and you should always be willing to lend a helping hand."

-Mahmoud Khalil's wife (identified thus, rather than by name, in the original source)

12 Mar - Seventeen arrests in NYC during protest in support of nuclear ban treaty

On March 5, 17 people were arrested in New York City at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations during a protest in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

MORE:

by Hideko Otake (*The Nuclear Resister*)

Participants asked for a meeting with the interim U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. and were refused. Others blocked First Avenue with a giant banner reading "U.S. Join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

March 5th was the 55th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which legally binds the U.S. to complete nuclear disarmament at an early date. It was also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Christian penitential season of Lent. Another banner held by protesters read, "Nuclear War Means the World in Ashes." Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico and author of the only Catholic pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament, distributed ashes prior to the protest.

From March 3-7, the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons took place at the U.N. “Half of the world’s countries have either ratified or signed the treaty and the U.S. won’t send anyone across the street to observe what is happening with the only treaty negotiated to facilitate global, verifiable nuclear disarmament,” said Kelly Lundeen of Nukewatch. “The U.S. is the key to nuclear disarmament and must sign the treaty and organize the other nuclear armed states to join.”

The protest was organized by the Atlantic Life Community (including many members of the Catholic Worker movement), War Resisters League, Nukewatch and Veterans For Peace. Those arrested were charged with disorderly conduct, and have court dates on March 24 and 25.

12 Mar - Update on Anarchist Comrade Francisco Solar

Chile: Francisco has been in Maximum Security units for almost 5 years, since he was arrested in 2020 after being accused of attacks against repressors and the powerful.

MORE:

via Act for Freedom Now!

Once he was convicted, the regime of isolation became even tougher, keeping him in strict isolation for the past 6 months with restricted visits, 21 hours of lockup without TV or radio.

In March the administrative authorities will resolve the matter of whether or not the comrade will remain in isolation. We call on everyone to remain alert for the coming updates. Faced with the hardening of the carceral regime: Solidarity and action!

14 Mar - Update on Anarchist Comrades Aldo and Lucas Hernández

Chile: It’s been more than two years since that 22nd of December in 2022, the day of various raids orchestrated by the Metropolitana Sur High Complexity Prosecutor.

MORE:

via Act for freedom now!

Six households were raided, five of these in the Metropolitan Region and one in the Valparaíso Region, all registered by police groups OS9, GOPE and LABOCAR, resulting in six arrests, four of which led to pre-trial prison. Two of these were brothers and comrades Aldo and Lucas Hernández, who throughout the following months remained under investigation for the explosive attack on the National Police Headquarters of Chile. Aldo is accused of having placed the device, as well as facing violations of the Arms Control Law, and Lucas is also accused of various violations of the arms and explosives control Law.

Months later, the comrades were asked to attend a hearing to be re-formalized, and both were charged with the manufacture of weapons and explosive devices for various items found in the home raided in Pedro Aguirre Cerda.

In this process we have seen how the prosecution has used trickery and dirty games to attempt to harm and intimidate those surrounding the accused with imprisonment, seeking information and even denunciations in order to complete the investigation and to be able to prove their accusations. The result of the harassment has been negative, since all the detainees after the raids have remained dignified and trustworthy faced with the mediocre attempts of the Prosecutor Claudio Orellana, demonstrating complicity and loyalty to the principles of anti-authoritarian comradeship in practice.

Across the months, the comrades have lived various and different realities of prison, since from the beginning they were separated, trying to break their family ties, depriving them from having contact and sharing the same physical space for more than two years.

Now the comrades await the preparation audience of the oral trial, which has already been postponed on two occasions for legal reasons. After awaiting trial for over two years, the comrades remain unable to reunite for reasons of security, violating their rights of conserving the family ties that bind them.

In this trial, they risk being given exemplary sentences; for Aldo the prosecution requests a 90-year sentence and for Lucas a 26-year sentence. We call these exemplary because this excessive quantity of years only aims to intimidate the environment and those who decide to return blow with blow without turning the other cheek, nor awaiting illusive and idealized opportune moments to go for our enemies. The comrades maintain intact their integrity and impetus to continue contributing to strengthening the anarchic path outside and within prison. They cling fiercely to their ideas and values, bringing along various comrades who have been deprived of their freedom just like they have, making their ideas a real threat for the range of nefarious conducts inside prison and practicing carceral solidarity, remaining strong against prison and its jailers within their own houses (prisons).

Power continues to deal blows; reprisals are part of the daily life/captivity of our brothers. The last update was Aldo's transfer to unit 2 of maximum security in "La Gonzalina" prison, on December 24 of last year, changing the carceral regime for him. Currently he is being kept with a schedule of 21 hours of lockup and 3 hours on the range, this added to restrictions such as the prohibition of electronic apparatuses (TV, kettle and radio). This transfer resulted from a raid carried out in unit 12 (unit in which Aldo was held for 2 years) on December 18 during which the personal information of the 16 national police wounded in the attack on the headquarters carried out on December 27, 2021 was found inside Aldo's cell. This information which was found contained in the respective investigative files of the case, was the motive for which the high authorities of La Gonzalina decided on his isolation.

Violentist practice is more valid than ever, and it is blood to pump the hearts of our brothers in prison. Each unerring action, propaganda gesture, reveals the vulnerability of a predatory system that sustains itself through a false security that's no more than a mask that can be burnt off, in reach of our hands full of conviction and courage.

Actions such as attacks with arms-bombs on institutions-police-machines that protect the interests of power and the rich are only one demonstration of this, so that the fear is felt by those who capture us, the bullets have names and addresses. May our energies be capable of creating what our imagination once thought, so that each idea in the minds of those who see the violentist struggle as possible overflows.

Fire and death to the spectator, the scavenger, the martyr and the vulture.

Freedom for all those who remain convinced, true and courageous against domination! Freedom for anarchist, subversive and mapuche prisoners! We dare to create the forbidden! Make ideas a real threat! Freedom for Aldo and Lucas Hernández!

15 Mar - Ghespe has been extradited

Italy: Ghespe (Salvatore Vespertino), arrested in Spain on the 15th of February and taken to the prison of Soto del Real, was extradited on the 4th of March, and is now in transit in Rebibbia prison in Rome.

MORE:

via Act for Freedom Now!

Soon we will give updates to continue writing to him.

GATHERING OUTSIDE THE PRISON OF SOLLICCIANO

Our comrade and friend Salvatore Vespertino (Ghespe, for those who love him) on February 15th in Spain, on the run for about two years following a very heavy sentence to 8 years related to related to the Panico

Operation of 2017 in Florence, accused of fabrication and carrying an explosive device for the attack on the fascist bookshop il Bargello.

22 Mar - House Is Liberation

WHAT: Fundraiser

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

WHERE: The Rep Music Cafe - 450 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: \$10-50, suggested donation

MORE:

A house music fundraiser for Kamau Sadiki, featuring K. Tea, Ali Coleman, Moonbabe3000, and Amber Brooks. DJs, dancing, vendors, food, and MORE!!!

26 Mar - But: Life Isn't Like That, Is It?

WHAT: Book Talk

WHEN: 7:00pm, Wednesday, March 26th

WHERE: The Word Is Change - 368 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

We are excited to welcome Boff Whalley, musician, author, and a founding member of the anarcho-punk band Chumbawamba and Commoners Choir, for a night of song and stories to celebrate the publication of *But: Life Isn't Like That, Is It?*

“These are stories about real lives and real people—stuttering, wayward, disjointed, funny, ridiculous, and unplanned.”

To coincide with the release of *But*, Boff is touring both the UK and USA, visiting bookstores and venues to talk about, and sing, the stories that make up the book. Part reading, part gig and part conversation, Boff will play songs from a lifetime of writing and making music, songs which chime with the book, and will draw from a personal history of creative activism.

Boff explains his new book, “It’s a book about stories, and a book of stories. How the stories we see and hear as films, novels and theatre aren’t really the stories we experience in the real world. It’s a big dig into storytelling and is mainly about the disruptions that stop our lives being simple narratives.

“This book is threaded through with a travelogue mapped between my meetings with a variety of people—I’ve called them DISRUPTERS—who disrupted my own life in the best possible ways.

“The book is a collaboration with designer/typesetter Christian Brett, who has worked recently with Penny Rimbaud, Sleaford Mods and Killing Joke. But possibly more relevant is the fact that I sit next to him for every Burnley FC home match. He’s a swearsy curmudgeon and his design and typesetting for the book is incredible.”

29 Mar - Saxapahaw Prison Books Packing Party

WHAT: Book packing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, March 29th

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

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