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Updates for August 19th

22 Jul - Jakhi McCray Statement

Jakhi McCray has issued a powerful statement after turning himself in to the police on charges of allegedly sabotaging 10 NYPD vehicles.

MORE:

Repression is the State trying to call our bluff. It is intense because it shows itself when our potential to disrupt genocides & capital becomes too grand to ignore. Millions of people, whether they consider themselves revolutionaries or not, that participated in the encampments, the anti-ICE street rebellions, & the George Floyd Uprising have helped create a social crisis in the last five years that continues to bring in millions more & fuel the need for liberation.

The constant effort it takes the State to oppress us is not manageable. It is already breaking, with the funding & hiring disasters in federal agencies, the infighting between the Trump administration & his base, & the complete political catastrophe over Israel. The harshness of the State's eye on our movement is nothing more than a defensive reaction. a mask from their fear. This is as much of a make-or-break moment for them as it is for us. If we come out of this with our solidarity & our infrastructure intact, it is a monumental win for our communities & a devastation to our enemies.

Our greatest strength is each other-that we are not just coworkers maintaining appearances for the duration of a shift. We are comrades, & with that comes a promise to love, defend, & fight for one another. Because you are my comrades, I hold this promise towards all of you. I don't know what will happen now, but I do know that I will never stop fighting & I will do my best wherever I find myself to be.

29 Jul - FBI Agents Seize Quaker Activist from His Home in Morning Raid

Robert "Jacob" Hoopes, a Portland, Oregon man was arrested by FBI agents on Friday, July 25, and charged with aggravated assault of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer, KATU, the ABC affiliate in Portland, reported.

MORE:

by Sharlee DiMenichi (*Friends Journal*)

During a June 14 protest, Hoopes allegedly threw rocks at the ICE building in South Portland, one of which hit an ICE agent in the face, cutting him, *KATU* reported. He allegedly used a stop sign as a battering ram to do approximately \$7,000 worth of damage to the building.

Jacob Hoopes spent the weekend in two jails operated by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, according to a statement posted on Instagram by his partner Fable Sorenson. Sorenson detailed the arrest, "At around 9 a.m. on Friday morning, July 25, Jacob and I looked out our bedroom window to see a flood of armed officers race into our driveway and charge at our house with assault rifles." Sorenson recounted that she and Hoopes were "screamed at, handcuffed, and put on the street in our underwear." Sorenson's Instagram account has since been made private.

The FBI agents and Portland police conducting the arrest did not present an arrest warrant before placing Jacob Hoopes into a car, according to Sorenson's statement.

"Jacob is a pacifist Quaker who is the most compassionate, loving, gentle person I have ever met," Sorenson wrote.

The judge released Jacob Hoopes after a preliminary hearing on Monday, July 28, according to a video of him posted on Sorenson's Instagram. Dressed in a blue-gray long-sleeved shirt and plaid pants, Jacob Hoopes said, "Hi, folks. I'm free." He went on to thank supporters, explain that he had signed numerous papers—the content of which he did not specify—and explain that he was wearing an ankle monitor.

Magistrate Judge Youlee Yim You presided over the hearing, according to *KATU*.

Jacob Hoopes is scheduled to be arraigned on August 15, *Oregon Public Broadcasting* reported. At an arraignment, a suspect hears charges and enters a plea.

Supporters rallied at a park across the street from the courthouse where the hearing took place. Jacob's father, Tom Hoopes, who worships with Newtown Meeting and works at George School, spoke to supporters. Many Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) and across the country held Jacob Hoopes in the Light and joined a Zoom meeting for worship at the time of his hearing. George School is a Quaker boarding and day school in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

"The love and support from our extended community—especially the Quaker community—has been extraordinary and incredibly supportive. It played a crucial role in convincing the judge that Jacob should be released yesterday. My gratitude knows no bounds," Tom Hoopes told *Friends Journal*.

The son of Christie Duncan-Tessmer, general secretary of PYM, is a year younger than Jacob Hoopes. Duncan-Tessmer's family and Hoopes' family socialized together when the children were little. She recalls Jacob as full of "joyful energy."

Duncan-Tessmer noted that holding Jacob Hoopes in the Light impacted not only him but also those who participated. "It strengthens our experience as individuals, and as a community, of the Divine," Duncan-Tessmer said.

Press officers of the FBI and ICE directed this reporter to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Portland. A USAO press release stated that the 24-year-old could face a sentence of 20 years in federal prison if convicted of the aggravated assault charge. The charges related to damaging the federal building could carry a 10-year sentence.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by an FBI special agent whose name was redacted, the injured ICE officer, who was also not named, stated that on June 14 he was on duty inside the building. He tried to remove something obstructing the door. When he opened the door, he saw a person he later identified as Jacob Hoopes throw a rock through the entrance. The rock hit him in the head causing a two-inch cut for which he received first aid from coworkers. Coworkers used glue, adhesive sutures, and bandages in attempts to close the wound. The officer required additional treatment.

The injured officer identified the person who he said threw the rock in a photo of the protest published by *The Oregonian* on *OregonLive.com* in which Jacob Hoopes's face was visible, as was a tattoo of leaves on his left forearm, according to the affidavit. The photo showed the person taking care of a protester who was apparently injured. (The affidavit did not specify how the protester was injured.) Investigators used commercially available facial recognition software to compare the photo to 30 photos in public databases. They found one from a Reed College event that showed a man resembling Jacob Hoopes with a tattoo of leaves on his left forearm. The software also provided an Instagram account with a profile associated with Jacob Hoopes. The FBI officer contacted the Reed College Director of Community Safety, who provided Hoopes's address. Hoopes graduated from Reed College in Portland in 2023, the affidavit states. The FBI special officer used binoculars to observe the outside of the house and saw a person he believed to be Hoopes on the porch. The officer noted a tattoo of leaves on the person's left forearm. The FBI placed the house under surveillance on July 10 and took a photo of a man with a tattoo of leaves.

The affidavit concludes with a request that the court issue a criminal complaint and grant an arrest warrant. The affidavit is signed by Judge You.

Jacob Hoopes's attorney, Matthew McHenry, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday, July 29.

July 31 Update: Reed College President Audrey Bilger wrote in a July 29 statement addressed to the Reed community: "The Director of Community Safety's actions related to sharing information with law enforcement are under formal review. This inquiry will be thorough and conducted with urgency and fairness by a third-party investigator." The statement was provided by the college's chief communications officer, Sheena McFarland, who added that the college would not make additional comments. The college's website lists Gary Granger as director of community safety.

August 8 Update: According to court transcripts from the preliminary hearing, Gary Sussman, the attorney for the U.S. government, played a video clip of an individual he identified as Jacob Hoopes placing a scooter against the door of the ICE building. The person then threw a rock into the open door of the building, according to the transcript. Sussman said the rock hit the ICE agent.

This reporter has not seen the video clip, or the video in its entirety, and was not present at the preliminary hearing.

Hoopes's attorney, Matthew McHenry, stated that the person in the video has not been proven to be Jacob Hoopes, according to court transcripts.

Denying Sussman's request to keep Jacob Hoopes incarcerated until his arraignment, Judge You ordered the least restrictive of several possible programs of pre-trial release. Hoopes must wear a location monitor on his ankle which will ensure that he does not return to the area of the ICE building.

3 Aug - The problem with screening mail in prisons

To bring striking New York state corrections officers back to work, one of the demands that the state met was to introduce scanners for legal mail, intended to help prevent drugs from entering prisons.

MORE:

by Rebecca McCray and Jamiles Lartey (*The Marshall Project*)

Striking guards argued their safety was at risk by both exposure to drugs, and by prisoners acting erratically after using drugs, according to the *Times Union*.

By late July, the scanners were already in use at 36 of the state's 42 prisons, and will soon be in all facilities, according to a Department of Corrections and Community Supervision spokesperson. The department has so far been able to bypass the formal rulemaking process due to the emergency conditions of the strike, but it is now proposing to make the policy permanent.

Those moves have ignited controversy, and reflect a long-running debate in prison systems across the country between the need for security measures and respect for incarcerated people's access to mail as a vital avenue to connect with families and legal help.

When prison administrators, lawmakers and advocates talk about "scanning" incoming mail, there are two separate things they can mean. One is the digitization of mail by copying the contents into an electronic format so prisoners can read it on a tablet. The other meaning — more accurately described as screening, as in the case of New York's new system — is technology to physically test mail for signs that it has been soaked in, or otherwise contaminated with illicit substances. Incarcerated people and advocates have expressed concerns with both kinds of scanning, having to do with privacy, delays and the sentimental value of handwritten letters and physical keepsakes.

In New York, regular mail from family and friends was already photocopied before the strike. The new scanners are a trickier proposition, because legal mail is protected by attorney-client privilege.

Much like field drug tests, the scanners aren't always accurate. Some advocates and incarcerated people say the new machines, which were purchased through a \$4.4 million contract with "contraband detection solutions" company RaySecur Inc., are incorrectly flagging contraband-free mail. When a piece of legal mail is flagged, the corrections department's proposed rule allows mailroom staff to withhold the mail without confirming it actually contains contraband. A coalition of legal organizations with clients in New York prisons outlined their concerns in a recent letter to the agency.

"What DOCCS appears to be doing is laying the groundwork for these machines to be the final determination," said Antony Gemmell, supervising attorney with The Legal Aid Society's Prisoners' Rights Project and co-author of the letter. "They're using this technology beyond its intended scope."

RaySecur describes its scanners as a tool to reduce the volume of mail that requires further inspection by staff, not a way to eliminate that step.

Jeremy Zielinski, who is incarcerated at Woodbourne Correctional Facility, said he was surprised when a letter from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals was recently blocked by the mailroom. "It may make the situation more dangerous if they're relying too heavily on tech that doesn't work right, potentially decreasing security by becoming lax with their ordinary inspection routines," he said of guards.

Civil rights attorney Amy Jane Agnew, who has clients who have died following overdoses in New York prisons, supports scanning the mail if it saves even one life, and isn't bothered by having to resend the occasional letter. But she contends that staff smuggling narcotics into prisons is a bigger problem than drugs coming through the U.S. mail. "The best approach is putting drug dogs in the officer's locker rooms, because that's where it's coming in."

This debate is part of a bigger discussion playing out in states across the country and in the federal government. A recently introduced bipartisan Senate bill would mandate that the Federal Bureau of Prisons perform both kinds of scanning at its prisons and jails systemwide. The bill would require the agency to digitally reproduce all mail within 24 hours for access on a tablet, and then to deliver the physical mail within 30 days, so long as it is determined to be free from drug contamination during screening.

Advocates for incarcerated people argue that digitizing personal mail invades privacy and further chips away at crucial connections with loved ones. And legal mail is trickier still, given confidentiality concerns. But mail is a real avenue for drugs in prisons, and corrections unions across the country have expressed concern that handling contaminated mail poses serious and even fatal risks to staff.

Last year, correctional officer Marc Fisher died at a federal prison in Merced County, California, after opening a letter laced with narcotics being passed off as legal mail. Three people involved in the mail scheme — including one incarcerated at the prison — were ultimately arrested and charged. The letter was found presumptively positive for fentanyl, synthetic marijuana and amphetamines. Fisher reported severe symptoms within minutes of exposure to the mail. His autopsy found that he died of natural causes from a heart attack, according to a government filing, but also that "the circumstances of death suggest external influences."

The scientific consensus on brief or incidental drug exposure from things like handling drug-soaked mail is that it is extremely unlikely to cause a fatal overdose. Still, it's not uncommon for police and corrections officers to experience odd symptoms after handling (or believing they have handled) illicit substances. Earlier this year in New York, a State Police hazardous materials team investigated the cause of guards fainting and exhibiting slurred speech after an alleged exposure to contraband. The team found no evidence of "toxic substances or drugs that might be responsible for the workers' reactions."

Just how much contraband is coming in through mailrooms is unclear. Available data is often spotty, if it's tracked at all, and is collected by corrections agencies themselves, causing some to question its accuracy. It's also not always clear that scanning mail actually helps reduce the flow of drugs: In the months after the Missouri Department of Corrections started digitizing mail, overdose deaths actually increased. A New Jersey correctional union representative, on the other hand, said digitizing mail led to a 50% decrease in overdose rates in state prisons.

In any event, both kinds of scanning are catching on quickly. In Tennessee, a pilot program to digitize mail at three women's facilities began on Aug. 1, with incoming personal mail to be sent to Maryland for scanning. In Illinois, there's been a legislative push to ban most physical mail entering prisons, and the state department of corrections is in the process of deciding how to use digitizing technology it purchased last fall.

The technology used to screen mail is also evolving rapidly, and is diverse across prison systems as different vendors seek to win contracts. While New York and Hawaii are using "T-ray" imaging technology, pitched as more sensitive and accurate than X-ray technology, others are using "hyperspectral imaging." And earlier this year, the Virginia corrections department became the first in the world to pilot a CT-based scan (like the ones used in medicine) combined with AI machine-learning algorithms.

4 Aug - Defend Xóchitl, DACA Recipient Detained by ICE

Catalina "Xóchitl" Santiago, a beloved community member, DACA recipient and long-time community organizer, was detained by Border Patrol on Sunday August 3, 2025 at an airport in El Paso, Texas.

MORE:

As political repression increases across the country, we must remember defending one person means defending all those facing repression!!!

Xóchitl was accosted by two Border Patrol agents around 4:00 AM MST as she was about to board a domestic flight for work. Despite presenting a valid DACA work authorization card offering proof of her protection from deportation in the U.S., Border Patrol abducted and detained her without warrant or cause.

She has been transferred to a processing facility in El Paso, and these funds will help to support her as we coordinate with her legal representation. We will share more updates soon on how to show your support and demand her immediate release.

We know that Xóchitl has made such a profound and powerful impact on so many loved friends and community members from Florida to Texas and beyond. Xotchitl has been working for over a decade for the dignity and respect of the immigrant community. She was a long-time volunteer organizer with Movimiento Cosecha and currently works supporting families in El Paso.

Now, we need to show up for her. Immigrant communities have been targeted for decades, and the Trump Administration is taking these fascist tactics to unprecedented levels.

This unexpected and cruel detainment will likely result in high legal fees alongside immeasurable emotional impact on her and her family. We are asking for support for her legal funds and post-release care and healing. Please give what you can to ensure that Xotchil has the resources needed to fight for her case, her ability to stay in the US with her family and community, and can take the time needed to recover from this traumatic experience after she is released. Thank you for your support!

5 Aug - Jesse "Tall Can" Comes Home

In some good news, antifascist prisoner Jesse "Tall Can" Cannon is now coming home!

MORE:

Supporters have set up a campaign to help him transition to life on the outside. They write:

Jesse WAS an antifascist political prisoner who was incarcerated for allegedly participating in militant community defense against American Guard, Proud Boys, and assorted right-wingers who descended upon the Pacific Beach area of San Diego, Kumeyaay land, for a day-long fascist rally on January 9, 2021.

Along with being an unapologetic defender of his community, TC is a nature enthusiast, father, and artist who needs our support after spending nearly two years risking his life fighting fires in so-called LA and throughout so-called California. Despite the SD DA's best efforts to keep him caged for his convictions and his refusal to cooperate, TC has been released!

Support for our comrades inside doesn't end when they're out—and he needs our solidarity now more than ever as he settles back into his city, finds work, and helps raise his kid. Let's show him some love and remind him how much he means to us. Please donate and share widely.

Venmo: pushingdownthewalls

Cashapp: \$pushingdownthewalls

Include "TC" in the notes.

5 Aug - Running Down the Walls Events Announced for 2025

Running Down the Walls events are coming up soon in September!

MORE:

In 2024, the Anarchist Black Cross marked 25 years of the event taking place on both sides of the prison walls, writing:

2024 marks twenty-five-years in a row that political prisoners and supporters are participating in the annual event known as Running Down the Walls (RDTW), often running or walking simultaneously in many cities and prisons at once.

Running Down the Walls is a non-competitive 5K run/jog/walk/roll to raise awareness and funds for political prisoners as the primary fundraiser for the Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) Warchest Program with a portion of funds raised also supporting local groups of the organizers' choosing.

*Over the years, the event has raised *tens of thousands* of dollars and lots of awareness around the struggle to free political prisoners in the U.S. We encourage you to attend a local event or participate remotely and ask your comrades, family, and friends to sponsor you to make the positive impact of the 25th anniversary bigger than ever!*

6 Aug - CALL FOR ACTIONS during Week of Solidarity With Anarchist Prisoners

Every year we call for Solidarity and Actions during the International Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners, this year from 23 – 30 August.

MORE:

via *Solidarity International*

Join with actions, letter writing, lectures, community events, banner drop, movie screening, Get inspired by the last years.

If you do some event, action, banner drop, ... please send us your calls, pictures and a short report so we can share it on our website and social media.

If you publish your actions at your websites and social media, please use the hashtag #woswap and #woswap2025.

Every letter is bringing light into the darkness of the isolation, every action will remember our comrades who are fighting alongside us inside of the prisons. Our solidarity brings strength and warmth into dark cells into the heart of our comrades. Let's stay connected and fight together!

7 Aug - Illustrated Guide Version 18.7 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2025/08/07/guide_18_7

MORE:

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

8 Aug - Mumia Remembers Carolina Saldaña

Please read the latest commentary by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

MORE:

via Prison Radio

We remember Carolina Saldaña, who helped spread news of our movement here in America to her brothers and sisters in Mexico. But she also brought news to us of struggles of the poor, the oppressed, the indigenous communities, the working people of Mexico. And of her many stories she shared with us, none is more chilling than her work on Ayotzinapa where the state, using criminal elements, massacred over 40 students and young people who were trying to be teachers, to educate Indigenous and poor communities in Mexico.

These people were disappeared because of their political beliefs. They were disappeared because they were young activists trying to make a better impact on their communities in Mexico. And Carolina brought those stories to us. She told us not only what happened, but why. And she explained and named many of the students, who to this day, many of their bodies have not been found. When we first heard about it, we were dumbfounded. We could not believe it, but we had to. The facts were the facts. And we live in an age of neo-liberalism where governments can do anything and get away with it.

She was brave, she was courageous. She spoke truth to power, and she told the stories of her community and other communities all around America. She told Mexicans about the Black liberation struggle, about Black August – the month of resistance, remembered for well over a century in America and the Americas. She told our story of struggle against police violence and prison violence and repression in Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania and throughout America.

Carolina Saldaña will never be forgotten. We remember her, we salute her, we think of her, and we remember her spirit. We thank her for the gift of her presence in this world, in Mexico, and in the hearts of many people in Black America.

13 Aug - Another Person Arrested in Connection to Prairieland ICE Detention Center Protest

People Are Being Held on Bonds of Up to \$15 Million, But Most People Currently in Custody Have No Formal Charges and No Legal Representation More Than a Month After the Incident

MORE:

Another person was arrested last week in connection with the Prairieland Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Center protest on July 4, 2025, bringing the total number of arrests in the case to 17. Susan Kent was arrested by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office on August 7 and is currently being held on a \$10 million bond at Johnson County Jail. Sixteen people arrested in connection to the Prairieland protest are being held at Johnson County Jail on bonds of up to \$15 million. One defendant is being held separately at Federal Medical Center, Fort Worth. Kent is being accused of engaging in organized criminal activity and hindering the prosecution of terrorism, but the state has released no information regarding the arrest and the probable cause documents have not been made public.

Most people currently in custody have no formal charges and have no legal representation more than a month after the incident. No progress has occurred in any of the cases, and no hearings or legal proceedings are currently scheduled.

The July 4 demonstrations outside of the ICE Detention Center were a typical immigrant solidarity protest that has since turned into a massive federal investigation. During the planned “noise” demonstration at the facility, ICE agents called the local police. When an officer from the Alvarado Police Department arrived, an altercation occurred, after which the officer claimed to have sustained a minor injury. Police arrested 10 people near the scene, including some blocks away, on the basis that they were dressed alike, and seven more were arrested in subsequent weeks. During that time, local and federal agents have terrorized friends and family members of those arrested at the protest, serving no-knock warrants, conducting house raids, making arrests at traffic stops, and engaging in widespread surveillance. Multiple people arrested were not even at the protest.

The DFW support committee, a group of family and friends of defendants in this case, released a statement today, repudiating the arrest of Kent, one of its members, and connecting it to a wider pattern of state repression against anti-ICE protestors.

“We denounce this escalation by the state in its desperate attempts to criminalize people showing solidarity with those being kidnapped by ICE, and to undermine dissent against rising authoritarianism,” says the statement. It goes on to say, “We are devastated at Susan’s arrest, but we are not deterred. We call on those who support resistance and seek a freer world to stand up against this brutality and repression.”

The expansion of this case was also alarming to experts on political repression. Meagan Knuth from the National Lawyers Guild said, “We’re seeing a rise in these sorts of cases against protestors from North Texas, to Spokane, Washington, to Portland, Oregon, but as we’ve seen in Los Angeles, once these cases go to court, they have been dropped for lack of evidence.”

Members of the support committee also expressed concern for Kent’s well-being while in custody in Johnson County Jail. “We’ve seen horrific treatment of the defendants while they’ve been in custody,” said Stephanie Shiver, defendant Meagan Morris’s wife. “People have been kept in forced isolation, subject to incessant, degrading strip searches, even for those who haven’t left their cells in days, barred from communicating with family or attorneys,” continued Shiver. “Someone was even forced to clean another inmate’s feces off the walls of their cell.”

The statement goes on to connect the continued arrest of protestors in North Texas to the pattern of family separation seen in the national wave of detentions by ICE saying, “The Prairieland defendants are not terrorists. The real terrorists are the ICE agents kidnapping people off the street, destroying families and communities.”

13 Aug - To the Free World

Anti-fascist activist Big Tex surrounded to cops and has written the following.

MORE:

This morning, Wednesday August 13th, I surrendered to the Tarrant County Jail on a warrant for yet another bogus retaliatory charge. I have been charged with allegedly interfering with public duty, resisting arrest, and evading detention. These three charges were brought against me TWO AND A HALF YEARS after the fact. This malicious political prosecution is just the result of the state’s anger at my winning a full acquittal in my felony trial last year. The constant effort this farcical prosecutors’ office must maintain to repress is not sustainable and the cracks are starting to show.

I was targeted and arrested in 2023 for putting my body between the attendees of a drag show and Neo-Nazis who sought to spit on, threaten, abuse, and harm them in the name of so-called Christian love. I am no stranger to the swamp of the propaganda machine and their allies in the North Texas Cop-o-sphere. The fascist press and their clout-chasing snitch collaborators have branded me with absurdly laughable monikers for five years in the name of clicks and the vampiric bureaucrats have gobbled up and utilized these lies to justify their self-serving agenda. These paper tigers cannot function without an enemy to hate.

The special prosecutor appointed to subjugate me has made it her hobby to make my life hell through subjection to stalking, constant surveillance, colluding with Neo-Nazis to share information about my family, and consistent deliberate mismanagement/misfilings of my cases resulting in extended red tape, and blatant denial of my right to speedy trials. This latest indictment, earned through state-sanctioned perjury to a grand jury, is just an extension of the facade this abomination of governance must maintain to enforce the cruelty of their agenda, not to mention the innumerable thousands of dollars of taxpayer funding they will expend yet again to lose. Nevertheless, I surrendered to the Tarrant County Sheriff to face these lies head-on.

August is a joyous month filled with all of my children's birthdays, the new beginnings of settling them into school, and my wedding anniversary with my beautiful wife. Instead of meeting this month with the joy it deserves, we are yet again confronting the existential dread of the full weight of this regime. Still though none of this has ever been about me, I am resolved to be impounded in these colonial chains once more with my head held high and a clear conscience.

I have not been a Quaker all of my life, nor even all of this decade. But it is the principles of Truth, Equality, and Peace that lead me here. If you have known me for more than a week you've heard me harken these words to you ad nauseum so forgive me once more... But I lean on the early friends to express these vital principles to life and the way they are called to these testimonies for which they were prepared to suffer and even die. As one of my few heroes once said:

"I joyfully entered prisons as palaces, telling mine enemies to hold me there as long as they could: and in the prisonhouse I sung praises to my God, and esteemed the bolts and locks put upon me as jewels, and in the Name of the eternal God I always got the victory, for they could keep me there no longer than the determined time of my God." -William Dewsbury 1688

The social order of this world is designed to paralyze us into inaction by the deluge of unrelenting dread but there is a new world struggling to be born. Though I surrender my body once more, locked and entombed among the men that wander aimless among the chains and bars, my spirit will never surrender to a master in human form. My motivations lie between myself and my God and it is for him I continue this fight against the hierarchal structure the modern world. We are stronger together and it is due to this strength that the mechanisms of power continue to throw absolutely every weapon in their arsenal at me. Please support me and my family in this difficult time, lend us your blessings of strength. Any donations will be used to bring the fight back to these ghouls in their sacrilegious theatre of injustice."

15 Aug - Cop City Defendant has Domestic Terrorism Charge Dropped

Jamie Marsicano, one of dozens of defendants embroiled in the sprawling legal backlash brought against opponents of "Cop City," had a state-level Domestic Terrorism charge dropped in DeKalb County on Thursday.

MORE:

by Sean Summers (*Unicorn Riot*)

The dismissal represents the latest in a series of legal setbacks for the state as it moves forward with its expansive effort to prosecute those who mobilized to stop Cop City, a massive police training compound south of metro Atlanta in the South River Forest.

More than 29 months after Jamie was arrested and charged under Georgia's domestic terrorism statute for their participation in the movement against Cop City, the state hadn't brought an indictment against the North Carolina resident, leaving them in limbo as they waited for a decision from the court regarding their charge and potential trial.

In a ruling issued August 14, Judge Gregory Adams determined the pending charge had disrupted Jamie's life to the point that their due process rights had been violated. Further, Adams agreed with the defense's argument that the state was delaying Jamie's indictment in order to get a tactical advantage in the ongoing Racketeering Influenced Criminal Organization (RICO) case unfolding in neighboring Fulton County. The court also found that Marsicano's right to a speedy trial had been violated.

"Of course, we're relieved and uplifted that the judge came to the right decision," Xavier T. de Janon, Marsicano's attorney, told *Unicorn Riot* after the ruling came down.

Marsicano was arrested at the South River Music Festival near Atlanta on March 5, 2023. They traveled to join the event, which was organized as part of a week of action against the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, known popularly as Cop City, while on spring break in their second year of law school.

The festival, put on in the weeks after police killed Manuel "Tortuguita" Terán while they camped in the woods to oppose Cop City, was meant to rally the movement against the facility and bring people together in the aftermath of Tortuguita's killing.

On the second day of the festival, a militant action against a Cop City construction site took place about three-quarters of a mile from the musical event. Hours later, police from multiple agencies raided the music festival and arrested 35 people. Marsicano was charged along with 22 others under Georgia's Domestic Terrorism law on March 6.

Jamie was later indicted as one of 61 people the state is accusing of having participated in what it describes as a far-reaching criminal conspiracy to stop the \$118 million police training facility.

In the years since their arrest, Marsicano had twice petitioned the court for a speedy trial – once in March 2024 and again in May 2025. Despite this, the state didn't indict Marsicano on the domestic terrorism charge, citing an ongoing investigation.

Marsicano's lawyer filed a motion in June to have the domestic terrorism charge dismissed on the grounds that the slow process had violated Marsicano's right to due process and their right to a speedy trial.

On August 6, Judge Gregory Adams heard arguments from the defense and the prosecution. At the hearing, the defense successfully argued that Marsicano's domestic terrorism charge had unduly impacted their life.

While the state delayed an indictment, Marsicano was labeled as a potential domestic terrorist, an accusation that has prevented the North Carolina Bar Association from issuing the recent law school graduate a license to practice law.

And without a trial, Marsicano hadn't been able to defend against the accusations made against them.

Though Marsicano was arrested 29 months ago, the domestic terrorism charges they've been saddled with have yet to be indicted, meaning a trial could not move forward.

What's more, as de Janon asserted, the racketeering charges Jamie is facing in Fulton County, which represent the same conduct in question in the domestic terrorism charge they faced in neighboring DeKalb County, have already started trial. As the defense saw it, the state should have been able to move forward long ago with the significantly simpler facts in the domestic terrorism charges Marsicano was facing in DeKalb County.

Further, de Janon asserted that the delays were intentional and tactical on the part of the state, which they say seeks to use looming domestic terrorism charges as leverage to get defendants in the sprawling RICO case to cooperate with the state.

For the state's part, prosecuting attorney John Fowler pushed back against the claims that the RICO and domestic terrorism cases were similar and claimed that an investigation into Marsicano's domestic terrorism charge was still ongoing.

Thursday's dismissal was the latest in a series of legal stumbling blocks the state has faced in the years since bringing charges against activists and organizers who aimed to stop Cop City.

In June 2023, DeKalb County District Attorney Sherry Boston refused to prosecute the cases, including domestic terrorism charges, which had been brought against Cop City arrestees. Instead, Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr would become responsible for the prosecution, placing the burden on the state.

In September 2024, Georgia dropped money laundering charges it had brought against three RICO defendants who were accused of organizing jail support and other solidarity efforts to aid the movement.

And last month, RICO defendant Ayla King's long-awaited trial, which has been delayed since December 2023, was again stalled after the court declared a mistrial following an appellate court ordering a new jury be selected.

Though the domestic terrorism charge has been dismissed, Marsicano is still facing RICO charges in the ongoing trial that seeks to convict Cop City's opponents as a criminal conspiracy.

Forty other people are still facing state-level domestic terrorism charges in DeKalb County at the time of this article's publication.

Though Judge Adam's ruling dismissing Marsicano's domestic terrorism charge may be helpful for other Cop City defendants facing the same or similar charges, de Janon emphasized that the dismissal in his client's case is specific to their circumstances.

"It's a huge win to defeat domestic terrorism [charges] but there are so many others whose story doesn't get told because the charges aren't as extreme," de Janon said.

Atlanta's Public Safety Training Center was completed and began operation in April of this year.

15 Aug - Support anarchist Dmitry Osyagin

Russia: Anarchist and anti-war activist Dmitry Osyagin from Kazan has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for setting fire to a court building.

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via *avtonom*

He was charged under three articles: calling for "extremism", "terrorism" and committing a "terrorist act."

According to investigators, in February 2023 Dmitry set fire to the court building in the Privolzhsky District of Kazan. The court was located on the ground floor of a residential building. As reported by the media, the fire damaged only the corner of a window frame and quickly went out. Initially, the case was opened under the article for property damage, but it was later reclassified as a "terrorist act".

In addition to the arson, Osyagin was accused of making 17 posts calling for violence against government officials, including the President of Russia, and 27 posts which, according to investigators, contained terrorist rhetoric.

The court's press release notes that Osyagin opposed the invasion of Ukraine and was allegedly a member of the anarchist group "Combat Organization of Anarcho-Communists" (BOAK), which has claimed responsibility for sabotage actions on railways and supports anarchist partisans. However, comrades from BOAK are not confirming Osyagin's membership, saying:

"While proudly calling the imprisoned partisan a comrade and like-minded person, we cannot explain why state media call him a BOAK member. There are two possibilities: either he was indeed in contact with us and acted as an autonomous individual cell of the Organization — we do not collect any information about autonomous participants, and therefore precise identification is difficult — or the FSB, prosecutors, and court falsely attributed BOAK membership to him to ensure the longest possible sentence."

After his arrest in 2023, Osyagin was added to the Rosfinmonitoring "list of terrorists and extremists." Now, in addition to 15 years in prison, the court has banned him from administering any online resources for four years after his release.

The sentence was handed down by Central District Military Court Judge Alexander Raitskiy on June 18, 2025. Osyagin is being held in Yekaterinburg's Detention Center No. 5 (SIZO-5).

Dmitry is a versatile person. Before his arrest, he worked in landscape design and fountain construction. He is interested in technology, IT, cryptocurrency mining, video games, history, and fantasy literature.

If you are ready to write Dmitry a letter — do it. He needs your support now more than ever.

16 Aug - Federal agents arrest Spokane ICE protesters

Federal agents on Tuesday morning arrested and searched the homes of multiple people who took part in a mass protest against immigration enforcement in Spokane.

MORE:

by Caroline Saint James, Alexandra Duggan, and Garrett Cabeza (*The Spokesman-Review*)

Among those arrested was former Spokane City Council President Ben Stuckart, who is charged with conspiracy to impede or injure law enforcement, according to court records.

The grand jury indictment filed July 9 in U.S. District Court Eastern District of Washington alleges Stuckart, Justice Forral, Mikki Hatfield, Erin Lang, Collin Muncey, Thalia Ramirez, Bobbi Silva, Bajun Mavalwalla II and Jac Archer used "force and threats" against federal agents to "impede" the transport of federal detainees to their immigration hearings in Tacoma and to "coerce the release" of the detainees.

All nine defendants face conspiracy to impede or injure officers, while Silva and Hatfield each also face one count of assault on a federal officer and employee.

The indictment alleges Silva struck a federal officer from behind as the officer tried to clear the pathway for transport vehicles to leave Immigrant and Customs Enforcement's Spokane operations building.

Hatfield is accused of throwing a "deployed incendiary device" at Spokane police officers and Spokane County sheriff's office deputies. Hatfield threw a smoke canister back at police when they deployed it into the crowd, the government alleged.

"We respect and honor everyone's right to peacefully protest," Acting U.S. Attorney Stephanie Van Marter said in a news release from the U.S. attorney's office in the Eastern District of Washington. "However, the few who choose to cross the line from protest to violence and destruction will be held accountable."

But the arrests were strongly criticized by Sen. Patty Murray, who called the federal charges a “gross abuse of federal resources.”

“The Trump administration is abusing the force of the law to intimidate Americans exercising their First Amendment rights — whether you are a Democrat or Republican, this is wrong and we all need to speak out against this disturbing perversion of justice,” she said in a prepared statement. “If you are as angry as I am about Trump’s unconstitutional and cruel assault on immigrants, we need to speak out peacefully against inhumane policies. We lose our democracy when our voices fall silent.”

The arrests were condemned by Spokane Mayor Lisa Brown.

“This politically motivated action is a perversion of our justice system,” she said in a statement Tuesday morning. “The Trump Administration’s weaponization of ICE and the (Department of Justice) is trampling on the U.S. Constitution and creating widespread fear across our community.”

Stuckart sparked the protest that swelled to hundreds of people by posting a call to action on Facebook after ICE agents detained two young men who had appeared at ICE offices for a check-in.

Archer posted on social media a call for others to come and join, noting the intent was to “risk arrest to block the exits to ICE,” according to the indictment.

The indictment alleges Stuckart blocked a transport bus carrying the two immigrants. Archer, Stuckart and others blocked the pathway and door to the transport bus despite orders to disperse, the indictment says.

The two men Stuckart was advocating for at the time are legal immigrants through a humanitarian parole program and were going through the asylum process, according to previous reporting from *The Spokesman-Review*. They were picked up at a routine immigration check-in that day when authorities detained them and took them to the detention center in Tacoma.

Stuckart was one of the men’s “sponsors” in the U.S. as they navigated the asylum process. Cesar Alexander Alvarez Perez, 21, and Joswar Slater Rodriguez Torres, 28, are both still in Tacoma as they fight for their release.

Also arrested Tuesday morning was Mavalwalla as he and his girlfriend were moving out of their shared home into another house Tuesday when the FBI knocked on their door at 6 a.m., said Mavalwalla’s father, Bajun Mavalwalla Sr.

“I demanded a warrant; they refused and wouldn’t show it until everyone left the home. My son was protesting on June 11, they said he assaulted officers,” Mavalwalla Sr. said. “My son worked in cybersecurity and was deployed to Afghanistan. He has no problems with the law.”

Mavalwalla Sr. said to his knowledge, officers never read his son his rights. An officer indicated he would read the Miranda rights following questioning, according to a video of the arrest.

Authorities searched the shared home where they took Bajun Mavalwalla’s phone and the clothes he was wearing at the time of the protest. According to a signed warrant by U.S. Magistrate Judge James Goeke, agents were ordered to seize his clothes, his phone and any “personal items or effects” worn or carried by Mavalwalla that day.

Justice Forral, an organizer for Spokane County Against Racism, was also arrested. Forral already faces state felony charges of unlawful imprisonment and third-degree assault on an officer stemming from the protest.

The indictment alleges Forral intentionally parked his vehicle to block the path of the transport bus and “preclude its movement.” Forral and Lang also released the air from the tires of the bus, according to the indictment.

Forral, Muncey, Hatfield and others placed trash cans, sand or cement bags, benches, signs and other objects to block the exit, prosecutors say in the indictment.

Stuckart, Hatfield, Lang, Silva and others surrounded and blocked a transport van, according to the indictment. Ramirez is accused of using a boxcutter to slash the tires of the van.

Tuesday’s first appearances

The nine defendants appeared in groups of three during Tuesday’s first appearances at the federal courthouse in front of Goeke present via video call.

Seven defendants were released pending further proceedings, while two defendants — Bobbi Lee Silva and Mikki Hatfield — were both ordered to remain in custody until a detention hearing set for Friday at 10 a.m.

Government prosecutors said in the hearing they believed Silva and Hatfield were “a danger” and pose a “serious risk” to justice. Both are additionally charged with assault on a federal officer.

David Partovi, representing Hatfield, doesn’t think “the government has a right to a detention hearing” because he doesn’t believe Hatfield is a danger to the community for the sole reason of allegedly throwing a smoke canister at law enforcement, he told Goeke in court.

Carter Powers-Beggs, only temporarily representing Silva, said she had a child at home during the time of her arrest and that Silva is extremely concerned about the child. Powers-Beggs gently rested his hand on Silva’s back as she cried in front of the judge.

“She wants to be released to take care of the child,” he said as Silva wept.

The child was turned over to an 18-year-old who is participating in frequent Child Protective Services check-ins, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Cartier-Giroux said Tuesday.

Stuckart, who was released Tuesday evening, must turn over his passport and notify authorities if he plans to take trips out of state. Stuckart’s attorney noted he may be traveling to Tacoma to attend a Thursday immigration hearing of the two men taken by ICE, which the judge allowed as part of his release conditions.

The other seven defendants are prohibited from contacting other co-defendants about the case unless lawyers are present.

Jeffrey Finer, who is representing Jac Archer, called the no-contact order an “egregious misuse of power” in a city “this size” in court Tuesday, especially given the potential penalties for violating it, he said.

23 Aug - Saxapahaw Prison Books Packing Party

WHAT: Book packing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, August 23rd (and every other week)

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.