



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for August 20th

6 Aug - Statements on the Passing of Tom Manning

As the news of Tom's death moves out, more statements honoring his life come in.

MORE:

August 6th - A Revolutionary's Farewell: Rest in Power, Tom Manning by Oso Blanco

Brothers and Sisters of the Struggles:

I'm sad to learn I've lost a great and true Warrior Brother, Tom Manning, who left this earth only very recently.

He is free now. Dealing with our loss is not getting easier. The only positive way I can deal with the loss of our great comrade is to think of his transition in those terms. Tom is free now, and it is always better to be free.

I did three-and-a-half years with Tom in USP Leavenworth, where he and Leonard Peltier taught me to paint with oils and schooled me on how I'd be treated horribly strictly due to my politically motivated actions that landed me in prison. Tom taught me what to expect from this imperialist empire. I truly loved this Brother Tom Manning, and also his brother Bob Manning who is still with us in New Mexico. Bob always helps me, and stays in touch with me and my mother, Melody.

We must stop wasting time, for these warriors laid the revolutionary foundation that the struggle lives upon today. These people must not be left to rot in the hell holes of this empire. All of you need to get your people out, and be for real, and put you comfort-zone toys away so you can put in the real work it takes to the help men and women who have been locked up by the monsters of death and destruction running this empire. Get your asses in fucking gear.

I say this to all in the struggle—every activist, every warrior, every anarchist: be for Super Real and Powerful like Tom Manning and his co-defendants and start getting your actions rocking and rolling. Waste no more time.

August 11th - Tom Manning—Words of Remembrance by Jaan Laaman

Class war prisoner, Freedom fighter, Man of the People, long held political prisoner, Thomas William Manning, died on July 30, of a heart issue at the federal penitentiary in Hazelton, West Virginia.

Tom—Tommy to his many comrades, family, friends, people that knew him, was a life long Revolutionary Freedom Fighter. From the early 70s, Tom was a public activist and organizer and later, a quite successful armed militant in the anti-imperialist underground. Captured in 1985, he and some of his comrades became known as the "Ohio 7/UFF" (United Freedom Front) defendants.

After many trials Tom was hit with 58 plus 80 year sentences. He was then thrown into some of the worst, harshest prisons in the United States. Being in captivity did not stop Tom from continuing to work and struggle for justice, freedom, Human Rights and the socialist and environmentally sustainable future so many people and our planet so need. Tom struggled against abuses inside prisons and continued to work for the independence struggles in Puerto Rico and Ireland, the Palestinian struggle and the then still ongoing anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. In fact Tom was very likely one of the two last anti-apartheid activists still in captivity anywhere in the world. Tom of course always continued to support the struggles of poor and working people in this country, the struggles of Black people, Native rights and land struggles, against police abuses and murders of civilians, people of color in particular.

Tom was an artist, and accomplished painter. His artwork truly captures some of Tom's essence: his portrayal of the dignity of working people, children, women, the strength and determination of the revolutionary fighters and leaders, and more. A beautiful book of some of Tom's art was published in 2014 — "For Love and Liberty."

Now Tom is gone. Our comrade, my comrade, who suffered years of medical neglect and medical abuse in the federal prison system, your struggle and suffering is now over brother. But your example, your words, deeds, even your art, lives on. You truly were a "Boston Irish rebel," a life long Man of and for the People, a warrior, a person of compassion motivated by hope for the future and love for the common people, a Revolutionary Freedom Fighter.

We miss you and love you comrade... and we will carry on the struggle!

August 12th - Tom Manning, Soldier of the Struggle by Bill Dunne

Tom Manning, Soldier of the Struggle,

Comrade,

Friend,

Brother,

Artist,

Human,

Mighty tree in the forest who has fallen. The sound reverberates through everyone who aspires to positive practice in service to the struggle he shared.

I knew Tom more through his exemplary practice across decades and his comrades' experience of him than by having had the opportunity to hang out and roll out some practice with him. Except one time: a twelve and a half hour bus ride from the Federal Transit Center at Oklahoma City to the U. S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas.

We sat next to each other during the entire trip. Notwithstanding the agents of repression, the chains, and the bars separating us from freedom just a window away, we freed ourselves by making revolution all the way. He was farther along in his understanding of what that meant in theory and practice and showed himself to be all of the above in elucidating that praxis.

I will not forget that trip. Some of Tom Manning will always ride with me as I try to make progress in the struggle. He will help paint the most equitable social reality in which all people will have the greatest possible freedom to develop their full human potential that is our destination.

Tom Manning !Presente!

August 17th - Certain Days Collective Mourns the Loss of Political Prisoner Tom Manning

Tom's contributions to Certain Days go right back to the first calendar in 2002 when we printed his portrait of Steven Biko. Tom's art beautifully conveyed the internationalism and solidarity that animated both his own politics and those of the calendar project. His portraits of iconic figures such as Assata Shakur and Yuri Kochiyami paid homage to their leadership, while his paintings of the ordinary people in communities in Haiti, Chiapas and Cambodia highlighted their day-to-day struggles.

Tom was extremely generous over the years and took the time to share his art with us even at moments when his health presumably made it quite taxing for him to be involved. He was warm, and funny, and we always looked forward to opening a letter from him.

His work has appeared consistently in Certain Days over the last two decades (gracing the cover twice — a feat unmatched by any other artist). We're honoured to have learned so much from our work with Tom, and saddened and angry to lose him too soon due to ongoing medical neglect while he was imprisoned. Rest in Power, Tom!

August 13th - Honoring Tom Manning & Black August by Kojo Bomani Sababu

Life is strange all the good things come to a end. Tom was a beautiful person very talented in painting and skillful in articulating matter to be understood politically. I am glad I spent a few moments on this earth with him. George, Huey, Sofia, and Tom all died in August that is why this month is Black August.

6 Aug - Emergency Press Conference For Delbert Africa!

The MOVE ORGANIZATION is holding this press conference to inform people of the fact that Delbert Africa was taken out of SCI Dallas and transported to an outside hospital, where he has been held incommunicado for a period of 7 days.

MORE:

Delbert has not been allowed to call his MOVE Family or Blood Daughter. Prison officials and Hospital officials will not release any information on Delbert or his condition.

We are highly suspicious of what's going on here. In 2015 our Brother Phil Africa was taken to an outside hospital from SCI Dallas with a minor stomach virus and held incommunicado for 5 days; upon returning was placed in hospice care and died the following day.

In 1998 Merle Africa, after recovering from a stomach virus, was told by prison officials she was dying, only to die a few hours later. The same pattern is repeating itself here with Delbert scheduled to go before the Pa Parole Board this September. This government does not want to give ground and let another innocent MOVE Member out on parole, so they are working in conjunction with prison and hospital officials to murder Delbert.

Orie Lumumba: We are going to go live tomorrow with the press conference. We are encouraging people to please put together watch parties tomorrow and share the press conference.

We are still urging people to call Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel at 717-728 -2573 and demand that Delbert Orr Africa AM 4985 be able to immediately call his MOVE Family and Blood Related Daughter.

August 9th - Update from MOVE Organization on Del Africa!

The MOVE ORGANIZATION would like to take the time right now to provide people with an update on our Brother Delbert Africa.

Yesterday, August 8th, Delbert returned to SCI Dallas and after processing was placed in the infirmary; Delbert was able to get a phone call to his MOVE Family where he was able to update us on everything.

This morning Family and supporters led a car caravan to both Geisenger Hospital and SCI Dallas. Family was able to secure past work which we can utilize to obtain his medical records.

The second part of the caravan was to SCI Dallas, where Carlos and Will Africa were able to visit Delbert. Delbert appeared in good spirits but still very weak on the visit and was able to fill people in on everything.

At this point Delbert wants to focus on his parole hearing in September and getting out of prison. Delbert and family are waiting to obtain copies of the medical report and will take it from there.

Right now Delbert is taking his time to make the right choice and is leery after seeing what happened with Phil Africa and what is currently happening with Chuck.

We are in the process of preparing a second home plan for Delbert in the outlying areas of Philadelphia. If people have any suggestions on a second home plan if the first is denied or need more information you can call Sue Africa 215 387-4107 or Janine Africa 610 704-4524.

At this time Delbert and The MOVE Family would like to thank everyone who made calls, who shared the information through many networks etc. We greatly appreciate your support.

August 10th - MOVE expresses growing concerns over imprisoned Delbert Africa's health

by John N. Mitchell (*Philadelphia Tribune*)

For the better part of the last three weeks, members of the Black liberation group MOVE and their sympathizers expressed a growing concern over their inability to speak with sickly member Delbert Africa after he was transferred from SCI Dallas to a nearby hospital.

Those fears were somewhat put to rest on Friday when MOVE members Carlos Africa and William Africa spent two hours with Delbert Africa, 68, in a visiting room at the prison. The two were part of a group of about 30 MOVE members and sympathizers who made a trip to the Luzerne County prison on Friday to demand to see him.

"We just wanted to put eyes on him and speak with him," Carlos Africa said. "He's weak. He's got a lot of tubes hooked up to him and his legs are swollen because he's having kidney issues. He's got a long way to go. But for some reason, the prison had been keeping us in the dark about his health."

Delbert Africa is one of nine MOVE members sentenced in the August 1978 shooting death of Philadelphia police officer James Ramp during a shootout between MOVE and police.

Janine Africa, who was released from prison earlier this year after serving 41 years in connection with Ramp's shooting, said that officials at SCI Dallas stopped communicating with MOVE members on or about July 24. A week later, MOVE members were notified that Delbert was being transferred to nearby Geisinger Medical Center to receive treatment. He returned to SCI Dallas on Wednesday.

"They would not tell any of us where he was and how he was doing," Janine Africa said. "We know now that he is back at SCI Dallas. But we haven't seen his medical records yet and that's a problem."

Carlos Africa said SCI Dallas can release the medical records only to next of kin, and none of the MOVE members are related to Delbert Africa by blood or marriage. Delbert Africa's daughter, Yvonne Orr, lives in Chicago and is scheduled to visit her father this weekend, Carlos Africa said.

A spokesperson at SCI Dallas would not comment on the situation other than to say, "His counsel is in touch with our counsel and they are communicating at this time."

MOVE members are suspicious of SCI Dallas because fellow member Phil Africa, who was born William Phillips and married to Janine Africa, died at the prison in January 2015. He had been treated at a nearby

hospital and died shortly after his return to the prison. He was 59 at the time and the cause of death was listed as natural causes.

"His death was not natural," Pam Africa said of Phil Africa. "This was an example of how the system hates MOVE and will do anything to try to stop MOVE."

Merle Africa, also one of the MOVE 9, died under similar circumstances in 1998 while he was being held at SCI Muncy. She was 47.

Another reason for suspicion, Janine Africa said, is that Delbert Africa is scheduled to appear before the Pennsylvania Parole Board next month.

Delbert Africa and Chuck Africa are the only remaining members of the MOVE 9 still in jail for their role in Ramp's death. The other four living members have been released.

6 Aug - Eric King Writing and Update

Eric has recently been transferred again, has been called into court for unknown reasons, and has written a new piece, which we start with below.

MORE:

August 6th - Thoughts on Willem VanSpronsen

Today I'm sitting in this cockroach-infested Cesspool called USP Atlanta. Many political prisoners have come through here, if he had survived Willem VanSpronsen would have potentially come through here as well. Instead he offered up his life and the state was more than happy enough to seize it, one less headache for them. I've been thinking about him, his action, reading his writings and motives. My heart has ached for him because I know how it feels to care so much you absolutely **MUST** act. Willem used his personal perspective and scope, thought about what his options were and decided with his heart and brain that he was ready to give up everything to a Cause that meant more to him than anything.

Every action on the "left" allows you to see the worst side of the radical movement, the side waiting to bash, lament, critique and disrespect. Every person and action not pre-approved by this apparent panel of action judges. The judges has always seemed so eager for revolution and action, right up to the point of someone pushing for it, then they pick up their gavels, climb onto their soapbox, raise their voices and begin to attempt to dissolve the person and action. This isn't new of course, Berkman was blasted, the GJB were blasted, the young Anarchist who killed McKinley in Buffalo was blasted by the whole movement included Berkman!

The main critique I hear the most about my action is that "it failed to start or further the revolution" ... this imaginary Revolution that to some is this grand Event, instead of a series of actions and a way of living your life. If this is the stick to judge with, every action by every revolutionary in the US's and all of the people carrying them out are failures. This shit sits so poorly in my heart. To me every act should be judged by the intent, the purpose it was working towards, the Beating Heart behind it. How else can you judge something as big as success? Eric, Daniel, Walter, they didn't end the logging into the fur Industries, but they acted by their convictions, they lived their values. Is that not the most success you can possibly hope for? Then you add in the people who inspired them to further the cause. Jaan, Ray, Tom didn't overthrow the government but they lived their values, Revolution was life. They inspired countless future revolutionaries, myself included. Applying these success judges' words, every political prisoner would be classified as a failure. I would love to meet these internet Warriors who can look at Bill Dunn and Sundiata in the face and tell them what a failure they think of them, if they actually stand behind their critiques.

Why do we have to even consider success or failure? Why do we need to judge the Fallen? Why can't we skip that bullshit and honor them and honor what they were willing to give up. Maybe we would have more people willing to take action if this sort of judge first attitude wasn't the narrative and they would shut the fuck up? Willem isn't a hero, it's impossible for him to be a perfect person. I'm 100% sure some hater will spend hours searching through everything he's ever posted to find anything remotely on PC to ensure Willem is shunned Into Obscurity... Who needs Russian Bots or the feds when you have the internet "anarchists"? None of us will ever live up to our own standards. That lack of perfection shouldn't take away what he went out to do and the love behind his mission.

I read his last words, his gratitude to the movement for giving him space... </3 can we meditate on what his last minutes or hours of life for like... The fear, determination, maybe desperation? Desperate to do as much as possible, but being aware that the US isn't built for more. Too much fear, too many police. What I think about though is the love. You can't make those moves without a Heart full of love and that is what inspires me the most.

I'm not a goddamn liberal and I assume any that read this will be likewise, Willem wasn't either. He knew that you can't use the system to dismantle the system, you can't vote ice out of existence. We will either Act in accordance to our own beliefs or we will allow others to narrate Our Lives... the beauty of anarchism is removing that chain. As an Anarchist I respect the code that he lived. As a lover of real freedom, equality, of dismantling The Wretched machines, I respect that. I respect all actions that push towards a world worth fighting for. It feels like he was fighting side-by-side the same Revolution I fought for, Maryland Buck fought for and so on. We all fought to win. If he hadn't been killed he would have been a 69-year old political prisoner fighting to secure his dignity and stay alive Within These Walls. Walls that have killed political prisoner after political prisoner. I imagine he would have had proper support and love during his bid. It always seems folks who support political prisoners carry this in abundance. It's a very special beautiful part of the movement. I hope desperately that we grant him some honor in his death, giving love to his family, honoring his memory, helping with funeral cost if needed, Willem is a martyr, one I will carry in my heart with respect and gratitude.

Speaking of all the love and respect for the older generation, Freedom now! Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Bill Dunne, Tom Manning, Jaan Laaman, Russell Maroon Shoatz, ALL of the remaining move family, Sundiata Acoli, the Nebraska 2, the Virgin Island 3, and every other Freedom Fighter I forgot. We honor those who gave Decades of their lives for the cause. We hold you dear, you've inspired us all, the true triumphs of human love and will.

Until all are free

Rest in power Willem

August 14th - Eric Abruptly Transferred With Urgent Medical Concerns

On or around 8/3 Eric when in custody at USP Lee Eric woke up unable to use his left hand/arm whole side of his body. Unable to lift his arm to brush his teeth. Slurred speech and paralysis of the whole left side of his face. When looking in the mirror he experienced mirrored-self misidentification which means that he did not recognize himself in the mirror. His brain could not connect that was him. Within 24 hours all symptoms were gone.

Medical staff came by without entering his cell and told him it was bells palsy which is a paralysis of the facial muscles after an infection. The thing is bells should be IMMEDIATELY ruled out with paralysis of the rest of his body, and the fact bells does not affect anything cognitively and the fact the earliest people

can start see improvement is around 2 weeks (Eric's body was back to normal fully within 24 hours). Eric also carries an increased risk of stroke due to family history

The fact that he experienced stroke symptoms and it is absolutely not bells it is VERY urgent that he be seen by a neurologist. The standard of care when this happens is to perform an immediate CT scan and ultrasound of the neck and be evaluated by a neurologist and have blood tests. The incident was witnessed by both his cell-mate and the staff on duty. There is no doubt this occurred.

What happened to Eric meets a lot of the qualifications of a transient ischemic attack or a mini stroke. Obviously without testing we can not know but if this is the case it puts him in danger. One in three folks w this go on to have a full blown stroke. If he doesn't get medical intervention asap there is the possibility of irreversible damage. If this happened on the outside he would have been taken seriously and ended up in the hospital for testing. While not surprising, or shocking his life is of less value due to him being in prison. Its pretty simple. Along with their sentenced prisoners are sentenced to shortened lives due to medical neglect and died, and sometimes death by prison healthcare. We have seen it happen to our comrades over and over..

In the past year in BOP custody he sustained 3 head injuries. At FCI Florence he was kicked in the head and body by 6 staff telling him to die after being dragged into a broom closet (on tape) by a lieutenant and attacked. Denied medical care, no assessment for brain injury. Tied to a 4 point bed for 8 hours in his own blood and urine. Then at USP McCreary despite the lieutenant telling him he was going to be attacked they placed him on the yard, a week later guards escorted him to a fenced in area (on camera) where a large fash was waiting to attack him. Another head injury he wasn't assessed for. Then a person was put in his cell who was restricted from having cell mates due to attacking the last 4 cellmates who then attacked Eric. Again was not assessed medically.

We received the info regarding his health probably 10-13 days later. We have no way of knowing what has happened since. He was abruptly transferred to the Atlanta transfer center yesterday after only 2 weeks at USP Lee. We have no idea where he is going, if he has received medical attention or really anything regarding his situation. We do not know how long he will be in Atlanta because he is transferring through but there is the possibility he can receive letters. If you do I suggest copying them so you can re-send them when he arrives wherever he is going.

No one can know if this was benign, if he is ok, anything because he hasn't received the necessary evaluations that can be lifesaving. There is always the possibility things are ok, but also a health situation that has the possibility of danger.

This is prison, life without parole is death by prison for folks. Tom Manning, numerous move folks... so many comrades have been killed by prison healthcare. Not to mention ALL of the social prisoners this is happening to every day who don't have a voice so we can not hear their suffering.

We have no asks at this moment besides keep Eric in your thoughts. Write a letter and either send now or save it for his next facility if you can. Keep an eye out if he lets us know he needs help.

August 17th - Eric Called Into Court For Unknown Reasons

Yesterday on the eve of the anniversary of the attack in FCI Florence Eric's family received word he was picked up at 3am on august 13th and told he was being called into court on a "writ" its been 5 days and he still hasn't seen any papers or been told where he is headed. It feels likely that they are bringing him back to Colorado to try to charge him federally for being dragged into a broom closet, attacked and then kicked in the head repeatedly by 6 officers, tied to a 4 point bed covered in blood for 8 hours having to urinate on

himself before being placed in a cell with a toilet clogged with feces and a strobe light overhead for 4 days. There are other potentials for being called in but most of them are not good.

All of Eric's money is in the federal system and he will no longer be able to access it while in county lockup. We imagine next week the marshals will pick him up and place him in a private jail or prison. We need to fundraise asap for funds for him to start over regarding the things he needs. Also it is likely we will have to fight for vegan food and he will rely on his commissary for food again. Since he is leaving federal lockup he will no longer be guaranteed the non-flesh trays of the BOP. This will also mean phones will be insanely more expensive and communication will be essential in order to organize the support he needs. It folks could please share the donate page and try to help get some money in for Him to be prepared.

We still have shirts, stickers and books available. If local ABC's or prison support groups want to print and fundraise shirts hit us up so we can send the design over.

If he is indeed being picked up on bullshit charges we will need as much help as possible getting him a lawyer. To ensure that being attacked by a lieutenant isn't going to result in another federal sentence to be added. He and his family are super scared and don't know what is happening. The idea he could possible stay beyond 2023 is so scary.

We also are going to spring into action to advocate for Eric (in addition to the need for food) to get him the medical care he needs after he suffered the stroke like symptoms in which the medical staff chose to not even enter his cell to check him out.

Donate at supportericking.org/donate-2

We believe he may be able to receive mail but are unsure if he will be in Grady County longer than a week.

7 Aug - Judge Denies Chelsea Manning A Hearing, Insists Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars In Fines Are Not Punishment

A federal judge denied Chelsea Manning's motion to reconsider fines imposed against her for refusing to testify before the grand jury investigating WikiLeaks. He also undermined due process and refused to hold a hearing.

MORE:

by Kevin Gosztola (*Shadowproof*)

"Manning has the ability to comply with the court's financial sanctions or will have the ability after her release from confinement," Judge Anthony Trenga ruled. "Therefore, the imposed fines of \$500 per day after 30 days and \$1,000 per day after 60 days is not so excessive as to relieve her of those sanctions or to constitute punishment rather than a coercive measure."

Trenga additionally insisted that he had the authority to confine her and impose fines as well.

"I am disappointed but not at all surprised. The government and the judge must know by now that this doesn't change my position one bit," Manning declared in response to the decision.

Manning has been in jail for 147 days. She already owes \$38,000 in fines, as of August 7, and she could owe up to \$441,000—nearly a half million dollars—if the sanctions continue.

Her legal team said Manning will “remain confined for another year and will face ongoing financial hardship,” unless Judge Trenga or a higher court is convinced that the fines imposed will “never coerce her compliance” and amount to punishment.

“She has no personal savings, an uncertain speaking career that has been abruptly halted by her incarceration, and is moving her few belongings into storage, as she can no longer afford to pay her rent,” Manning’s legal team made clear in their motion.

Manning’s attorneys further indicated that Manning attempted to share her financial records with the federal court in an effort to show that she has debt and “compromised earning capacity,” which has “left her balance sheets near zero.” But the court apparently never completed a financial assessment of her ability to pay fines.

Trenga acknowledged the “substantial number of financial records documenting her assets, liabilities, and current and future earnings” that were shared with the court. Yet, he maintained they did not present “any new evidence, arguments, or legal authorities” that required the court to conclude it had committed an error by imposing detention, as well as fines.

The judge has “almost unreviewable discretion” when it comes to interpreting her financial records, according to Manning’s legal team.

“Despite the fact that Chelsea is currently deeply in debt, and cannot work while incarcerated, Judge Trenga was able to conclude that fines totalling \$441,000 fall within the parameters of a ‘coercive’ sanction, and do not intrude into the forbidden realm of the punitive,” her attorneys stated.

He also stated his belief that continued confinement may yet exert a coercive impact upon Ms. Manning, and asserted that he retains the authority to keep her confined while simultaneously imposing daily fines, a point of law vigorously disputed by Ms. Manning’s lawyers.

Trenga maintained that fining and jailing Manning fell within the court’s “traditional contempt powers.” Manning’s attorneys disputed this “point of law” and argued these types of fines are often reserved for corporations because they can absorb fines without suffering homelessness.

“Rarely, individuals are fined, but counsel can find no case in which fines were assessed as to an individual other than where the individual was a sophisticated financial actor and the underlying contempt involved disobedience of a court order directing the management of a large amount of money,” they asserted in their motion.

Manning can appeal the decision, however, the intransigence of the judge does not bode well for someone who has already endured substantial trauma as a result of her return to confinement.

Previously, Trenga urged Manning to reflect on her principled opposition to testifying before the grand jury investigating WikiLeaks. He maintained there was “no dishonor” in cooperating with the grand jury, since it is codified in the United States Constitution.

Manning took Trenga’s admonishment seriously and responded with a letter containing research she compiled with the help of her attorneys. It presented her position on the grand jury in a very clear and compelling manner.

“The tradition of using political grand juries to jail political dissidents and activists is long,” Manning asserted. “The concept of a grand jury in which prosecutors subpoena activists and jail them for refusing to comply with the subpoena stands in stark contrast to the institution contemplated in the Constitution.”

She further suggested the grand jury’s current existence runs contrary to key civil liberties protections and contended it has been many decades since the grand jury bore any resemblance to what the drafters of the Constitution supported.

To the notion that she holds the key to her cell, and may walk free anytime, Manning responded, “[That key] is held in the beating heart of all I believe. To retrieve that key and do what you are asking of me, your honor, I would have to cut the key out, which would mean killing everything I hold dear, and the beliefs that defined my path.”

8 Aug - I Choose Anarchism

Read the latest from Keith Malik Washington.

MORE:

by Keith Malik Washington (*Abolition Media Worldwide*)

I’m not going to wait for the Apocalypse to come before I fully embrace Anarchism. I don’t need to see anymore young children forced to sleep on dirty concrete floors in South-West Texas in squalid conditions, eating bologna sandwiches and separated from their parents! No! I’m not going to wait.

I don’t need to wait for the next wild fire, earthquake, hurricane, flood or cyclone to come. I’m not going to wait until I have a stroke or a heart attack and then while I lay on my death bed I’m wishing that I would have chose anarchy when I was a healthy persyn at my full strength. I’m choosing anarchism today when I am at my best!

I’m not going to wait and see if the US Supreme Court votes on another issue like Citizens United or gerrymandering and then tell us that they are fair and unbiased. They are full of shit!

The authority that I have been respecting and following for five decades, following blindly at times, is illegitimate. These people in charge do not give a damn about humyn lives or our planet or morales or even values. I am not going to wait for our planet to be destroyed before my eyes or for the police and the military to lock up our leaders and freedom fighters or kill our young wimmin and young men– choking them to death or shooting them to death on national tv.

It is time for some action! Down with fascism and down with imperialism! Fellow workers unite! Today as I begin to turn 51 years old I choose anarchism! I choose horizontal organizing as opposed to top down leadership. I choose collective direct action, mutual aid, and solidarity. I choose phone zaps! Protests! Monkey wrenching and tree sitting! I choose freedom! Freedom to say what I want to say and how I want to say it!

I am still going to work closely with socialists and Marxists when I am able. I most certainly will continue to support the LGBTQ community and all oppressed people which includes people like me – New Afrikan/Black People. I most certainly am Black and proud of that! I am a Muslim! Now that is a personal thing but that won’t stop me from speaking loudly against Saudi Arabia as they kill my Yemeni sisters and brothers. And I sure as hell won’t ever stop supporting Palestinian people!

I will continue to love and respect Jewish people but I will continue to shun and criticize Zionists. And if you don't know the difference? Well you'll figure it out one day!

I will continue to struggle along side Amani Sawari and many others in order to end prison slavery and I won't ever stop fighting against toxic prisons!

Today I choose Anarchism!

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win, All Power to the People!

15 Aug - Welcome Eddie Africa Home After 40 Years!

Eddie Goodman Africa, released on parole on June 21st 2019, was a political prisoner since August 8th 1978, spending more than 4 decades in prison as one of the 'MOVE 9' for a crime he did not commit.

MORE:

DONATE at fundrazr.com/eddie-africa

As you can imagine, there are many basic necessities that are needed when coming home after 40 years. Eddie is getting settled with the love and support of his family and friends, but funds are very helpful in making his transition to life outside prison smooth. Funds donated will go directly to Eddie's personal bank account.

Please contribute and share this campaign to help spread the word!

15 Aug - The Federal Prisoner Transit System—aka “Diesel Therapy”—Is Hell

Highlights of prisoner travel include gang fights, overflowing toilets and two weeks shackled to a neo-Nazi.

MORE:

By Michael Rothenberg (*The Marshall Project*)

We federal inmates had been on the privately operated prison bus for more than three hours as it wound its way through Alabama, all of our hands and feet shackled together. There was no water or air conditioning, and the Southern summer heat was sweltering. The vehicle's toilet had overflowed, spilling its contents onto the floor; we had no choice but to rest our feet in the refuse.

And we had no idea where our next stop might be. “Just get in the bus and shut up, inmate,” was the response I got when I was picked up in Montgomery, Alabama, and asked a question about our destination.

We federal inmates had been on the privately operated prison bus for more than three hours as it wound its way through Alabama, all of our hands and feet shackled together. There was no water or air conditioning, and the Southern summer heat was sweltering. The vehicle's toilet had overflowed, spilling its contents onto the floor; we had no choice but to rest our feet in the refuse.

And we had no idea where our next stop might be. “Just get in the bus and shut up, inmate,” was the response I got when I was picked up in Montgomery, Alabama, and asked a question about our destination.

When we finally arrived in Lovejoy, Georgia, I was terrified. I had never been in a “real” jail before—FPC Montgomery, where I had been before, is a “camp” for white-collar and low-level drug offenders, with no bars, no cells and no violence.

But this place had barbed wire and a guard tower. Inside, they kept about 30 of us in a holding pen for hours. And they showed us a video on prison rape. “That’s just great,” I thought.

Then I was sent to solitary confinement. I heard the screams of the desperate men who had been there much longer than me. The guy in the cell next to me passed me a note reading, “Please give me whatever food you won’t eat, I’m starving.”

All I kept thinking about was that my wife and kids were supposed to visit me in Montgomery that weekend, and I couldn’t even tell them where I was. I still had no idea why I was in transit.

After a week, the call came to “pack my shit.” But my hopes of returning to the camp died when we got back on the transport bus, which this time took me to a remote part of the Atlanta airport. There I saw more than 100 inmates, shackled, out on the tarmac—and U.S. Marshals with rifles. We were placed onto “Con Air,” the first of my 12 plane trips over the next 73 days.

Welcome to the hell that is the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System, known to many of us as “Diesel Therapy.”

Like so many people in federal prison, I got there because of a stupid decision I made. My fault. I was lucky to be sentenced to FPC Montgomery, the camp on Maxwell Air Force Base less than two hours’ drive from my home in Birmingham. I resigned myself to getting there, keeping my head down, serving my time and coming home.

If only it was that simple.

FPC Montgomery is sometimes referred to as the “crown jewel” of the prison system. I shared a cubicle with a very amiable master thief from South Carolina. We watched Blu-ray movies each night. There were basketball and softball leagues, a great library and an idyllic walking track next to a river. Several prisoners played music in a band; others painted and made leather crafts. I never saw a single fight the entire time I was there, and people said “excuse me” if they bumped into you.

Whether such a system is a good idea or a complete and total waste of American taxpayer dollars, since no one there was a real public-safety risk, is a topic for another day. I felt fortunate, considering the way American prisons usually run.

I became friendly with several people. It was surreal to stand in line for the email system next to a former Congressman next to a famous published author next to a CEO of a once-great company.

One of them I particularly enjoyed spending time with, because of his sarcasm and jovial nature. We used to spend hours walking the track, talking about life and how we got here and what we would do when we went home.

But one day, that friend simply walked away from the camp. Remember, it was not surrounded by guards or a fence or a tower. He simply wasn’t there one afternoon when the officers did their daily count.

I thought it strange that someone would just leave a pretty good place and risk almost certain capture and new charges. But whatever, this wasn’t my life, and it did not concern me.

But the entire camp administration freaked out. The warden called in the U.S. Marshals. They questioned everyone who’d ever had any contact with this person, and that included me. And they were not satisfied

when I told them I had no knowledge of any of this, that I was just a simple guy trying to do his time and go home.

They shackled me to a chair. They threatened to ship me out to the holding facility in Atlanta, a notorious, violent place, if I didn't tell them what they wanted to know. They even staged what I believed to be a phony phone call to the "U.S. Attorney" to threaten me with new charges.

Finally, I'd had enough. I told them they could either charge me or let me go—I was calling their bluff, I thought, on their ability to ship me to another prison. I even called them, "nothing but a glorified taxi service." Not my best move.

A few days later, I was summoned to the front of the camp and told that I was going on "a little trip." They refused to tell me where and why. I was sure it was retribution for the escape.

And just like that, I was gone—snatched away into transit.

From Lovejoy we landed in Oklahoma City, a hub for federal prisoner transit. There is an entire holding facility right near the airport there.

"Rothenberg, you are going to Grady County Jail—good luck," a U.S. Marshal laughed. Another intolerable bus ride with shackles.

Grady County Jail is a very small place in Chickasha, Oklahoma. The Marshals contract with local facilities to hold federal inmates, sometimes for weeks at a time. It was dirty and hot. They placed 36 men in one small pod, and we were stacked in bunk beds three high. A gang leader told us where we could sit.

On the next transport day, the hapless guards placed two gangs in very close proximity on the bus. One guy slipped his handcuffs somehow and brutally beat the other inmate. I later heard he died.

Three weeks passed before I was on Con Air again, headed to another unknown destination.

On the way to what turned out to be South Dakota, an inmate said he needed to use the bathroom.

"Tough shit," said the Marshal, "you had your chance."

"Yo, seriously I am going to piss myself if I don't go."

"If you piss yourself on my plane I'm gonna tase you."

"Well if you tase me I'm gonna piss myself." Classic Catch-22.

The inmate pissed himself. Then he was tased.

On and on it went like this—from Oklahoma to South Dakota, then to Pahrump, Nevada, and a nice-looking private prison run by CoreCivic. There, I passed pods and pods full of ICE immigrant detainees. Violent federal inmates were mixed in with the crowd.

I am an observant Jew, and it is pretty obvious. My request for Kosher food was fulfilled by feeding me celery and rice every meal of the day for two weeks. I lost 37 pounds on my "trip."

From Nevada I was sent to Utah. There I met—and was shackled to—a neo-Nazi.

He was 20 years old, with a White Power tattoo on his hands. He talked openly about having committed a hate crime against Jews. I tried to alert the jail staff, but they couldn't care less.

Of everything that had happened, this was the prison nightmare I feared most.

The Nazi began to talk to me. He told me that he was okay with observant Jews, just not the ones who ran the banking system in America. Great.

We remained stuck together for the next two weeks. Over that time he told me his story—how he dropped out of school and followed in the footsteps of his older brother, whom he idolized and who was serving time for a hate crime as well. His father had left them. He was not able to afford his mental-health medication. He took a gun and went to the local synagogue. It was empty; he was intending to kill himself. At the last minute, he decided he couldn't go through with it and emptied his clip into the empty synagogue instead.

He asked me for forgiveness for what he did. I didn't know what to say, so I said nothing.

Later, my Mom called the U.S. Marshals and demanded to know how such a situation could happen, and why I was being given “diesel therapy” in the first place.

“Diesel therapy? Never heard of it,” she said they said. “There is no such thing.”

16 Aug - FBI Harasses Anti-Racist Organizers in Bloomington After Far-Right Militia Shows Support for White Nationalists

Following a 2018 arson attack on an Indiana synagogue, members of the white nationalist group Identity Evropa, now rebranded at American Identity Movement, were outed as vendors at a farmer's market in Bloomington, Indiana.

MORE:

via It's Going Down

Community members and antifascists began to mobilize against them, only to have members of the far-Right militia the Three Percenters, linked to a string of bombings against mosques, refugees, and other targets, show up to the market with guns to support and protect the white nationalists.

The market was then hit with a wave of violent threats from the far-Right, forcing the event to shut down for several weeks. It's in this context that the FBI has begun to conduct door knocks of anti-racist organizers.

Yesterday, August 14th, the FBI targeted as many as 10 suspected anti-racist organizers in Bloomington, Indiana. This comes days after the second anniversary of the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, in which white supremacists murdered Heather Heyer and injured many others. FBI agents went to the homes, workplaces, and families' homes of suspected anti-racist organizers throughout the day on Wednesday to question people about anti-racist organizing efforts. In at least one case, the Indiana University (IU) Police Department was directly complicit in the process.

Though it may seem surprising to some that the FBI would target anti-racist efforts, we are not surprised. It is happening here in Bloomington and also in Virginia, where the FBI recently began knocking on the

doors of people who were connected to Charlottesville as anti-racist protestors, according to the Virginia National Lawyers Guild.

The presence of armed 3%'ers at the Bloomington farmer's market seems to concern the city and federal government very little as the death toll wrought by racists, bigots, police, and fascists in recent shootings continues to grow. In July 2018, members of the white supremacist group Identity Evropa plotted to burn down a synagogue in Carmel, Indiana. Last week, just days after the mass shooting in El Paso, another man showed up armed at a migrant shelter in the border city. It was impossible to tell whether that man mimicked an ICE agent or the gunman that took the lives of 22 people a few days prior. Of course, the police only gave him a stern talking-to and released him back onto the same street as the shelter, weapons and all.

All this, and it is the anti-racists who are under investigation as "extremists". Across the country, people are getting organized to respond to the crisis of white supremacy — inextricably linked to the crises of state violence, mass shootings, family separations and mass deportations, and climate change — and the FBI can only humiliate itself by once again focusing its resources on those of us who seek collective liberation.

We understand yesterday's FBI solicitations as harassment.

Harassment that is not unique to this presidential administration.

Harassment that is meant to neutralize our position against white supremacy and make us too fearful to rebel against its trappings, the very status quo of our society.

We will not be afraid.

We will not let the police make us suspicious of each other.

We will continue to find each other and get organized.

We stand with countless others who will refuse cops, FBI, and ICE agents entry into our homes without a warrant signed by a judge.

We will give cops and federal agents no more than our name (by legal obligation) and say "I refuse to answer any questions. I would like to see my lawyer."

16 Aug - MAJOR Water Protector Prisoner Updates

On July 16, 2019 Akicita Water Protector Political Prisoner Michael 'Little Feather' Giron of the Chumash and Lakota nations was released from Hazelton federal penitentiary, transitioning to federal surveillance on probation.

MORE:

He just recently found local housing in ND outside of Bureau of Prison's halfway houses.

NEW STATEMENTS FROM RATTLER

August 7th - Little Feather

Little Feather like the rest of us stood up to the government. He stood for what is RIGHT. He stood for the people, and they sent him to prison for it. The only reason that he went in the first place is because there is

no more justice in the United States. The US has been bought and paid for by companies that view the destruction of the earth as their god given right. Little Feather stood when many others would not stand up for the people. When they talk about cops being heroes, they are wrong. The true hero is people like Little Feather, Dion Ortiz, Angry Bird and Redfawn. Because they stood against a giant and did not flinch at the cost of doing what is right. We did it without guns, against a militarized police force supported by mercenaries and paid for by people that would sell their own children for a profit, because they already sold their children's future and now they are trying to take OUR children's future. I thank Little Feather, Dion Ortiz, Angry Bird and Redfawn for bearing the cost of doing what is right when many others would not. I thank them for sacrificing years of their life because they care about the future of Unci Maka. My hope is that others will not be scared by the prospect of doing time, but encouraged by the willingness of people like Little Feather to stand up to big corporations so they too can stand with them. Remember when you think of a hero, think of Mike "Little Feather" Giron, Dion Ortiz, James "Angry Bird" White, and Redfawn Fallis, True heroes in the war for Mother Earth.

I'm glad that Little Feather has gotten out of prison, where he did not belong in the first place. I'm happy that he is back with our family and I hope that I get to dance with him someday at the place he decides to Sundance at. I am truly happy for all the people that get out of these places that thrive on human incarceration. Prisons are not here to help, they are here to house you and send you out in a world that is changing everyday knowing that they have done nothing to prepare you and betting that you will come back. While I am in here, I have been listening to some of my fellow prisoners tell me what they would like to do when they get out. I try to help them, because the prison faculty will just ignore them. I am doing everything I can to help them get out and reach that goal that they want. I think the Lakota or Native way is what we all need.

August 7th - Unit Transfer

When the prison required me to move from J unit, which I had been in since I first got here in November 2018, to I unit, councilor A said it was because he wants his cases in the same unit. My first comment was "Why? You have not talked to me once since that initial intake, or when I approached you repeatedly to ask about my family's visitation forms not being processed." I filed a BP8 and contested the idea of being moved to I unit because in J unit we all got along and watched out for each other... I told them I am just trying to avoid a confrontation between my new bunkie and I, because I found out that he is racist against people of color. Not that I am a wimp and can't take care of myself. I am just trying to avoid a situation where I feel the need to defend myself. It seems to me they [prison] like to have conflict between prisoners...When we go for our orientation from the prison staff, the first words they say to us prisoners is "We don't care why you are here". Which is a clear indication that we are just money signs to them.

21 Aug - Emergency Rally & Memorial for Valerie Gaiter:

WHAT: Rally/Vigil

WHEN: 5:00pm, Wednesday, August 21st

WHERE: NYC Offices of the NYS Legislature, 250 Broadway, NYC

COST: FREE

MORE:

While in prison, Val ran the photography program in the Bedford Hills visiting room, trained service dogs for wounded veterans, and earned multiple college degrees. She had a sentence of 50 years to life and wouldn't be eligible for parole release until she was 71 years old. Had Governor Cuomo granted her clemency, or had the New York State legislature passed Elder Parole (S.2144) during the 2019 legislative session —ensuring that all people 55 years and older who had served at least 15 years in prison were given

a parole interview immediately—Val would likely be home now. Instead, she died alone in the infirmary. August 21 would have been the 40th anniversary of Val's incarceration

Long sentences, like the one Val received in 1979, are not only excessive and cruel, but fatal. More than a thousand people have died in prison since Gov. Cuomo took office and we say ENOUGH. #FreeOurElders. #ParoleJusticeNow

Email or call Michelle Lewin at mlewin@paroleprepny.org or 347-620-5906 with questions.

24 Aug - MXCC 24th Annual Dinner Tribute to 'Our Political Prisoners And Their Families!'

WHAT: Tribute Dinner

WHEN: 3:00pm, Saturday, August 24th

WHERE: Langston Hughes Community Library, 100-01 Northern Boulevard, Corona Queens

COST: \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door

MORE:

The Malcolm X Commemoration Committee (MXCC) will join with the National Black Panther Party Alumni Association to present its 24th Annual Dinner Tribute to 'Our Political Prisoners And Their Families!'

The theme for this year's tribute is 'Faith-The Ultimate Weapon!' and will honor clergy who have stood by our Political Prisoners through their ordeal of captivity. Among the honorees are two of the most outspoken elder statesmen of New York's Black Clergy, Rev. Herbert Daughtry of House Of The Lord Church and retired Chaplain Father Lawrence Lucas. Representing a new generation of Social Justice ministers will be Rev. Lukata Mjumbe, who is now Pastor of the historic Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey. Rev. Mjumbe is the godson of Panther political prisoner Sundiata Acoli. Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church has been an anchor for African Americans in that area, slave or free for over 150 years. It is best known for once being shepherded by William Robeson, the father of the immortal human rights champion Paul Robeson, who served as Pastor in the early 20th century.

Legendary performer Ngoma, who just dropped a video of his recent release 'Real Black Panthers Ain't in Wakanda' dedicated to Panther political prisoners, will be among the performers, as will Apollo Theatre poetry legend Regtuinah Reg and Panther cub Ksisay Sadiki who will perform an excerpt from her one-woman show 'First Born,' dedicated to her father, Panther political prisoner Kamau Sadiki.

This year's gathering comes on the heels of the release of several MOVE political prisoners, Debbie Africa, Mike Africa, Janet Africa, Janine Africa, and Eddie Africa, after 41 years in prison. It also comes on the heels of the death of political prisoner Tom Manning, on the heels of Jalil Muntaqim being denied Parole for the 11th time, and most recently, on the heels of a Federal Court refusing to grant any relief for Imam Jamil Al-Amin, over clear Constitutional Violations in his trial, even though the court conceded the correctness of the appeal. Al-Amin is also recovering from a mild stroke and Delbert Africa just survived a life-threatening medical emergency.

The Malcolm X Commemoration Committee is actively involved in the Parole Campaigns for Jalil Muntaqim, Delbert Africa and Chuckie Africa as they each come up for Parole again in September.

"One of the really maddening things facing many of our political prisoners is that some of them have actually done their time, no matter how you come down on the issue.

"Some of them have done their time, Jalil, Veronza, Mutulu, Sundiata, and more still, and yet they are still forced to languish in captivity," said an angry Zayid Muhammad, the organization's founding press officer.

This year's gathering also marks the first time it has been held during Black August, the monthly appreciation of Black Resistance to Oppression dedicated to martyred Panthers George and Jonathan Jackson and to supporting Political Prisoners.

Political Prisoners Mutulu Shakur and Russell 'Maroon' Shoats have Black August birthdays.