



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for August 20th

5 Aug - Update on anarchist Nikos Maziotis

Greece: We would like to send you some news about the imprisonment of anarchist comrade Nikos Maziotis -who is in Domokos prison for his actions in Revolutionary Struggle- and the special “state of exception” for him.

MORE:

The Lamia Misdemeanors Court Council recently rejected the comrade’s request for conditional release. This is the sixth time his request has been rejected (five rejections by the first-instance council and one by an appellate court where he appealed only once). Three of the six requests Nikos Maziotis has submitted for his release were rejected by a council presided over by the same judge. And in all three instances, his request was accompanied by three consecutive positive prosecutorial recommendations.

With the recent conditional release of the Nazi Michaloliakos, the above was proven once again. According to journalistic, legal, and judicial circles, this decision was signed by Christina Papagianni as president of the Lamia Misdemeanors Court Council. Thus, with the decision No. 121/30.4.2024, the specific one was released, while his first release request was accompanied by a negative prosecutorial recommendation. From the very beginning, there was not only political cover but also a concerted and coordinated effort by state (and judicial) authorities to keep the name of the council president who released the Nazi. This attempted cover-up did not succeed. The president’s name was immediately revealed through leaks from journalistic (and not only) offices. And despite the fact that the Nazi is now back in prison (after an appeal was filed against his release by an appellate prosecutor), the selectively biased stance of far-right elements within the “justice system” who release Nazis, yet are the same ones like this particular judge who keeps comrade Nikos Maziotis imprisoned, can no longer remain hidden.

We do not forget our imprisoned comrades all over the world until the freedom from the cells of democracy

We defend comrade Nikos Maziotis and comrade Pola Roupá for their actions and political choices as anarchists and as convicted members of Revolutionary Struggle. We call on the world of struggle to mobilize and show solidarity for the:

- IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF COMRADE NIKOS MAZIOTIS, who remains imprisoned in the cells of democracy for the actions of Revolutionary Struggle.
- FINAL RELEASE OF COMRADE POLA ROUPA FROM STATE CAPTIVITY

Their justice in the years of democracy: the “exception regime” and the imprisonment of Nikos Maziotis

The militants of revolutionary organizations who are imprisoned face a special “state of exception” during all stages of state and criminal repression —from their arrest, trials and long-term imprisonment in the cells of democracy, to the moment of their release. This “state of exception” primarily affects the militants who, through their actions, sought to overthrow the existing state-capitalist world. Despite the increasingly harsh judicial and repressive environment, the imprisoned comrades consciously stand with dignity and consistency, defending their political actions.

This stance of the rebellious revolutionaries constantly reminds us that the struggles against the state and capital, even if temporarily, are not defeated and are not in vain. On the contrary, their political legacy in every historical era has always been (and continues to be) the catalyst that ignites the struggles of the present and the future. This prospect is what continuously frightens political and economic power. For

when people who struggle are at the forefront of history, everywhere and always, they are victorious. They fear nothing and have nothing to lose but their chains.

Among the fighters with these political characteristics are the convicted comrades of Revolutionary Struggle, Pola Roupa and Nikos Maziotis. Precisely because of these political characteristics, the anarchist comrade Nikos Maziotis, who is in prison for his actions in Revolutionary Struggle and does not negotiate or bargain for his freedom on terms of submission and repentance as the state and “justice” seek, is experiencing an additional “state of exception”. He remains imprisoned in the cells of democracy and is deprived of his freedom despite having served his lengthy sentence for over two years. Comrade Pola Roupa, despite being released under restrictive conditions for months, remains in political captivity. Notably, just one week after her release in November 2023, the appellate prosecutor of Halkida appealed her release, and a final decision has been pending since January 2024. As long as this judicial uncertainty exists, she is at risk of being sent back to prison.

The “state of exception” for Nikos Maziotis

The Lamia Misdemeanors Court Council recently rejected the comrade’s request for conditional release, as he himself publicly announced [<Nikos Maziotis: Regarding the latest rejection of my release: epanastaticosagonas.wordpress.com>](https://epanastaticosagonas.wordpress.com).

This is the sixth time his request has been rejected (five rejections by the first-instance council and one by an appellate court where he appealed only once). Three of the six requests Nikos Maziotis has submitted for his release were rejected by a council presided over by the same judge. And in all three instances, his request was accompanied by three consecutive positive prosecutorial recommendations.

It is well known that in the comrade’s case, the reasoning behind the continuous rejection of his conditional release is systematically based on similar ideological and political characteristics. This is reflected in all the rejection decisions, with particular emphasis on the latest request. He is one of the few prisoners panhellenically—if not the only one—with a 20-year sentence who has been denied suspension for two years. They may be attempting to force him to serve the entire sentence, even though he has completed more than the required three-fifths of the sentence according to their own laws, since January 2022.

This “special” treatment by the judicial authority and particularly by the president of the Lamia Misdemeanors Court Council against the political prisoner Nikos Maziotis strengthens—if nothing else—the political assessment that his continued imprisonment is based on the political nature of his case. The same happened with comrade Pola Roupa. However, this case, and especially the continued imprisonment of comrade Nikos Maziotis, not only deprives him of his freedom but could also set a precedent against the world of struggle, should this action be directed explicitly against the state-capitalist system of political and economic dominance. This highlights how much their democracy fears the actions of militants and guerrilla organizations that oppose the state, capital, and all forms of authority and imprisonment. As comrades fighting within the anarchist/anti-authoritarian movement, we stand hostile to the state and its mechanisms, its laws, and its prisons. Consequently, we know how the state and its mechanisms treat our comrades and how they treat “their own.” Whether they are political figures involved in criminal (and other) cases, or uniformed servants of the political and economic power system who have committed state murders, or fascists, Nazis etc.

(Para)state, political-judicial mafia and democracy

With the recent conditional release of the Nazi Michaloliakos, the above was proven once again. According to journalistic, legal, and judicial circles, this decision was signed by Christina Papagianni as president of the Lamia Misdemeanors Court Council. Thus, with the decision No. 121/30.4.2024, the specific one was released, while his first release request was accompanied by a negative prosecutorial recommendation.

From the very beginning, there was not only political cover but also a concerted and coordinated effort by state (and judicial) authorities to keep the name of the council president who released the Nazi. Moreover, this was to prevent the “integrity” of the “justice system” itself from being questioned. This attempted cover-up did not succeed. The president’s name was immediately revealed through leaks from journalistic (and not only) offices.

And despite the fact that the Nazi is now back in prison (after an appeal was filed against his release by an appellate prosecutor), this selective decision by the particular judge does not diminish the political significance of this favorable stance by the state and judicial authorities, nor can it mitigate the social and political contempt it caused. However, the selectively biased stance of far-right elements within the “justice system” who release Nazis, yet are the same ones like this particular judge who keeps comrade Nikos Maziotis imprisoned, can no longer remain hidden.

Fascism and neo-Nazism in all their forms and under whatever political guise they appear seem to find “support” from repressive and judicial authorities due to their political affinity and organic connection within the mechanism. The authorities treat them as an extension of their own political reach, as they do not pose a threat. Instead, fascist, Nazi and other nationalist enclaves, as an ideology, political expression and practice, are the perfect political complement to the state-terrorist, in whatever form it occasionally takes. It is well known that since the post-civil war years, they have been consistently integrated into the structures and institutions of the state itself. Moreover, they complete its work whenever, for reasons of integration, appeasement, and deflection of social anger, the political power does not want to “expose” itself further.

Focusing on this selective tactic toward the specific Nazi and the vindictiveness and deprivation of freedom for comrade Nikos Maziotis, the political “sympathy” of the president and, more generally, the ideological and structural blending of state power with such ideologies and practices (such as fascist, Nazi, racist, gender-based and other intolerant pogroms and murders) is fully confirmed. As when “justice” (the Komotini three-member Court of Appeals for Felonies) a month ago, awarded with suspension and released the three fascists who acted as vigilantes in Alexandroupolis, who hunted down and imprisoned 13 refugees/migrants in a trailer-cage! In fact, in August 2023, when they were first arrested, the Alexandroupolis prosecutor recommended their release with restrictive conditions until their trial. Or when the state and its mechanisms allowed the Golden Dawn’s attack squads to operate unchallenged. Let’s not forget that shortly before the neo-Nazi squads of Golden Dawn murdered the antifascist Pavlos Fyssas in Keratsini, members of the current party that is in the government, as well as journalists from mainstream media and later parliament members of New Democracy, who saw their dominance and “votes” in the nationalist right being threatened, were in talks with members and parliament members of the neo-Nazi formation to bring about this political convergence with a perhaps...“more serious”...Golden Dawn (sic)!

The struggles of rebellious people for a stateless, classless society of freedom, equality and solidarity cannot have any relation to the hateful characteristics of fascist or Nazi ideology. As part of the state’s efforts to depoliticize social struggles, in Europe—and not only—democracies are trying on a criminal-law level to equate insurgent-revolutionary actions with the practices of murderers. Recently, the judiciary in Greece and the informers of the regime media have been reproducing the narrative of the “unrepentant” fascists as an argument for the “victory of democracy” in the re-imprisonment of the “Führer”. A jurisprudentially subversive argument for the unrepentant stance of revolutionaries, like that of the imprisoned comrade Nikos Maziotis.

We do not forget our imprisoned comrades all over the world until they are free from the cells of democracy.

7 Aug - Illustrated Guide Version 17.7 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2024/08/07/guide_17_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.

7 Aug - Leonard Peltier Update

The Leonard Peltier Ad Hoc Committee is trying to streamline communications so they come from the Committee, but you need to know what is happening with Leonard while they do that.

MORE:

We are launching a Patreon account – sign up while it is free and read our first post. There will always be free updates. Eventually, we may ask for \$5.00 a month for special content. It takes a village to free a Leonard Peltier: patreon.com/LeonardPeltier

Leonard still lives under indefinite lockdown, going days at a time with no communication, bad food, and tainted water; at times, he does not have necessities such as soap. When he can get to the phone, the length of the calls has been cut from 15 minutes to 10. They often cut off after a few minutes. He has been calling people lately, and their phones do not ring. I talked to him after a 4-day lockdown, and he said, "You cannot imagine how frustrated I am."

I said, "You are right. I can't." I heard it loud and clear, though. Leonard is a Spirit Warrior.

He does not give up, and he does not give in to frustration. By the next phone call, he rebooted himself and was laughing and talking about fighting for his freedom.

People do not understand how involved Leonard is in his own defense. Leonard studies and somehow manages to be aware of everything. He is extremely aware that this is now a race against time. Leonard is fighting for his life.

Leonard's toe is on the mend! We are still strongly encouraging people to contact the Senate Judiciary Committee and ask them to see that Leonard is moved to a Medical Facility, such as the one in Rochester. Contact information and a sample letter are on our ACT NOW page, directly underneath Donate: freeleonardpeltiernow.org/act-now

The sample letter explains what to tell the Senate Judiciary Committee if they attempt to tell you that it's not their job. It's important to remember that they were formed to provide oversight to the FBI and BOP, which are currently running without oversight.

Leonard was initially hospitalized with an ulcerated toe caused by diabetes that has not been controlled. The first hospitalization lasted four days. They notified no one. There have been two further hospitalizations.

Leonard's lead counsel, Jenipher Jones, has set up a medical team for Leonard. Dr. Joel Morrissey has visited Leonard several times, with two more visits scheduled. Coleman 1 cannot meet Leonard's medical needs even if they were willing to try. Coleman 1 is a Level 2 Care Facility. Leonard is at a Level 3 care level – the hospitalizations alone attest to this. Level 2 Care Facilities are for people with stable medical conditions who are not in danger of being hospitalized.

Coleman 1 ignored tests that should have been performed and did not follow up on the recommendations of the doctors Leonard had seen. Leonard was told that when his aortic aneurysm reached five centimeters surgical intervention would be necessary to prevent a rupture, which will take his life. The aneurysm got close to five centimeters years ago and they stopped measuring it. That is Coleman 1's version of medical care. If you do not document it, it does not exist.

Leonard has fallen several times. The physical therapy he needs will not be happening in lockdown. He has lost so much limb strength that he cannot pick up a paintbrush, and navigating a walker has become problematic.

Leonard is grossly misclassified and held as a "high risk" offender in one of the most dangerous federal facilities in the U.S. On a walker, losing his eyesight.

Jenipher Jones pulls medical records and argues with people at Regional. Because of that, Dr. Morrissey checking on Leonard, they took him to the infirmary daily and changed his bandages.

The prisoners are given no cleaning supplies – they are forced to live in filth. A diabetic foot wound must be kept clean, which most likely would not have happened without the intervention of the legal and medical teams Jenipher assembled.

A Press Release will be out soon, discussing the appeal and more. This is not over until it is over, folks. Jenipher Jones and her team are in this for the long haul.

We need to keep Leonard alive so we can get him out. Donate if you can. Pressure the Judiciary Committee. Educate others about the lengths the FBI has gone to, to demonize Leonard and deflect attention from its role on Pine Ridge Reservation. Former FBI have come out and said that the FBI refuses to look at their role and that Leonard is being held out of vindictiveness and an FBI Family vendetta. Most of all, SPREAD THE WORD.

Quick edit – Leonard just called. I told him about this: freeleonardpeltiernow.org/events

Leonard said THIS is what we need. We need people to take to the streets with non-violent demonstrations. The nation we live in is having a Civil Rights Crisis. People have said nothing while Leonard's civil rights have been shredded. The government we live under knows, and they look away.

Civil rights belong to everyone or no one. Leonard has been saying this for over 48 years. That one day, we will find out for ourselves that civil rights are an illusion.

August 7th - Biden Pressured to Grant Leonard Peltier Clemency

by Melinda Tuhus (*Between the Lines*)

American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier has been in federal prison for almost 50 years, after being convicted in the 1975 killing of FBI agents Ronald Williams and Jack Coler, which occurred on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. On July 2, 79-year-old Peltier, who has always maintained his innocence, was denied parole for the third time, meaning he will likely die in prison unless President Biden commutes his sentence. Peltier's trial was riddled with irregularities and the government has admitted it doesn't know who killed the FBI agents.

Indigenous people's organizations have campaigned for Peltier's release for decades and have been joined by human rights groups and individuals around the world, including Amnesty International, the American Association of Jurists, the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and the Dalai Lama.

Between The Lines' Melinda Tuhus spoke with Justin Mazzola, deputy director of research with Amnesty International USA, who has been following Peltier's case for years. Here he discusses the next steps that must be taken to win his freedom.

JUSTIN MAZZOLA: We originally sent observers to his trial as well as his successive appeals all the way up to the early 1990s. And so from the start we've had concerns about whether or not Leonard had received a fair trial.

MELINDA TUHUS: And I've covered it for many years. And from everything I know, it's clear that he did not receive a fair trial. He's always maintained his innocence. Two other people who were also charged in the killings were acquitted based on self-defense. And, now over these many decades, some very key people in his prosecution and conviction have even come forward to say, minimally, he didn't get a fair trial, or he should perhaps be released at this point when he's almost 80 years old and, you know, has a lot of serious health problems.

What can you say about the situation now? What's left for Leonard, if anything? I guess it's just clemency from the president, is that right?

JUSTIN MAZZOLA: Yeah, I mean, obviously that's the fastest, and, you know, easiest route for Leonard to achieve his release. There are legal maneuvers that Leonard's attorneys will be taking with regards to the parole commission's decision. There is a review process and appeal process that I'm sure that they're gonna be engaging in, but obviously that takes time. And that's one thing that Leonard really doesn't have much of anymore. He's nearly 80 years old. He has chronic health issues. Some are very serious and potentially could be fatal and some are due to being in an institution for the past 50 years and being incarcerated for 50 years. So, this really is the fastest route for Leonard to achieve freedom — through a grant of clemency and commutation of his sentence from President Biden.

MELINDA TUHUS: It seemed like the most likely actually would've been Trump because he hates the FBI. But that didn't happen either.

JUSTIN MAZZOLA: No, it didn't. That was kind of our thinking as well that you know, Trump could put a thumb in the eye to the FBI because of all of his issues with them by granting his release. But of course, with all the shenanigans that were happening with pardons and everything else in the Trump administration, I guess Leonard's case didn't rise to that level of scrutiny or corruption.

MELINDA TUHUS: Yeah, that's the thing. One question is, what else, if anything, your organization plans to do about this case? Is there anything left to do?

JUSTIN MAZZOLA: We obviously pivoted once we knew that the parole hearing was gonna be taking place. We had our members, really since 2021 when the petition for clemency was initially submitted to the DOJ pardon attorney. We had our members from all around the world. Leonard's case is something that generates a lot of interest not only from folks here in the U.S. but also internationally, writing to the president, and the DOJ pardon attorney seeking commutation.

We then pivoted, obviously to target the parole commission and send appeals to their office, in support of parole. And now we just reissued another urgent action towards the president to commute a sentence. And so we're trying to promote that and really generate more attention to the case. This really is potentially his last hope. When you look at, you know, some of the comments from the FBI, you know, labeling him or a murderous dog and, you know, all these other things, it's really hypocrisy because the government admits in court that they don't even know who killed Agent Kohler and Agent Williams and their families deserve justice. That's, you know, undeniable. And so does the family of Joe Stunts, who is also killed, who is an AIM member who was also killed that day during the shootout, for which there's been no accountability and no justice.

But holding Leonard at this point is not justice. He never received a fair trial. That's proven. It's been proven over and over again. Like I said, the government doesn't even know who actually killed the agents and have stated this in court. And so, for the FBI to continue to demonize him and push against his release at this point in time, it really is beyond the pale at this point.

And so, I really urge people to try to take action however they can. Even if you have taken action before and written to the president, you know, educate folks about his case, if they haven't heard about it and try

to get more people to raise this with the presidency because this really is Leonard's last chance to obtain freedom.

August 12th - Leonard Peltier "This is Our Battle Cry."

Attorneys for Leonard Peltier, the longest-serving Indigenous political prisoner in the United States, have administratively appealed the US Parole Commission's decision to deny him parole. The appeal challenges the Commission's violation of the ex post facto clause of the Constitution and sets forth arguments and evidence demonstrating that the Commission's articulated bases for denying parole are inconsistent with the facts, in violation of Mr. Peltier's due process rights.

Lead counsel for Mr. Peltier, Attorney Jenipher Jones of Denver, Colorado, said, "Essentially, if the law is wrong, the sentence is prolonged. Applying the wrong law, one not in effect at the time of the alleged offense, as the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention notes, severely prolongs Mr. Peltier's sentence in a manner not intended by Congress at the time, raising a substantial ex post facto issue. Per the U.S. Supreme Court, agencies like the US Parole Commission should not be judge, jury, and decider on what the law is."

Peltier, who is nearly 80 years old, has been in federal custody since 1976. He suffers from a raft of debilitating and potentially fatal chronic illnesses, which the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has treated inadequately, inappropriately, or not at all. Although Mr. Peltier's poor health continues to deteriorate, the US Parole Commission denied his release on the basis that he poses a danger to the community.

"The claim that Mr. Peltier, who cannot stand or walk unassisted, cannot lift his arms past about ninety degrees, and is nearly blind, could pose a danger to the community, is disingenuous at best," said Mr. Peltier's attorney Moira Meltzer-Cohen. "The BOP's own long-term studies show that the older someone is, the less likely they are to engage in unlawful conduct. At Mr. Peltier's age, especially given his health, the chances of him breaking the law hover somewhere around zero."

The Commission also maintained that even after nearly half a century in prison for a crime of which he has always insisted he is innocent, his release would promote disrespect for the law.

Mr. Peltier hopes to be released to spend his final days on his ancestral lands. His attorneys and others are pursuing all lawful means to secure his release. In the meantime, as his medical condition continues to worsen, Peltier's attorneys urgently advocate for his transfer to a medical facility.

For his own part, Mr. Peltier wishes to remind the public that "There have been numerous constitutional violations, and it was not a fair hearing. This agency was abolished 30 years ago. This is why Congress legislated to abolish them; they are not accountable to anyone, Congress or the Courts. I need people to complain about this. This is corruption at its greatest. This is our battle cry."

12 Aug - Not Guilty!

On Thursday, August 8th, Chris "Big Tex," was found not guilty by a jury in a criminal trial on charges of "assault on a police officer," following a mobilization in the spring of 2023 in defense of a drag event at a brewery in Fort Worth, Texas in response to threats from fascist groups.

MORE:

via It's Going Down

In a message to supporters on the Free Tex website, Chris wrote:

On April 23, 2023 the Fort Worth Police attacked me and beat me for standing on a corner and preventing Nazis from filming people entering a drag show. Hours after my arrest the police in partnership with the elected district attorney spuriously developed a claim that I assaulted them, a claim they did not mention across 24 reports and supplemental reports. The chief integrity officer of the county took a case that spanned 2.5 seconds of my life, to invent the largest of conspiracies: that I am a terrorist, the leader of a criminal street gang, that I paid people to

engage in unlicensed security, that cleaning water off my umbrella was a “secret antifa signal,” you name it. She tried to cloud 2.5 seconds with two years of lies and the jury saw through it from the start.

I don’t want to mince words here. We watched for days as cops took the stand to lie, consistently contradicting each other and more wildly often misrepresenting and lying about the very things we were all watching together on screen. We watched as the accusations that Christian-fascists have long levied against me were methodically broken down to the lies they were. Here is an archive of daily trial updates for all four days. Please read, it is impossible to communicate the absurdity to anyone that wasn’t there.

After four full days of enormous tension Tarrant County sealed their fate when they marched a wall of cops into the courtroom to stare down the jury while they read my charge. After less than 45 minutes, I heard those beautiful words: Not Guilty.

I am eternally grateful to my legal team who saw this blatant political persecution for what it was from the start and their ferocious commitment to justice while helping me feel like a person who mattered throughout. I will never forget their righteous anger and commitment to the truth. I am so grateful to my wife and family both blood and chosen, whose unending well of hope and strength pulled me through the darkest days. I am so grateful to the journalist who spent every moment of those long four days in the courtroom alongside my family so my story could be told. And I am so grateful to the Quakers for standing at my side from beginning to end and keeping me level and centered.

I never wanted this to be about me, never wanted the attention or the soapbox, but I’m grateful for all that listened and pleased more than I can articulate to have the next twenty years of my life back.

The real danger has passed, but the lawsuit against me by New Columbia Movement financed by their billionaire donor is still very real and in that suit I am defending myself. I will be back in civil court on August 13th to defend myself once again and as before, the truth will set me free.

I am beset with an overwhelming amount of expenses to recover from two extra days of trial, investigative prep, and expenses related to fighting the civil suit. If you’re able to help, please send a few bones my way.

One of the leading bigots who came out to protest the event was Kelly Neidert, a self-described “Christian fascist” who has called for “rounding up” people who attend Pride celebrations and reportedly is a member of the fascist group, the New Columbia Movement. Neidert has organized a variety of anti-LGBTQ+ protests, which have been attended by both Trump supporters and outright neo-Nazi groups that have waved swastika flags. According to the *Daily Beast*, “Kelly has also received support from former Proud Boys lawyer Jason Lee Van Dyke,” who as *VICE* reported, attempted to join the paramilitary neo-Nazi group the Base, only to be rejected.

Testifying during trial proceedings was Kyle Randle, a former member of the New Columbia Movement, who took part in the far-Right rally outside of the brewery in Fort Worth, TX. According to Alexandra Edwards, who reported from the trial, Kyle is also suing Chris and “his co-plaintiffs are Joshua Finecy and Anthony Long...[also former] members of New Columbia [Movement]...”

Edwards went on to report that during the trial, it was revealed that billionaire real estate mogul and Republican mega-donor Monty Bennett, publisher of *The Dallas Express*, is in fact funding the fascist group’s lawsuit. Beyond massive donations to Donald Trump and Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Bennett is most well-known for swindling tens of millions in PPP loans during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and pushing a variety of attacks on the LGBTQ+ community and public education.

The New Columbia Movement is known for melding European fascism with authoritarian Catholicism and American nationalist symbolism. As Steve Monacelli wrote, the group embraces a form of “Carlism, a semi-fascist Catholic pro-monarchist ideology, [that] emerged in 1800s Spain and played a part in Franco’s brutal regime.”

As Political Research Associates reported:

In a manifesto published on its website, the group...calls the notion of equality — or at least what they consider “unnatural equality” — “evil,” describes democracy as a “failed experiment” and advocates for a “Roman” model as the solution to “America’s cultural diversity,” in which “Subjugated peoples” would be allowed to “retain their personal culture,” but only under “a High American Culture” based on “Christian morality, rule of law, and the common good.”

In YouTube videos, New Columbia Movement leaders have referred to Elliot Rodger, the incel mass shooter who killed six people in Santa Barbara in 2014, as “the supreme gentleman”: a self-aggrandizing term Rodger used in his last pre-massacre video, which has since become a common term of endearment on far-right forums like 4chan. Leaders also traffic in antisemitism, as when one leader asserted on a 2021 livestream entitled “The Sexual Revolution and its Consequences” that Jews “do in fact have a very tight stranglehold on the porn industry” as well as “a huge hold on Hollywood.” Another leader then added, “This can turn into a ‘J.Q.’ podcast real fast!” — a reference to the alt-right and neo-Nazi abbreviation for “the Jewish Question.” Movement social media posts also regularly denigrate Jewish religious texts such as the Talmud, and one Instagram post captioned an image of ancient Israelite Jews as “the most dangerous enemy in the world.”

In the group’s first livestream broadcast in July 2020, its co-founders, SK Nicholas Chimera Jr. and Nicholas Haas — both of whom claim to be fourth-degree members of the Catholic fraternal organization Knights of Columbus — detailed their ideological journey to the far right. When the two met in college, Haas explained, SK “was borderline national socialist wignat” — a reference to an online neo-Nazi subculture — and frequented neofascist online forums, while Haas described himself as “basically the definition of a Three Percenter militiaman.” SK, who professed his admiration for the former fascist regimes in Italy and Spain, added that “both of our positions lacked God. That’s the thing. Once we introduced God into it, we were fine.”

Members of the New Columbia Movement routinely rally alongside neo-Nazi groups which openly flaunt Nazi imagery. Social media posts made by the New Columbia Movement push anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and directly attack Jews. In January of 2024, members of the New Columbia Movement were filmed shaking hands and rallying alongside members of the neo-Nazi group Patriot Front at an anti-abortion march in Washington DC. Patriot Front is a re-brand of Vanguard America, a group which marched in Charlottesville in 2017, where a member of the group murdered antifascist protester Heather Heyer after driving a car into a mass of protesters. Members of Patriot Front have called for “ethno-state rape gangs” and filmed themselves giving Nazi salutes.

The fact that a billionaire capitalist and GOP mega-donor is backing a self-identified fascist group which pushes anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and rallies alongside neo-Nazi groups shows the degree in which the elites want to crush grassroots opposition to their anti-working-class and white supremacist policies.

Bennett’s funding of the New Columbia Movement’s lawsuit is also only the latest example of the Republican Party in Texas having direct links to neo-Nazis and white supremacists. In the fall of 2023, the *Texas Tribune* reported that “Jonathan Stickland, the ultraconservative leader of a group that has donated millions of dollars to high-profile Texas leaders, hosted prominent white supremacist Nick Fuentes and other right-wing activists [such as Kyle Rittenhouse] for several hours...” In May of this year, Texas governor Greg Abbott also pardoned Daniel Perry, a far-Right Trump supporter found guilty for the murder of “Garret Foster...in Austin, Texas, during a Black Lives Matter demonstration following the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.”

This whole ordeal also exposes how the various forces, ranging from street level fascists, to the governor of Texas who tweeted his praise of the police for arresting Chris, all the way to billionaires like Bennett who are financing a lawsuit for a literal fascist group and employing journalists at the *Dallas Express* who write pieces attacking antifascists — are all working towards the same goal: crushing communities standing together. It’s up to us to push back, showing that our solidarity is indeed, a weapon.

13 Aug - Update from the Casey Support Committee

An update on political prisoner Casey Goonan. Originally posted by the Anarchist Black Cross Federation.

MORE:

On July 23rd Casey was indicted by a federal grand jury on three charges all relating to the same incident. Two of the charges allege destruction of property by fire/explosives and carry a 5-20 year sentence each if convicted. The third charge alleges possession of an unregistered firearm and carries a maximum of 10 years (note: “firearm” here is referring to the alleged destructive device, not a gun). Casey’s lawyers have officially agreed to represent them in federal court.

Casey is back in Santa Rita in federal custody and expects to remain where they are for the time being. All the transfers and changes in custody were jarring and Casey will hopefully be able to finally settle into a routine. Alongside their already rigorous usual studies they have been pursuing their own legal self-education in preparation for their ongoing case.

In observance of Black August, Casey will be participating in FLEA days along with one other person from their pod- 24-hour fasts in commemoration of New Afrikan revolutionaries on the days they were assassinated. Here is more information about the history of Black August for those wanting to learn more!

People across the country have been putting out beautiful statements of support! These are so important as they demonstrate the incredible love people have for Casey for their years of commitment to community, solidarity, and mutual aid.

The support team has also been working on launching a crowdfunding campaign for Casey, so please stay tuned and start thinking about how to mobilize your networks or throw a fundraiser yourself! Updates will come soon. We can currently already accept large donations from individual donors in the form of checks, please reach out for more information to make this happen.

Casey is still excited to receive mail including updates on news and current affairs as they have been feeling cut off from the world.

As a reminder:

- Do not discuss the case. Casey is still pre-trial and receiving mail concerning their case can seriously endanger them.
- Do not valorize Casey. They are a person and a member of our community, not a symbol or martyr. Casey isn’t looking for praise, but rather to maintain correspondence.
- Do not write anything you wouldn’t want *Fox News*, a cop, or a judge to see. Assume that intelligence and law enforcement agencies are reading your letter.
- As you correspond with Casey, they may send requests aside from books or commissary. Please coordinate directly with Casey’s Support Committee regarding additional asks.

If you wish to help keep money on Casey’s books, there are several ways to do this:

- At the jail via the TouchPay kiosk in the lobby.
- Sending a money order in the mail. The money order must be made payable to “Casey Goonan #UMF227” with nothing else in the envelope. Cash or personal checks will be accepted.
- Online with a credit card via one of the vendor platforms run by GlobalTel such as accesscorrections.com or connectnetwork.com. You will have to create an account. If the platform offers different fund options, the fund you want to get Casey money for commissary is called the “Trust Fund”.

14 Aug - Death by incarceration: US prisons are slowly killing its political prisoners

Each year on Black August, revolutionaries and those familiar with the Black radical tradition mark the month to “study, fast, train, fight” in honor of the many freedom fighters who were killed or languish behind bars in service to the Black liberation movement.

MORE:

by Natalia Marques (*People's Dispatch*)

Black August marks a number of key dates within the Black liberation movement, including when the first enslaved Africans landed in what is now the United States in 1619, Nat Turner's slave rebellion in 1831, as well as more modern events such as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom of 1963 and the Watts Rebellion on 1965.

Human rights organizations have often argued that the US prison system is condemning people to death through lengthy prison sentences, including life without the possibility of parole. This becomes even more apparent when looking at how the US prison system treats its political prisoners, imposing systematic medical neglect and decades of prison time.

Ruchell Magee was released in August of 2023 and at the time was the longest held political prisoner in the United States. He died only 81 days after his release, after spending most of his life behind bars. Magee was the only survivor among those involved in the Marin County Courthouse Rebellion of 1970, described as a "slave rebellion" by other prisoners and a key episode in the history of revolutionary politics in the United States.

Leonard Peltier, now the longest held political prisoner currently in the United States, had his bid for parole denied earlier this summer, despite suffering from multiple health issues due to his long-term confinement.

"Leonard is going to be 80 years old on September 12 this year, and has been in prison for almost 50 years," Gloria La Riva, longtime activist for the freedom of US political prisoners, told *Peoples Dispatch* in an interview. "Prison always has elements that for any average person would be extremely detrimental. Leonard is confined in a small cell, most of the time being on lockdown, where he can't even walk properly and have circulation and sunshine and proper food."

Political prisoner Mutulu Shakur passed away on July 6 of last year, shortly following his compassionate release after spending 37 years in prison. Shakur was lauded within the Black liberation movement for his involvement in organizations such as the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) and the Republic of New Afrika, and his work as an acupuncturist who dedicated his life to holistically treating and transforming the lives of working-class people addicted to drugs in the radical Lincoln Detox Center in New York City. The state only agreed to release him after doctors determined that he had months to live due to terminal bone cancer.

Sekou Odinga, a former United States political prisoner for 33 years stemming from his involvement in the Black liberation movement, passed away on January 12, only able to live ten years of freedom following his 33-year-long imprisonment. Odinga was a part of several of the most impactful organizations in US Black liberation history, including Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity, the Black Panther Party, and the Black Liberation Army. Odinga is also known for his role in the escape of fellow political prisoner Assata Shakur, who lives free in Cuba to this day.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, one of the most high-profile prisoners in the world, let alone the United States, is surrounded by a powerful, multi-generational movement for his release. Abu-Jamal, like other political prisoners in the US, was jailed for his activism in the Black liberation movement. Abu-Jamal, however, continues to lend a hand to a variety of different struggles from behind prison walls, sending messages of solidarity to various Gaza solidarity encampments this year.

"I urge you to speak out against the terrorism that is afflicted upon Gaza with all of your might, all of your will and all of your strength. Do not bow to those who want you to be silent," Abu-Jamal told students at the Gaza solidarity encampment at the City University of New York.

Abu-Jamal's health continues to deteriorate behind bars, and yet his numerous appeals for release continue to be denied. Abu-Jamal's struggles for adequate healthcare are not merely individually based struggles.

Through his successful struggle for Hepatitis-C treatment, he set a precedent in improving treatment for the disease for other prisoners.

Abu-Jamal's case has been described as "death by incarceration," as he is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. The systems of prisons and policing in the United States have in fact expressed explicit intentions of killing him since even before putting him behind bars. Abu-Jamal successfully fought off a death penalty charge, but that has not stopped the state's determination to sentence him to a slow death of medical neglect behind bars, like so many other political prisoners past and present within the country.

This year, as Palestinians in Gaza endure genocide and the resistance continues to negotiate the exchange of Israeli hostages for prisoners, many across the world are hearing for the first time about the horrors committed by Israel against Palestinian political prisoners—including torture, starvation, and violence.

"The Palestinian Freedom Movement is in many ways similar to the Black Freedom Movement in the US in that prison is an inescapable part of the struggle," said Abu-Jamal. This year, following 10 months of genocide in Gaza, it's worth reiterating the struggles of political prisoners within the belly of the beast.

15 Aug - BK/NY – Sunday, September 15th, 2024 – Running Down the Walls

WHAT: Running Down the Walls – 5k Run/Walk/Jog/Bike/Hang

WHEN: 2:00-7:00pm, Sunday, September 15th, 2024

WHERE: Prospect Park– Lincoln Road/East Lake Drive, east of the Terrace Bridge (directions below)

COST: \$20 registration, participants encouraged to get sponsors (includes vegan BBQ afterwards, with COVID precautions for serving!) Donate at paypal.me/nycabc venmo.com/nycabc or with the Cash App : **\$NYCABC**

MORE:

NYC Anarchist Black Cross (NYC ABC) is excited to announce Running Down the Walls 2024—the 25th Anniversary of Running Down the Walls since it was started by ABCF-LA. We are looking very forward to gathering as a community. For the last couple of years, we've had an amazing time and successful fundraisers. Please stay tuned to our website, sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on instagram (@nycabc) or bluesky ([nycabc.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/nycabc.bsky.social)) for updates.

Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity events with Running Down the Walls. In previous years, we've had runs in Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Buffalo (NY), Chico (CA), Denver (CO), Elmore (AL), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), Minneapolis (MN) New York (NY), USP Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Tucson (AZ), Seattle (WA), and Toronto, Ontario. This year we hope to expand the amount of runs in prisons and other cities, as well as increase the amount of funds raised for community projects. NYC ABC's goal with this year's run is \$4,500. You can donate online by going to [@nycabc](https://venmo.com/nycabc)

This year's run will take place on Sunday, September 15th, 2024 at 2:00 pm in solidarity and conjunction with runs that will take place in cities and prison yards across the country at the same time. Stay after to enjoy a vegan BBQ, served taking every COVID precaution!

REGISTER AS, OR SPONSOR, A PARTICIPANT

To raise our goal of \$4,500 we need your support.

- Promote – print and distribute flyers and posters to friends and local businesses, your doctor's office, laundromat, food co-op, wealthy benefactor, et cetera.
- Run/walk/bike/roll in the 5k – We need participants who can run/walk/bike/roll the 5k and are able to collect financial pledges to offer as donations to the run. Download the brochure, complete with registration and sponsor form right at tiny.cc/Sponsor24

- Volunteer for the run – We need folks who are willing to promote the run and bike the route as street medics.
- Donate online at venmo **@nycabc**
- Donate to the run/sponsor a participant – If you are not able to attend, but want to support this fundraising effort, please mail donations to:
NYC ABC
Post Office Box 110034
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Your donation of \$20 or more entitles you to the celebratory picnic after the event.

Each year, we split proceeds between the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Warchest Program and a local organization. This year, local funds are going to Club A.

The Warchest Program:

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest program was initiated in November 1994. Its purpose is to collect monthly funds from groups and individual supporters, and send that money to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW) via monthly checks. From its inception, the ABCF warchest has dispensed over \$235,000 to political prisoners. Currently, there are 13 imprisoned comrades who receive a monthly stipend as part of the program; they are Abdul Azeez, Alex Stokes, Hanif Bey, Jamil Al-Amin, Jessica Reznicek, Joe-Joe Bowen, Kamau Sadiki, Leonard Peltier, Malik Smith, Marius Mason, Oso Blanco, Ronald Reed, and Xinachtli (FKA Alvaro Luna Hernandez).

Club A:

Club A is a mutual aid group that provides groceries, hygiene products, free clothing, and PPE to the community out of Bushwick City Farm in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. This squatted urban farm was reclaimed in 2011 by local residents, mutual aid organizers, and punks from the surrounding Myrtle-Broadway community. The land houses dozens of hexagonal farm plots, a chicken pen, a compost site, a gazebo, a free library, and a greenhouse with a koi pond. West African asylum seekers from nearby respite centers spend time at the farm and exist in community with us, and we do our best to provide them with food, resources, clothing, et cetera.

Beyond biweekly distros, Club A has put on fundraisers, movie screenings, yearly toy drives for the holidays, helped raise money for community members facing eviction, helped houseless neighbors with sanitation sweeps, provided hot meals to people in the neighborhood, helped with legal clinics for asylum seekers at nearby shelters, and more.

For years, Club A has been built by anarchist practices, with no hierarchical leadership or formalized rules. As an entirely horizontalist distro, active participants can join our organizing affinity groups at will, as equals, and work with fellow volunteers through consensus and mutual respect. To donate directly, visit **opencollective.com/club-a-kitchen**

DIRECTIONS:

From the Q train, get off at the Prospect Park stop. Walk to Lincoln Road and turn right into the park. We'll be about 700 feet away.

The event will be one lap around what is known as the Main Loop, and will total five kilometers.

15 Aug - Important Update

The state has made their opening move by offering a plea deal to Peppy and Krystal's legal team.

MORE:

The prosecution has brought a plea offer to Peppy and Krystal's legal team, and so the jury trial, previously scheduled for September 9th, is currently on hold. We'll have further updates as things develop, including what kinds of support are most needed. But for now, please pause any court support plans. Thank you!

15 Aug - Following Violent Attack by Proud Boys, Journalist Found Guilty

Report from the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) on the recent sentencing of independent journalist Alissa Azar.

MORE:

Alissa Azar, prominent Syrian-American independent journalist in the Pacific Northwest, has been found guilty of riot, and disorderly conduct following her trial this week that resulted from her reporting at a Proud Boy recruitment show of force on June 18, 2021. This county, which shares a border with the City of Portland, Oregon, had been a flash point of far-right activity as less urban communities were tested for their tolerance of far right extremists such as the Proud Boys—who were central participants in the January 6, 2021 attacks on both the US and Oregon Capitols that day. On June 18th, five months after January 6th, [Proud Boy and...] the Vice Chair of the Clackamas Republican party, Daniel Tooze, who was present in the park that day, told park staff that he and the Proud Boys were going to attack any counter-protestors that showed up.

As an Arab woman journalist, Ms. Azar, has frequently been targeted and attacked by Proud Boys, as they have targeted many other journalists who expose their bigoted violence. On June 18, Ms. Azar was threatened, menaced and physically assaulted by two large Proud Boys who were holding metal batons, sticks and bear mace. As a result of this chaotic and unusually violent Proud Boy attack, Ms. Azar was forced to use pepper spray in self-defense and in defense of her property that was being stolen and destroyed. She was then attacked from behind by one of the most notoriously violent Proud Boys, Gordon Cronk, Jr., who is currently facing numerous felony charges for other violent attacks on journalists and counter-protestors. Cronk, who wore full body armor, a helmet and gloves with metal plates in them, punched Ms. Azar in the head leaving her unconscious. Ms. Azar was simply wearing a tank top, pants, and her camera, and had no protective gear on that day. During Azar's trial, the state has attempted to paint her mere presence at this event — even though she was clearly a journalist — as “participating in the riot, and her personal political ideologies as an antifascist as evidence to justify the charges levied against her

The importance of free press to a democratic society has never been clearer as we witness the chilling effect on imposing criminal liability for journalists who risk their personal safety to cover highly controversial events. Expert witness Shane Burley explained that many journalists from larger outlets will only cover Proud Boy events while wearing war correspondent ballistic gear and accompanied by their own security. He testified that the main tenet of the Proud Boys is to engage in political violence. Mr. Burley also testified that the overwhelming majority of journalists and Americans consider themselves antifascists, particularly as opposed to identifying as a fascist or as part of a violent street gang like the Proud Boys.

In closing arguments, the state prosecutor, Joshua Cutino, indicated that the solution to the problem of large, armed and violent Proud Boy hate events in local communities is for everyone to “just drive by.” Defense counsel responded by pointing out that in previous eras of fascist creep, such as those experienced in Nazi, Germany, “driving by” fascist displays only emboldened what would become a genocide and a dark historic moment. Despite the fact that arresting officers admitted on the stand that they arrived after widespread violence broke out and therefore did not witness the attack upon Ms. Azar, she was the only person with antifascist political beliefs to be charged (only 3 Proud Boys, including Cronk were also charged — Cronk and another man are still at large, wanted on warrants for their arrest). Alissa Azar is a known entity to not only the Proud Boys and extreme-right, but also to the local and regional police as well. Ms. Azar extensively covers activities of the extreme-right as well as abuse of power by law enforcement, which created questions of police bias and targeting, following her selective prosecution. As the defense argued in this case, Ms. Azar was not a leader or organizer of the June 18th event, nor is she a representative of “Antifa.” If the state's reasoning for her arrest is simply that they needed to prosecute an antifascist ‘so it

would look fair,' and she was the easiest one to identify, that is an illegitimate basis to prosecute an individual.

23 Aug - Save Mayday Space

WHAT: Fundraiser

WHEN: 6:00pm, Thursday, August 23rd

WHERE: Friedrichs Pontone - 273 Church Street, Manhattan

COST: \$30 <register at tiny.cc/SaveMayDay>

MORE:

Mayday is a community center and organizing hub for grassroots groups, Bushwick residents, artists and activists from across NYC (and beyond!) to build a better world together. With rising rents and operating expenses, Mayday Space is struggling to keep its doors open and it's time for us all to throw down and show Mayday our love! Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

We are excited to be partnering with Friedrichs Pontone to bring you a festive evening to raise funds for Mayday! This evening event will include:

- A raffle to enjoy a wonderful meal at La Cantine, our favorite luncheonette in Bushwick!
- A last-chance viewing of Tribeca Pool Party, a group show showcasing a wide array of colors, techniques, and mediums, featuring works by Martin Eder, Henry Jabbour, Malcolm Liepke, Matteo Massagrande, Yigal Ozeri, Reisha Perlmutter, Jarek Puczel, and Miljan Suknovic.
- Electric guitar performance by Nilesh Vishwasrao (@thatotherbrownguy)

29 Aug - IWW Food Worker Open Mic!

WHAT: Open Mic

WHEN: 6:00pm, Thursday, August 29th

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

Do you work in the food industry? Have a rant about your boss to share? A poem scrawled on a dirty napkin? An organizing story? Come hop on the mic. Join other food workers and organizers to vent, hang out and create space where we can gear up to fight back against the exploitation we endure daily in our industry! Presented by the NYC branch of the Industrial Workers of the World and Food Worker zine. More info contact deadramoneszine@gmail.com

29 Aug - 1970s childcare activism in NYC

WHAT: Archival film night

WHEN: 7:00pm, Thursday, August 29th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

As part of an ongoing series of archival film nights this summer, this event will highlight the often-overlooked politics of and experiments with collective childcare in NYC in the 1970s and what reflections or questions it raises for today. This will be followed by an open and collective discussion around the significance and strategies of these actions and histories, particularly in relation to ongoing and current struggles around the issues and politics of care and children.

We'll be showing two films (thanks to Third World Newsreel!) followed by a discussion with members of the DSA's Red Sprouts and Socialist Feminist working groups about their related work as well as opening it up into a broader collective conversation. As always, your participation, questions and reflections are welcomed and encouraged!