



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for September 21st

5 Sept - New Oso Blanco mural in Brooklyn!

New mural in Bushwick, Brooklyn featuring the artwork of political prisoner Oso Blanco from indigenous greeting cards that benefit the Children's Art Project in Chiapas.

MORE:

Order the cards at burningbooks.com/collections/greeting-cards-and-postcards/products/oso-blanco-greeting-cards

To see images of the mural, visit abcf.net/blog/new-oso-blanco-mural-in-brooklyn

6 Sept - Eric King Update

Eric has trial coming up soon, so we've included updates and ways to provide direct support.

MORE:

September 6th - Book Wishlist

New books have been added to Eric's wishlist. As most folks know, there isn't a lot to do when locked up and folks read A LOT of books. Buy Eric some books to help him deal with over 1,000 days in segregation: tiny.cc/EK_Books

September 14th - Major filings in Eric King's case today

Here's what the judge wrote:

ORDER as to Eric King (1): This matter is before the Court on Defendant's 102 , 103 , 104 , and 105 Motions. As set forth in the Court's Order Resetting Trial Date and Related Deadlines 92 , the Government's Responses to the Motions shall be filed by September 24, 2021.

After receiving the Government's Responses, the Court will determine whether a Reply Brief will be permitted, and/or whether an evidentiary hearing will be necessary.

The 4-day Jury Trial currently set to commence on October 12, 2021 and the Final Trial Preparation Conference set for October 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. will REMAIN AS SET. Defendant's motions automatically exclude time from the Speedy Trial Clock so no additional motion seeking this relief is necessary.

SO ORDERED by Judge William J. Martinez on 9/14/2021.

A link for see the filings made in Eric King's criminal case from today:

dropbox.com/sh/y0dupn0dk2oco0w/AADEkMlPeUqQbMx9803Ao4twa?dl=0

They are all pre-trial motions including motions to suppress and dismiss based on destruction of evidence and "outrageous government conduct." In most of the folders is a main document and a bunch of exhibits. Feel free to check them all out, but we recommend starting with the main one in each folder.

The order released in Eric's case today which stated that the Government has 10 days to respond to all of these motions and that trial starts on October 12th in US District Court in Denver, Colorado. Eric is represented by lawyers from the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) in Eugene, Oregon. You can donate to the CLDC to help Eric at cldc.org/donate (note "Eric King legal defense" in the memo line).

7 Sept - Ray Luc Levasseur on 'Millennials Are Killing Capitalism' podcast

Former political prisoner Ray Luc Levasseur On Vietnam, Prison, Principles and Anti-Imperialist Resistance.

MORE:

Listen to the episode at tiny.cc/RLL_MKC

In this episode we interview Ray Luc Levasseur. During his time underground Levasseur was a purported member of the United Freedom Front, and the Sam Melville Jonathan Jackson Unit. Prior to that Levasseur organized in several above ground formations, including the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC), Vietnam Veterans Against The War, and SCAR.

We talk to Ray about his early life, and the influence of his experience in Vietnam on the development of anti-imperialist politics and commitments. He also shares his first incarcerated organizing experiences in Tennessee. And we have brief discussions of his time in SSOC, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, and SCAR.

After that we discuss Ray's time underground, and the claimed activities the Sam Melville Jonathan Jackson Unit and the United Freedom Front. Specifically he discusses IBM's involvement in Apartheid, and the targeting of the military and prison industrial complexes by those underground groups.

We end with a discussion of Ray's time in Marion and the refusal there by Levasseur and other political prisoners to build weapons for the federal government. Ray also shares thoughts on his experiences during 13 years of solitary confinement at Marion and later at ADX. And discusses why small acts of generosity and care on the outside can mean a great deal to people experiencing extreme repression.

He leaves the discussion with several ways folks can get involved in supporting political prisoners. We will include links in the show notes for folks who want to get involved in that necessary work.

8 Sept - Call to Action for Leonard Peltier

A petition has been filed with the US Department of Justice seeking clemency for Leonard Peltier, as required procedurally for the case to come to the attention of President Biden.

MORE:

In the meantime, a congressional "Dear Colleague" letter in support of Leonard's release is circulating in the House of Representatives, generated by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), who co-signed the letter sent by then-Congresswoman and now Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland to the Trump administration in April 2020.

Now is the time to let your congressional representatives know the strength of public support for Leonard and urge them to sign on to the letter to the Biden administration.

Contact your U.S. Congress, House Representative by Phone, Online Form or Mail.

Simply request that they:

- Support freedom for Leonard Peltier.
- Stand with Rep. R. Grijalva and former Rep. Deb Haaland, and sign-on to Rep. Grijalva's new letter and efforts to gain Leonard's release.

Contact your U.S. Congress, House Representative by Phone, Online Form or Mail:

"Dear Representative... , as your constituent I request that you support immediate Relief and Release for Leonard Peltier, and Sign-on to Representative Grijalva's "Dear Colleague- Support Letter for Clemency for Leonard Peltier"

Find your Representative (in your US Congressional District): tiny.cc/FindRep

10 Sept - Mark Colville Released from Prison

Mark Colville was released from the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn on September 10.

MORE:

He had been there for three months. He had served enough of his sentence including time before trial in Georgia county jails to be released without home confinement or time in a halfway house. He was met by Luz, his wife, and several friends and then went for brunch. He has to report in to the probation office on Monday and is facing three years of supervised probation as are all seven of the Plowshares.

Outside the prison Mark read a blessing for all the inmates confined there and gave a strong indictment of the whole prison system.

Clare Grady and Carmen Trotta are under home for another two months. Patrick O'Neill is at a halfway house in Raleigh, North Carolina, near his home. He hopes to be given home confinement soon. Martha Hennessy is at home in Vermont and Liz McAlister is with family in Connecticut. Fr. Steve Kelly continues to lie low because he refuses to report for supervised probation for conscientious reasons.

10 Sept - NYC ABC Illustrated Guide Version 14.7 Uploaded!

We've finished the latest version of the NYC ABC "Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War."

MORE:

The latest Guide is available for viewing at tiny.cc/Guide_Sept_21 and includes updated mini-bios, photos, and address changes for several prisoners. We are thankful to remove Kings Bay Plowshares 7 prisoners Patrick O'Neill and Mark Colville!

11 Sept - ABCF Warchest Report

In order to ensure accountability to the larger community, the ABCF produces this Warchest report.

MORE:

To review, please visit abcf.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Warchest-Funds-Report_Sept2021.pdf. The Warchest Fund sends monetary stipends to political prisoners who receive little or no financial aid. Currently, the ABCF supports 17 political prisoners through this program.

13 Sept - David Gilbert Should Be Free

Given his perfect 40-year record, denial by the Parole Board would signal that prison is just about punishment and revenge.

MORE:

by John Mage (*The Nation*)

Just a few minutes were left in Andrew Cuomo's term as New York governor when he issued rare—but entirely appropriate clemencies—to 10 elder men who have served, collectively, hundreds of years in the state's maximum-security prisons. Criminal justice reform activists have long urged state leaders to repair a system rooted in mass incarceration and inhumanly long sentences.

During his three terms, Cuomo did not make this kind of reform a policy priority. But with his last-minute clemencies, he did leave on a positive note. This was particularly significant given the failure of the state legislature to act on several prison and elder parole reform bills in this year's session that had drawn considerable support from lawmakers and the public.

The 10 men who received a gubernatorial clemency each had strong records of constructive, peaceful, and meaningful rehabilitation in prison. Eight are Black or LatinX. All but one—David Gilbert—will now walk free. Gilbert must appear before the New York State Board of Parole. He turns 77 in less than a month and is entering his 41st year in prison for a felony murder conviction.

Gilbert was an unarmed getaway driver in the notorious 1981 Brinks robbery in which two police officers and a Brinks guard were killed. He has served his time with dignity, becoming a respected anti-violence mentor to younger men in prison. Inside and out, he is known for a lifetime of opposition to racism in all its forms. Most notably, at the height of the AIDS crisis in the 1990s, he and several fellow inmates at Auburn Correctional Facility created a prisoner-led peer counseling program to educate people in prison about the disease. At the time, misconceptions about the nature of AIDS were rampant in prisons across the country. The model created at Auburn was most effectively implemented at the Bedford Hills women's prison, but, with the help of the state, the AIDS Institute spread to other men's prisons in the state and across the country. Chroniclers of the history of community-based efforts to address the AIDS crisis credit Gilbert with ultimately saving hundreds of lives.

Unfortunately, New York state has not been particularly forward-looking in its response to the Covid pandemic in prisons. The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, the agency that runs New York's prisons, was slow to encourage and enforce both masking and vaccinations. Prisons, like nursing homes, are congregate settings. Many people in prison, especially elders, have been lost who could have survived with better care.

As David wrote in a letter to the editor of *The New York Times* published in March last year:
"Maintaining a safe distance from others in prison is impossible. As a result, we will potentially suffer widespread infection, and the impact could quickly spread to communities beyond the bars. Correction officers and employees interact with people in prison and return to their homes daily. Peer education is vital for explaining the importance of and best means for social distancing and hygiene while still facilitating communication with family and friends."

Gilbert's sentence commutation requires him to go before the state Parole Board. His hearing is scheduled for September 20. Gilbert's perfect 40-year prison record alone warrants immediate release. Already, hundreds of supportive letters are pouring in, including one from his son, San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin.

Conversely, denial by the Parole Board would signal that prison is just about punishment and revenge. Gilbert has taken all available steps to formally express his remorse to the victims of his crime. He has participated in—and taught—anti-violence workshops. People in prison are asking for the opportunity to rectify their mistakes, to atone and rebuild. Take that away, and prisons are nothing more than medieval dungeons. Historically, clemencies have almost always been reserved for people convicted of nonviolent crimes—which makes it all the more striking that most of those receiving the former governor's final clemencies were convicted of homicide. This aspect alone is praiseworthy. The unwillingness to advocate clemency or a path out of incarceration for people who made terrible mistakes with terrible consequences decades ago has long been a major stumbling block for criminal justice reform.

Traditionally—and unfortunately—New York governors have issued few clemencies and pardons, usually around the end-of-year holidays. Incoming Governor Kathy Hochul has the opportunity to write a new chapter in criminal justice in New York. Cuomo, on his way out the door, went beyond the usual caution that limits politicians seeking reelection. For that, there are grateful families and communities—and a glimmer of hope for people in prison.

Letters of support for David Gilbert's parole should be signed and dated, and addressed to:

Chairwoman Tina Stanford
c/o Jeffryson Aldana
Supervising Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator
Shawangunk Correctional Facility

**200 Quick Road
Wallkill, New York 12589**

13 Sept - Ruchell Magee Update

Ruchell wanted to share some words to those of us on the outside: "I'm still fighting to get the truth to the real people, who want growth in the human race! Truth is the right medicine. We must fight to WIN!"

MORE:

On July 15, 2021, Ruchell "Cinque" Magee was denied parole for the 13th time. This December will mark 40 years since his first parole suitability hearing on December 17, 1981. Ruchell, who is currently 82-years-old and has been incarcerated for 58 years, will not be eligible for parole again until July 2024. The parole board's decision to delay any chance of parole until after Ruchell's 85th birthday is shameful.

Cinque is continuing the fight, and so must we. We are encouraging everyone who supports Ruchell to sign and share our petitions (bit.ly/freeruchell + bit.ly/write4ruchell); do an outreach session with flyers (email freeruchellmagee@gmail.com for a copy); create banners; hold public education events; bring this issue to the media; and do whatever else it takes to raise awareness about brother Ruchell's decades of cruel treatment by this prison system.

We want to remind the world that Ruchell has been locked down for 58 years stemming from a bogus charge of kidnapping to rob during an alleged \$10 marijuana deal in 1963. Cinque was bound and gagged and betrayed by his own court-appointed attorney, like many Black defendants in the Jim Crow era and today. After the 1970 Marin County Courthouse Rebellion, where Ruchell attempted to liberate himself and speak directly to media since he was never given a fair trial, he was acquitted of murder charges but convicted of kidnapping. 58 years far exceeds the average punishment for kidnapping, which shows that Ruchell's persecution is about his political views rather than any crime.

Time is not on our side - we don't have 3 years to wait. We have far too often lost our elders, like Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, at the hands of the state apparatus. Ruchell must be freed NOW! TAKE ACTION!

17 Sept - Ten Years After Occupy Wall Street, Its Real Legacy is Anarchism in Practice

Statement from Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) on the anarchist legacy of Occupy Wall Street on the movement's 10th anniversary.

MORE:

by Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council NYC (*It's Going Down*)

Since its demise in the Fall of 2012, various individuals, websites, social media accounts, and politicians have tried to claim the mantle of Occupy Wall Street. The associations are endless, from Bernie Sanders-aligned "socialists" to neoliberal Twitter accounts praising landlords for evicting people. Any journalist writing about the OWS movement should know its actual history, separated from the machinations of those who later tried to co-opt its message for themselves. OWS was anarchism in practice, and that is its legacy.

Several members of MACC were present for the early days of Occupy Wall Street, and, along with thousands of others, helped to build it into what it became. We have drafted this press release to ensure journalists understand that in all likelihood, if you are seeing a website or Twitter account that is "Occupy" branded today, it does not reflect the politics of OWS. On this, the tenth anniversary of Occupy Wall Street, we, as anarchists, activists, and witnesses to history, want to clarify and reclaim the legacy of this incredible movement.

As anyone who was actually there at the creation knows, Occupy Wall Street was never about electoral politics, and it certainly wasn't about earning clout or making money. The occupation of Zuccotti Park was a direct action; we did not ask permission or request a permit. We, the 99%, liberated and transformed the

park into a directly democratic space through general assemblies and working groups. Our example inspired the occupations of hundreds of public spaces across the country and informed the horizontal (non-hierarchical) politics of the broader Occupy movement. The goal was not to take state power, but to demonstrate a truly egalitarian society and a living alternative to capitalism. This is what we meant – what we have always meant – by revolution.

Multiple books and articles have been written that emphasize the anarchism of OWS. In *The Democracy Project*, the late anarchist and anthropologist David Graeber claims OWS was part of a long history of democratic resistance against the state and capitalism. In *Thank You, Anarchy: Notes from the Occupy Apocalypse*, the writer Nathan Schneider provides a first-hand account of the self-organization taking place in the park. In *Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*, historian Mark Bray interviews over 200 core organizers of OWS, the vast majority of whom identify as anarchists or have anarchistic politics. To those who have studied OWS at length, its fundamental anarchism is not in debate.

Mark Bray has said about the anniversary, “Ten years later, let the historical record show that Occupy Wall Street was planned and organized in large part by anarchists. OWS’s popular assemblies, direct actions, mutual aid projects, rejection of hierarchy, and distance from electoral politics were thoroughly infused with anti-authoritarian values and practices from the beginning. This groundbreaking movement that helped spark a dynamic decade of resistance was not street theater for the Democratic Party, but rather a bold experiment in imagining a world beyond capitalism and the state.”

The legacy of OWS is the ongoing anarchist movement. It is in occupations of public space (Occupy ICE, Abolition Park), workplace actions organized by rank-and-file workers (Industrial Workers of the World, Brandworkers), pipeline disruptions (Occupy the Pipeline, Sane Energy), and refusing to pay debts (Strike Debt). It is in networks of mutual aid providing food (Food Not Bombs, Club A, The Gym, WSP Mutual Aid, Woodbine) medical aid (NYC Action Medical) and care (MACC Care Assembly). It is in the call to abolish police and prisons (Anarchist Black Cross, Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement, Black and Pink). It is in the fight against fascism (J20, Charlottesville). OWS lives when people stop thinking of the world as it is, and instead imagine what it could be. OWS lives, when people act as if they are already free.

The Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) NYC was formed by original organizers of Occupy Wall Street (OWS). We have explicitly drawn on lessons learned from that experience. We have assemblies, spokes councils, and working groups. We operate via the consensus process. We have robust financial control procedures. We have a community accountability team to address harm and conflict. The principles and structure by which we organize are directly informed by OWS. We are the legacy.

17 Sept - Running Down the Walls 2021: A Reportback

It's no newsflash that the global pandemic, which has devastated so many, including imprisoned folks, is not over. So, for full transparency, NYC ABC didn't really know what to expect when we asked friends, allies, comrades, and others with whom we share affinity, to show up for a 5k run and barbecue.

MORE:

We were certainly heartened after tabling a couple of recent events at which we got great interest and met a lot of folks we'd never seen before, but that doesn't always translate into a successfully attended event. Regardless, we put out the call and New York CAME THROUGH. Throughout the day, we had over 100 folks come through, participate, donate, and eat. We exceeded our fundraising goal of \$4,000 and that means more loot for elder former NYS political prisoners and the ABCF warchest. There is still time to donate at venmo.com/nycabc or paypal.me/nycabc

Running Down the Walls in NYC is always a multi-generational event and we knew that meant having folks more vulnerable to Covid-19 there to show support (or have their parents show support for the young 'uns). We implemented appropriate protocols for keeping everyone as safe as possible, and it turns out to

be slightly annoying, but not difficult. Thanks to everyone who came out for understanding and being patient as we took longer to hand out food and drinks, kept everything wiped down, and all that other hoopla.

Setting up early, we were able to distribute a lot of free literature and talk with plenty of folks enjoying a day in the park and curious about the colorful flyers. By the time folks started showing up to register, everyone was hype. Recognizing not everyone participating has the same relationship to time (our nice way of saying there were plenty who were tardy for the party), we waited until after 2:30 to start the actual run. As always, some showed up eager to get the five kilometers behind them and a plate of food in front. And with so many folks, the event organizers left with nothing but empty containers (and a bunch of funds for our PPs and POWs) as the vegan cookout got entirely housed.

Running Down the Walls 2021 was familiar and unique at the same time. It was incredible to receive such great support from so many communities who showed up. We are grateful and deeply appreciate everyone who came through, donated online, promoted RDTW, or supported in myriad other ways. That's what's up and that's how we get down (the walls).

24 Sept - Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) General Assembly

WHAT: General Assembly

WHEN: 6:30pm, Friday, September 24th

WHERE: Online (details below)

COST: FREE

MORE:

We will be hosting another "Virtual" General Assembly—lookout in your various Working Group platforms, e-mail listservs, Loomio, et cetera for details on how to join in and visit macc.nyc

General Assemblies are the most ideal place for new folks to plug-in to MACC, learn about our projects and ongoing efforts, and connect to organizers. We encourage everyone to come with ideas about what they would like to see for future campaigns or actions and what direction they'd like MACC to take to build a more powerful anarchist movement. Especially in our current context, when renewed attention has mixed repression with struggles for racial justice, abolition, and a humane economy. There will be a 6:30-7PM orientation for new folks that would like to get connected and learn more about MACC's structure and history.

Accessibility statement: This is a virtual event at this time, which usually takes place on Zoom, although Jitsi is also an option if requested. We don't currently have ASL or language interpretation in use; we can do close-captioning. For closed captioning it is helpful, if possible, to coordinate that in advance so we can plan for someone to come to an event prepared to do that. We can coordinate in advance using the accessibility question on this RSVP, the email info@macc.nyc, or at the beginning of the meeting we will do a check-in and we encourage anyone who is comfortable doing so to use that time to whatever extent is desirable to them to share or request anything that will help them to experience a greater level of comfort and/or ability to engage fully in the event.

Please review these documents before coming: macc.nyc/organizing macc.nyc/safer-spaces