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Updates for July 22nd

8 Jul - Commentaries From Mumia Abu-Jamal

Prison Radio has transcribed the latest by Mumia, which we are including below.

MORE:

July 8th - 40 Years After the Black Panther Party

Amazingly, it has been 40 years since the Black Panther Party was founded. Some sticklers to detail will point to the fact that it was in October, not May of 1966, that the Black Panther Party was founded by two young men in Oakland, California, named Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. That's true, but that's not the end of the story. The late African nationalist Kwame Touré, formerly known as Stokely Carmichael, when a leader of SNCC, or the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, published — a month before Huey and Bobby joined together — an article dealing with SNCC's efforts to organize, both in the South and the Northeast. In a September 1966 article published in the New York Review of Books, Touré wrote:

“SNCC is working in North and South on programs of voter registration and independent political organizing. In some places such as Alabama, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia and New Jersey, independent organizing under the Black Panther symbol is in progress. The creation of a national Black Panther Party must come about. It will take time to build. And it is much too early to predict its success. We have no infallible master plan, and we make no claim to exclusive knowledge of how to end racism. Different groups will work in their own different ways. SNCC cannot spell out the full logistics of self-determination, but it can address itself to the problem by helping Black communities define their needs, realize their strength, and go into action along a variety of lines which they must choose for themselves. Without knowing all the answers, it can address itself to the basic problem of poverty, to the fact that in Lowndes County 86 white families own 90 percent of the land. What are Black people in that county going to do for jobs? Where are they going to get money? There must be a re-allocation of land, of money.” That's from the book *Stokely Speaks: Black Power Back to Pan Africanism*, originally published by Vintage in 1965. It was, in fact, SNCC's efforts in Lowndes County, Alabama, that inspired Huey to use the name, Black Panther Party. But it's been 40 years. It's safe to say that much of the history of Huey's party remains hidden history. This isn't rhetoric. It's fact.

One year ago, I received a wealth of letters from college students who had read my book *We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party*. Here, scores of letters from a wide variety of racial and ethnic groups, almost all of whom expressed shock and surprise, not just at the unknown history of the party, but at the history of Black resistance overall. One writer, Shanara P, wrote, “Most of the facts you wrote in your book were never taught in the schools I went to.” Another student, John M, wrote, “I feel cheated because this is the first time I've heard such stories.” As a writer and a historian, I was, of course, delighted by such letters, but as a former member of the party, it was an eye-opener at how invisible the party has come with the passage of time. But why should we be surprised? What did we expect? Yes, it's been 40 years, but the problems faced by Black people; of sub-human housing, of poor education, of racist killer cops, of courts of injustice, of unemployment, are just as real today as they were in 1966. The struggle continues.

July 8th - The Death of Pensions

With the judicial seal of approval of the United Airlines plan to ditch its pensions, comes another battle in the long war of capital against labor. By this attack on those who have spent their lives making the fortunes of United, the business community opens yet another front in their rapacious war to gain more and more profits. Now, thousands of disenfranchised workers must turn to the U. S. government for their pensions [through] a government agency known as the Pension Benefit Guarantee Board (PBGC). But guess what?

The PBGC itself is going bankrupt. And even if it were not, the PBGC doesn't intend to pay out full pensions. If some workers are lucky, they'll receive one third of their expected pensions. Some workers, who haven't built up enough seniority, will get nothing. So much for the "holy right" of contract.

As this tragedy unfolds, executives and management make out like bandits. Like United CEO, Glen Tilton, who in 2002-2003 received over 5.5 million dollars in compensation, with a pension for 4.5 million locked up in a trust. And as United goes, so go others in the airlines industry, and also other U.S. industries. But that this comes along at the same time as the Bush administration is trying to scuttle Social Security, is a social obscenity. In fact, many of these companies are having pension problems because they intentionally underfunded pension plans. They meant for it to break down, and then they sought judicial support for their bailout plans.

Everybody wins, except the workers. This war against workers, unless it is vigorously opposed by workers fighting in their own class interests, will result in nightmares, where elderly must work until they drop dead. For with no pensions and no social security, how can it be otherwise? This business-friendly, labor-hating government is actually trying to set up a judicial administrative media regime that will undo the New Deal. After the Great Depression of 1929, mass movements such as rent riots, sit-ins, marches and great demonstrations struck the nation. One such movement was for pensions for those who spent their lives working at hard toil. Movements such as these, in the 1930s, changed things. Business, however, in its never-ending quests for profits, continues its wars through the political leaders that it buys and by furthering their agenda.

Now, as assuredly as the Earth revolves around the Sun, comes this vicious attack on pensions. American politicians who often claim to want to help working families are as quiet as church mice. The Democratic Party, which is as much in big businesses' pockets as the Republicans, is mum. People see it and shake their heads and go on. They see it and don't see it, instead of uniting to fight it.

July 14th - Archie Bunker Without the Chuckles

If I just say what's on my mind, I know that people of a certain generation, shall we say under 40, will not get the reference that I'm about to make. But, if you're 50 and over, you will. And maybe it'll give you a chuckle, but it's not meant to give you a chuckle. It's meant to make you reflect, to make you think, and, hopefully, to make you shudder a little bit.

Imagine Archie Bunker becoming President of the United States. I'm not talking about Carroll O'Connor. I'm talking about the character Archie Bunker; the same sensibilities. Let's say that he won a lottery and won millions of dollars and ran, and got elected President of the U.S. Twice even. That would give you some sense of what we're looking at in this mad mad world of today.

You know, Archie Bunker was, in his own way, a character with a certain cuteness about him. But imagine that under that cuteness was a kind of dread and a love of cruelty, and a kind of terror at the world changing and becoming something else. That's what we're looking at every day, every morning, every headline. We're looking at the rule of incompetence.

Archie Bunker was many things, but he wasn't a smart dude. He also feared others who he thought were different. What makes us less different, what makes us parts of community, is our humanity. And that means that all of us are part of the same motion of human. We're all human. And believe it or not, we're all related. So, we're all family. We're part of the human family. There's very little to fear on that. But fear still rules the day and, unfortunately, the night. That's the world we're living in, Archie Bunker without the chuckles.

July 14th - Frantz Fanon, 100 Years

We have lived and seen the passing of a century. The life of Frantz Fanon, also known as Omar in his Algerian life. This remarkable intellectual, this truly world-changing figure, this man of many personalities and transformations, is still with us because he's still in our mind. He still informs our thinking, and when

we read him, we meet him at the deepest levels of thought and resistance to colonialism, to imperialism, to oppression, and for freedom.

His voice was a voice not just for Algeria, and certainly not just for Martinique. His voice was for the world: and his messages about resistance to colonialism, decolonization, and revolution against the forces of global oppression still ring like bells in the night. His words are memorable. His message will last as long as men and women fight for freedom on this earth.

His words have been translated into over a dozen languages, and they're still traveling in the minds and on the lips of millions. Frantz Fanon, 100 years. See you in another century.

9 Jul - A new police scandal in New York City

Four lawsuits filed by former NYPD chiefs on Monday describe a chaotic police department under Mayor Eric Adams' administration that let officers engage in unconstitutional street stops while corruption and cronyism took hold within the ranks.

MORE:

by Ben Feuerherd (*Gothamist*)

The lawsuits, filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, allege friends of Adams, such as former Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey and former Police Commissioner Edward Caban, tapped unqualified officers for prestigious department jobs and worked to quell internal investigations. At the same time, officers who knowingly violated department policy were promoted to a unit created by the Adams administration aimed at responding to quality-of-life concerns in the city, according to one of the suits.

Adams is seeking re-election on a platform of public safety and accountability. His first term has been overshadowed by alleged corruption that led to FBI raids on some of his top aides, including Caban, though Caban was never charged with a crime. Those investigations culminated with federal prosecutors charging Adams with bribery and campaign finance crimes in September. President Donald Trump's Department of Justice later dismissed Adams' case.

The lawsuits come as reports of corruption and misconduct among the NYPD brass have dwindled under current Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch.

"The Adams administration holds all city employees — including leadership at the NYPD — to the highest standards, and our work at the department speaks for itself: crime continues to topple month after month both above and below ground, with our city seeing lowest number of shootings in recorded history," City Hall spokesperson Kayla Mamelak Altus said in a statement. "That is no coincidence — it's thanks to the Adams administration's laser focus on public safety. We will review the lawsuits."

The city's Law Department referred questions about the lawsuits to City Hall. The NYPD did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Through his lawyers, Caban vigorously disputed the claims.

Attorney Sarena Townsend is representing all four of the former chiefs in the lawsuits. She said her clients were forced out of their jobs as the Adams administration sought to muzzle whistleblowers.

"My clients were amongst the highest ranked members of NYPD, each of whom gave between 30 and 40 unblemished years to our great city, only to be pushed out by a mayor who chose nepotism and retaliation over safety and merit," Townsend said in a statement.

The Community Response Team

One of the three lawsuits claims that top NYPD officials ignored concerns its plaintiff raised about the Community Response Team, or CRT, a unit created by the Adams administration to respond to quality-of-life issues such as illegal dirt bikes and license plates.

The suit, filed by former Chief Matthew Pontillo, claims that in 2023, a number of officers — who are not named in the suit — were promoted to the CRT despite being investigated by the Internal Affairs Bureau for intentionally not activating their body-worn cameras during an incident that year.

The suit says that after finding this out, Pontillo, who was chief of professional standards at the time, investigated the practices of the CRT and found a “pattern of unconstitutional stops and searches.” The audit indicated CRT officers tried to hide illegal stops by not turning on their body-worn cameras when they first stopped someone, the lawsuit states. Instead, according to the suit, the officers would switch on their cameras after it became apparent the stop would produce evidence of a crime to retroactively justify the stop.

Pontillo compiled a report on his findings and submitted it to then-Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell, the suit states. Sewell then called a meeting with NYPD borough chiefs to discuss why selective use of body-worn cameras and unconstitutional stops needed to be reined in, the suit states.

Later that day, Sewell discussed the audit's findings at a meeting with Adams, then-Chief of Department John Chell and Maddrey, the former department chief, according to the suit. Hours after that meeting, Sewell resigned from the NYPD without providing an explanation, the suit states.

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Unwarranted Promotions

The two other lawsuits, filed by former Chief of Detectives James Essig and Assistant Chief Christopher McCormack, allege that police officials close to the mayor rubber-stamped unwarranted promotions for some officers.

The suit filed by Essig includes an allegation that Caban was selling promotions in the department for up to \$15,000, but does not expand on the claim.

Caban's lawyers disputed that claim.

"There is no merit to the allegations raised in these complaints, including the unsupported and reckless suggestion that former Commissioner Caban accepted anything of value in connection with promotions. Former Commissioner Caban will vigorously defend against these claims and is evaluating all available legal options in response."

Prior to his resignation in 2023, McCormack was the commanding officer of the Criminal Task Force Division, where he acted as a gatekeeper to ensure detectives who were placed on prestigious task forces were properly suited for the job.

That suit alleges friends of the mayor, including Maddrey and former Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Phil Banks, recommended unvetted transfers to the task forces up to a dozen times. McCormack rejected the recommendations each time, but they were nonetheless placed on the task forces, according to the suit.

In one instance, Banks referred someone with a criminal record to the "El Dorado" unit, a task force that investigates money laundering, the lawsuit says. During an interview with McCormack, the recruit said he wanted the job because the unit "sounded cool," according to the lawsuit. Despite McCormack's rejection, the officer was placed on the unit and remains there.

In his lawsuit, Essig focused on allegations of improper transfers to the Special Victims Unit, which is staffed with detectives that investigate sex crimes.

The suit says Essig noticed an "unusually high number of unvetted detectives" being transferred to the unit and raised the issue in 2023 with both Maddrey and Caban. They ignored his concerns, and later worked to force him out of the department, according to the suit.

When Caban became police commissioner, he offered Essig the option of either taking a demotion and a salary cut, or resigning, according to Essig's lawsuit. He resigned in 2023.

Internal Affairs Bureau Retaliation

Joseph Veneziano, the former assistant chief of the Internal Affairs Bureau, is another plaintiff in one of the lawsuits filed Monday. Veneziano alleges he was retaliated against after he participated in internal investigations, including one into Maddrey.

The Brooklyn district attorney's office contacted Veneziano in January 2023 and requested documents that the Internal Affairs Bureau had about alleged misconduct committed by Maddrey, according to Veneziano's lawsuit. The misconduct is not described in the lawsuit.

Maddrey resigned from the department in December after allegations that he traded sex with a subordinate for overtime were publicly reported.

"Veneziano's cooperation incensed Maddrey," the lawsuit states. Veneziano alleges that a senior member of Sewell's office told him that Maddrey wanted him "gone," so he was not in a position to testify against him.

Sewell resigned as police commissioner in June of that year, and Adams appointed Caban to the post soon afterward.

"With Edward Caban as police commissioner, Veneziano was no longer protected from Maddrey's retaliation," the suit states.

In July 2023, Veneziano was abruptly transferred to the less-prestigious transit bureau, given a job with no duties and encouraged to take as much vacation as possible, according to the lawsuit.

“He was, essentially, ‘rubber roomed,’” the lawsuit states.

Veneziano resigned four months later.

9 Jul - Update on Alfredo Cospito

Italy: The total blockade of correspondence to Alfredo Cospito persists.

MORE:

via *Abolition Media*

Update at the beginning of July 2025. In these days there is again news regarding the particularly afflictive situation that the management of the Bancali prison, probably in concert with the Ministry of Justice, is imposing on our anarchist comrade Alfredo Cospito, in particular with regard to correspondence.

We remind you that the censorship of incoming and outgoing mail is a constituent element of the 41 bis regime to which the comrade is subjected. For a long time Alfredo has not received letters, postcards, telegrams and communications of any kind. This despite the fact that many of us are continuing to write to him, even with collective correspondence initiatives such as the one that took place in Foligno on May 31st. In addition, the prison management has long since stopped communicating to the prisoner the notification of censorship, a document against which to appeal to receive the correspondence material seized. The mail simply disappears into thin air.

This behavior is added to a long series of persecutory provisions, aimed at the psychological and political destruction of the comrade: from the denial of access to books already ordered and authorized, to CDs or headphones to listen to music, to the reporting to the bar association for his defenders guilty of having shaken his hand and given him a kiss at the time of the interview – that is, guilty of treating him as a human being.

All this in an already enormously afflictive context such as that of 41 bis which provides for two hours of air a day in groups of up to four people decided by the ministry, one hour of interview per month with a family member separated by glass or alternatively ten minutes of phone call during which the authorized family member must go inside a barracks to call. As well as, as already mentioned, the censorship of correspondence and the impossibility of reading books that concern topics considered sensitive (and the great difficulties in finding any book in general).

We firmly denounce that this persecution is evidently a state revenge for the intransigence and determination with which the 2022-23 hunger strike and the international solidarity mobilization were conducted, putting the spotlight on that gray area that is 41 bis with unprecedented intensity, going to undermine that false celestial aura that surrounds the anti-mafia-anti-terrorism structure.

A persecution that also occurs the day after the sentencing of Undersecretary Delmastro to 8 months for disclosures of official acts, which arose precisely in the scoundrel attempt to smear Alfredo Cospito during the hunger strike.

The misery of these characters in the face of the coherence of an anarchist who has never bowed his head jumps to the eye. On the one hand, those who kneecap a nuclear sorcerer, on the other those who on New Year's Eve high on cocaine in a moment of rare coherence shoot themselves in the legs.

In the climate of world war that we breathe these days, we reiterate that these episodes must be read as real war policies towards the internal enemy. Great are the challenges that engage revolutionaries in a historical

period of this type, but all the more reason we cannot and do not want to leave anyone behind. For whoever forgets the prisoners of the revolutionary struggle forgets the revolutionary struggle itself.

In view of the possible renewal of 41 bis for Alfredo Cospito in May next year, let's ensure that this too returns to being a battlefield full of contradictions for the State.

9 Jul - Words by Mónica Caballero

Chile: The title says it all.

MORE:

via *Abolition Media*

I once heard that intimate life should not be mixed with politics, that is, that within the ideal, what we do individually and/or collectively to destroy the hegemony of power would have to be separated from our relationships with the beings we love, such as our parents, lovers, children, etc. As the years go by, these types of statements seem to me more and more distant from my reality and from the way I understand and intend to conduct politics.

I see no other way to construct and understand political work if it is not with the necessary and nourishing mixture of all the edges that converge in the development of each individual.

In this sense, mixing intimate life with “politics”, what could be more intimate than the pain of the loss of someone who came out of your womb? That pain, perhaps indescribable for those of us who have not lived through it, Luisa Toledo suffered in each of the murders of her three children, and carried in her heart until her last heartbeat.

That immense pain was transformed into the love that managed to forge some of the foundations for many to rise up against those who enrich themselves at the expense of the perpetuation of domination.

For this reason, among many other things, Luisa Toledo is the resilient mother of Rafael, Pablo and Eduardo, and she is also the comrade of dozens of demonstrations, she is the firm and passionate voice capable of delivering a clear message against the powerful, she is the one who stood up in solidarity with the prisoners... Luisa Toledo was, and always will be part of the construction of one or more generations of young combatants.

With these words I take this opportunity to send an affectionate greeting to the Vergara Toledo family.

10 Jul - Trial Date for Alejandro Orellana Set

A trial date of August 26 was set for immigrant rights activist Alejandro Orellana at his July 3 court appearance in front of a room packed with supporters.

MORE:

Orellana was arrested by the FBI on June 12 for protesting against ICE in Los Angeles. He faces up to 5 years in prison for two bogus federal charges: conspiracy to commit civil disorder, and aiding and abetting civil disorder.

A national day of protests has been called for the first day of Orellana's trial, August 26th, to demand that the charges be dropped. To everyone who believes in the right to free speech, to protest ICE, and to say no to deportations, we urge you to organize a local protest on that day at the nearest federal courthouse.

Orellana has spent much of his adult life fighting for justice for Chicanos, Latinos, and many others. He has opposed the killings of Chicanos and Latinos by the LAPD, such as 14-year-old Jesse Romero, stood against US wars, protested in defense of others targeted by political repression, and has been a longtime

member of the activist group, Centro CSO, based out of East LA. His life is full of examples of courage, integrity, and a dedication to justice.

In contrast, the US Attorney who charged him, Bilal Essayli, believes in Trump's racist MAGA vision and does a lot to carry it out. He defended Trump's decision to defy the state of California and deploy the California National Guard to put down anti-ICE protests. Essayli has charged other protesters, including David Huerta, the president of the Service Employees International Union California, who was held on a \$50,000 bond.

Another Centro CSO immigrants' rights activist, Verita Topete, was ambushed by the FBI on June 26. They served her a warrant and seized her phone. Orellana and his fellow organizers like Topete stand for the community that protested Trump last month. Essayli represents Trump's attempts to crush that movement.

This case against Orellana is political repression, meant to stop the growth of the national immigrants' rights movement. The basis for his arrest was the claim that he drove a truck carrying face shields for protesters, as police geared up to put down protests with rubber bullets. People of conscience are standing with Orellana, because nothing he did or is accused of doing is wrong. There is no crime in protesting Trump, deportations, and ICE. To protest is his - and our - First Amendment right. It's up to us to make sure that Essayli and Trump fail to repress this movement and silence Orellana's supporters.

Just as he stood up for immigrants last month, we call on everyone to stand up for Orellana on August 26 and demand the charges be dropped. On the June 27 National Day of Action for Alejandro Orellana, at least 16 cities held protests or press conferences in front of their federal courthouses. We'll make sure there are even more on August 26. In addition to planning local protests, we ask that organizations submit statements of support and to join in the call to drop the charges.

10 Jul - DHS Tells Police That Common Protest Activities Are 'Violent Tactics'

DHS is urging law enforcement to treat even skateboarding and livestreaming as signs of violent intent during a protest, turning everyday behavior into a pretext for police action.

MORE:

by Dell Cameron (*Wired*)

The Department of Homeland Security is urging local police to consider a wide range of protest activity as violent tactics, including mundane acts like riding a bike or livestreaming a police encounter, *WIRED* has learned.

Threat bulletins issued during last month's "No Kings" protests warn that the US government's aggressive immigration raids are almost certain to accelerate domestic unrest, with DHS saying there's a "high likelihood" more Americans will soon turn against the agency, which could trigger confrontations near federal sites.

Blaming intense media coverage and backlash to the US military deployment in Los Angeles, DHS expects the demonstrations to "continue and grow across the nation" as protesters focused on other issues shift to immigration, following a broad "embracement of anti-ICE messaging."

The bulletins—first obtained by the national security nonprofit Property of the People through public records requests—warn that officers could face assaults with fireworks and improvised weapons: paint-filled fire extinguishers, smoke grenades, and projectiles like bottles and rocks.

At the same time, the guidance urges officers to consider a range of nonviolent behavior and common protest gear—like masks, flashlights, and cameras—as potential precursors to violence, telling officers to prepare "from the point of view of an adversary."

Protesters on bicycles, skateboards, or even “on foot” are framed as potential “scouts” conducting reconnaissance or searching for “items to be used as weapons.” Livestreaming is listed alongside “doxxing” as a “tactic” for “threatening” police. Online posters are cast as ideological recruiters—or as participants in “surveillance sharing.”

One list of “violent tactics” shared by the Los Angeles–based Joint Regional Intelligence Center—part of a post-9/11 fusion network—includes both protesters’ attempts to avoid identification and efforts to identify police. The memo also alleges that face recognition, normally a tool of law enforcement, was used against officers.

Vera Eidelman, a senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, says the government has no business treating constitutionally protected activities—like observing or documenting police—as threats.

DHS did not respond to a request for comment.

“Exercising those rights shouldn’t be justification for adverse action or suspicion by the government,” Eidelman says. Labeling something as harmless as skateboarding at a protest as a violent threat is “disturbing and dangerous,” she adds, and could “easily lead to excessive force against people who are simply exercising their First Amendment rights.”

“The DHS report repeatedly conflates basic protest, organizing, and journalism with terroristic violence, thereby justifying ever more authoritarian measures by law enforcement,” says Ryan Shapiro, executive director of Property of the People. “It should be sobering, if unsurprising, that the Trump regime’s response to mass criticism of its police state tactics is to escalate those tactics.”

Fusion centers like JRIC play a central role in how police understand protest movements. The intelligence they produce is rapidly disseminated and draws heavily on open-source data. It often reflects broad, risk-averse assumptions and includes fragmentary and unverified information. In the absence of concrete threats, bulletins often turn to ideological language and social media activity as evidence of emerging risks, even when tied to lawful expression.

DHS’s risk-based approach reflects a broader shift in US law enforcement shaped by post-9/11 security priorities—one that elevates perceived intent over demonstrable wrongdoing and uses behavior cues, affiliations, and other potentially predictive indicators to justify early intervention and expanded surveillance.

A year ago, DHS warned that immigration-related grievances were driving a spike in threats against judges, migrants, and law enforcement, predicting that new laws and high-profile crackdowns would further radicalize individuals. In February, another fusion center reported renewed calls for violence against police and government officials, citing backlash to perceived federal overreach and identifying then-upcoming protests and court rulings as likely triggers.

At times, the sprawling predictions may appear prescient, echoing real-world flashpoints: In Alvarado, Texas, an alleged coordinated ambush at a detention center this week drew ICE agents out with fireworks before gunfire erupted on July 4, leaving a police officer shot in the neck. (Nearly a dozen arrests have been made, at least 10 on charges of attempted murder.)

In advance of protests, agencies increasingly rely on intelligence forecasting to identify groups seen as ideologically subversive or tactically unpredictable. Demonstrators labeled “transgressive” may be monitored, detained without charges, or met with force.

Social movement scholars widely recognize the introduction of preemptive protest policing as a departure from late-20th century approaches that prioritized de-escalation, communication, and facilitation. In its

place, authorities have increasingly emphasized control of demonstrations through early intervention, surveillance, and disruption—monitoring organizers, restricting public space, and responding proactively based on perceived risks rather than actual conduct.

Infrastructure initially designed to combat terrorism now often serves to monitor street-level protests, with virtual investigations units targeting demonstrators for scrutiny based on online expression. Fusion centers, funded through DHS grants, have increasingly issued bulletins flagging protest slogans, references to police brutality, and solidarity events as signs of possible violence—disseminating these assessments to law enforcement absent clear evidence of criminal intent.

Surveillance of protesters has included the construction of dossiers (known as “baseball cards”) with analysts using high-tech tools to compile subjects’ social media posts, affiliations, personal networks, and public statements critical of government policy.

Obtained exclusively by *WIRED*, a DHS dossier on Mahmoud Khalil, the former Columbia graduate student and anti-war activist, shows that analysts drew information from Canary Mission, a shadowy blacklist that anonymously profiles critics of Israeli military action and supporters of Palestinian rights.

In federal court Wednesday, a senior DHS official acknowledged that material from Canary Mission had been used to compile more than 100 dossiers on students and scholars, despite the site's ideological slant, mysterious funding, and unverifiable sourcing.

Threat bulletins can also prime officers to anticipate conflict, shaping their posture and decisions on the ground. In the wake of violent 2020 protests, the San Jose Police Department in California cited the “numerous intelligence bulletins” it received from its local regional fusion center, DHS, and the FBI, among others, as central to understanding “the mindset of the officers in the days leading up to and throughout the civil unrest.”

Specific bulletins cited by the SJP—whose protest response prompted a \$620,000 settlement this month—framed the demonstrations as possible cover for “domestic terrorists,” warned of opportunistic attacks on law enforcement and promoted an “unconfirmed report” of U-Haul vans purportedly being used to ferry weapons and explosives.

Subsequent reporting in the wake of BlueLeaks—a 269-gigabyte dump of internal police documents obtained by a source identifying as the hacktivist group Anonymous and published by transparency group Distributed Denial of Secrets—found federal bulletins riddled with unverified claims, vague threat language, and outright misinformation, including alerts about a parody website that supposedly paid protesters and accepted bitcoin to set cars on fire, despite a clear banner labeling the site “FAKE.”

Threat alerts—unclassified and routinely accessible to the press—can help law enforcement shape public perception of protests before they begin, laying the groundwork to legitimize aggressive police responses. Unverified DHS warnings about domestic terrorists infiltrating demonstrations in 2020, publicly echoed by the agency’s acting secretary on Twitter, were widely circulated and amplified in media coverage.

Americans are generally opposed to aggressive protest crackdowns, but when they do support them, fear is often the driving force. Experimental research suggests that support for the use of coercive tactics hinges less on what protesters actually do than on how they’re portrayed—by officials, the media, and through racial and ideological frames.

11 Jul - Russian Authorities Consider Any Anarchist Black Cross Groups an "Undesirable Organization"

Russia: At the beginning of 2024, the Russian Ministry of Justice added the American Anarchist Black Cross Federation to its list of “undesirable organizations.”

MORE:

via *Avtonom*

At that time, Anarchist Black Cross Moscow (ABC Moscow) publicly stated that it had no organizational ties to the American federation: ABC groups worldwide are autonomous, and Russian groups have never been part of the American federation.

However, in 2025, it became clear that the Russian authorities consider not only the American federation to be “undesirable” — they are targeting all ABC groups.

The Pretext: A Book by Belarusian Anarchist Igor Olinevich

In December 2024, the book "I'm Going to Magadan" by Belarusian anarchist Igor Olinevich was purchased in sting operations at the "Falanster" bookstore in Moscow and "Podpisnye Izdaniya" in St. Petersburg. In the spring of 2025, both stores were prosecuted (source) under the article about participation in the activities of an “undesirable organization.” The basis for the charges? A postscript in the book, signed by the ABC-Belarus collective.

The book itself was published by the Russian cooperative Radical Theory and Practice, which has no affiliation with the American ABC federation — but that didn’t matter to the authorities.

What Does This Mean in Practice?

As of 2025, even reposting, donating to, or publishing content featuring ABC symbols or affiliations can be grounds for prosecution in Russia.

This can lead to both administrative and criminal charges, including:

Misdemeanor: Participation in the activity of an “undesirable organization” (under administrative law).

Felony (under criminal law):

- Up to 4 years in prison for participating,
- Up to 5 years for financing,
- Up to 6 years for organizing such activities.

Actions that can lead to persecution in Russia:

- Participating in ABC group activities
- Reposting or publicly mentioning ABC
- Sending donations to ABC
- Distributing publications associated with ABC (including Olinevich’s book)

Even historical continuity from anarchists in the Russian Empire is now a reason for persecution. The Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) was founded in Russia in 1906, originally as the Anarchist Red Cross, later renamed. Since then, anarchists have supported political prisoners — and they will continue to do so, regardless of repression.

ABC Moscow Today

All members of ABC-Moscow have left the territory of the Russian Federation. We continue to assist those whom the Russian authorities persecute for their anarchist and anti-fascist beliefs: with evacuation, adaptation to life abroad, legal, and material support.

11 Jul - Congratulate Lyubov Lizunova on Her Birthday!

Russia: On July 13, Lyubov Lizunova celebrates her birthday. She turns 19 years old.

MORE:

via *Avtonom*

Lyuba is an anti-fascist and anarchist from Chita. Together with Alexander Snezhkov, she managed the Telegram channels “Shugan-25” and 75ZLO, which were dedicated to protest initiatives in Primorsky Krai and the Transbaikal region.

In October 2022, Lyuba was detained for graffiti that read "Death to the regime", and for posts in the aforementioned channels that expressed approval of arson attacks on military recruitment offices and sabotage on railroads. Despite being imprisoned, Lyuba remains strong — she does not lose heart. Instead, she spends her time drawing, reading, and learning French.

On April 25, 2024, the court sentenced her to 3.5 years in a penal colony.

This July 13 marked Lyubov’s third birthday in prison.

11 Jul - New case out of Alvarado, Texas

Donate here: givesendgo.com/supportdfwprotestors

MORE:

On the night of July 4th, local police arrested 10 people outside the ICE Prairieland detention facility in Alvarado, Texas. We don’t know all of the circumstances leading to the arrests. We do know that popular outrage and resistance to deportations is growing across the country. Organizers, activists, and affected communities have spent the year organizing rallies and protests outside of detention centers just like the one in Alvarado. The 10 people arrested on July 4th currently face state-level Terrorism and Aggravated Assault charges. Local authorities set bail at \$10 million per person.

On July 6th, FBI agents raided the home of an individual doing jail support. Another individual was pulled over by federal officers who placed them in custody. As of July 7th, their loved ones remain unaware of their current status or location.

Justice Department Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche claims the government will hold a “zero tolerance” policy toward those accused of participating in the protest in Alvarado. Already, the far right and the federal government are working to spread inflammatory and misleading narratives about the arrests. It is important for us all to remember that the police spread lies and half-truths which are greedily and thoughtlessly parroted by the media. We should not participate in spreading misinformation.

Everyone accused of fighting against round ups, mass deportations, and detention facilities deserve our support and solidarity, financial, material, and otherwise.

While we all wait for more direction to emerge from locals and those closer to the situation, we must all prepare to engage in a robust solidarity effort as the situation develops.

Currently, there is a serious and urgent need to raise funds for legal fees and other expenses. Please donate at the link below. You can also help by holding fundraisers, and sharing the fundraiser with family, friends, co-workers and on social media.

Updates about the situation as it evolves will be posted regularly on the GiveSendGo.

12 Jul - Trump authorizes ICE to protect themselves using ‘whatever means’

Order comes after California raids resulted in clashes with protesters and a shooting outside a Texas detention center

MORE:

by Edward Helmore (*The Guardian*)

Donald Trump has given “total authorization” to federal immigration agents to protect themselves after a series of clashes with protesters, including during enforcement raids on two California cannabis farms.

“I am giving Total Authorization for Ice to protect itself, just like they protect the Public,” Trump posted on Truth Social on Friday, adding that he was directing the homeland security secretary, Kristi Noem, and “border czar”, Tom Homan, to arrest anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) protesters who impede immigration enforcement operations.

Trump said he’s told the administrators to “instruct all Ice, Homeland Security, or any other Law Enforcement Officer who is on the receiving end of thrown rocks, bricks, or any other form of assault, to stop their car, and arrest these SLIMEBALLS, using whatever means is necessary to do so”.

The president appeared to be referring to an incident on Thursday when federal agents clashed with protesters during immigration raids on two farms in California’s Ventura county, north of Los Angeles.

At Glass House Farms’ property in Camarillo, masked federal agents appeared to use crowd-control measures including teargas to curb a protest, which was responded to by thrown bricks. Agents conducted another raid at the Glass House Farms site in Carpinteria, 35 miles (55km) up the coast. About 200 suspected undocumented immigrants were arrested in both raids, according to federal immigration authorities, and a farm worker was fatally injured after falling from a roof.

Homeland security assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin later told *Fox News Digital* that the injured man was “not in and has not been in CBP or Ice custody, although he was not being pursued by law enforcement, this individual climbed up to the roof of a greenhouse and fell 30ft. CBP immediately called a medivac to the scene to get him care as quickly as possible.”

California’s governor, Gavin Newsom, said the administration’s actions were “inhumane” and its tactics “evoke chaos, fear and terror within our communities at every turn”.

Newsom’s office later posted in response to a tweet from Stephen Miller, White House deputy chief of staff for policy and homeland security adviser: “This fascist cuck in DC continues his assault on democracy and the Constitution, and his attempt to replace the sovereignty of the people with autocracy.”

The twin raids in California come despite guidance from Tatum King, a senior official with Ice, to regional department leaders at Homeland Security Investigations directing them to stop workplace immigration enforcement actions unless related to criminal investigations.

“Effective today, please hold on all work site enforcement investigations/operations on agriculture (including aquaculture and meat packing plants), restaurants and operating hotels,” King wrote in the guidance last month.

But the raids are continuing, along with clashes between protesters and federal agents.

Last week, 10 people were arrested on attempted murder charges in connection with a shooting outside the Prairieland detention center in Alvarado, Texas. A police officer was shot in the neck during what US prosecutors say was a “planned ambush” by assailants dressed in black, military-style clothing.

An 11th suspect, Daniel Rolando-Sanchez Estrada, is the husband of one of the charged attackers, and was arrested on charges of conspiracy to tamper with evidence while attempting to execute a search warrant, according to Ice’s account on X. He allegedly had “insurrectionist propaganda.”

The FBI said on Friday it is searching for a 12th person involved in the 4 July ambush, naming the suspect as Benjamin Hanil Song, a former Marine Corps reservist. Police say he should be considered armed and dangerous.

Three days later, on 7 July, a man with a rifle and tactical gear was shot dead by police after he opened fire at a border patrol facility in McAllen, Texas, near the US-Mexico border.

Two officers and a border patrol employee were injured in the attack, including one who was shot in the knee, according to a statement by the Department of Homeland Security. Police identified the suspect as 27-year-old Ryan Lewis Mosqueda.

In his statement, Trump said he had watched the California raids “in disbelief as THUGS were violently throwing rocks and bricks at ICE Officers while they were moving down a roadway in their car and/or official vehicle.

“Tremendous damage was done to these brand new vehicles. I know for a fact that these Officers are having a hard time with allowing this to happen in that it shows such total disrespect for LAW AND ORDER.”

The annual budget for Ice will increase from about \$8bn to roughly \$28bn under Trump’s spending bill signed into law earlier this month, with plans to hire 10,000 new agents and become the highest-funded law enforcement agency.

13 Jul - Support Cop City Defendant (& get an awesome book)

Priscilla Grim is excited to share that she now has copies of No Cop City, No Cop World: Lessons from the Movement available for direct purchase on her website.

MORE:

Get your copy now at priscillagrim.com/store/p/no-cop-city-no-cop-world

This urgent and deeply grounded collection gathers the voices of organizers, writers, and thinkers from within the Stop Cop City movement. Curated by Micah Herskind, Mariah Parker, and Kamau Franklin, the book maps the strategies, political commitments, and on-the-ground tactics that have shaped this decentralized, fiercely intersectional resistance. It offers both a record of struggle and a call to action.

This movement is about more than stopping a single police facility. It is part of a larger fight against the spread of Cop World, a violent system where police militarization, surveillance, and ecological destruction go hand in hand. The gestapo-style tactics of ICE are escalating rapidly, alongside a massive increase in funding, threatening the safety of immigrant communities and protest movements alike. These forces are converging, and they endanger all of us.

No Cop City, No Cop World offers a wide-ranging view of this movement’s development, its guiding values, and the diverse methods used to resist state violence. The book includes tributes to Tortugueta, in-depth reflections from those impacted by repression, and connections between local and global movements for environmental justice, Indigenous sovereignty, and police abolition.

My essay, “31 Days in DeKalb County Hell,” is included in this collection. I began writing it while I was incarcerated in DeKalb County Jail, and completed it in the chaotic and intense weeks following my release in 2023. It is a raw account of survival inside a system designed to break people, and a testament to the solidarity that helped me endure.

By purchasing a copy directly through my site, you are contributing to my legal defense as I face RICO charges brought against me for standing with this movement. Your support helps me fight back, stay free, and keep organizing.

13 Jul - Kojo Bomani Sababu medical alert

Comrades received the below email from Kojo on July 12, 2025.

MORE:

“I am sick as I write you. I cannot explain what the problem is. That is why I seek your assistance to ascertain what is happening. System of problem unknown, however my head is spinning several times daily. I complained and an x-ray of my brain was taken. I had injections of something provided by medical. Now I am going through the situation once again. I feel faint and dizzy currently. I am reaching out. This is something I need the comrades to do. Build To Win! Kojo”

We are asking people to email, fax and call Butner FMC to inquire as to why they are not giving this serious medical situation the attention required to ascertain what exactly is causing this alarming problem. You can request to speak with his counselor. If that is not possible, please state your concern regarding this recurring medical problem. Be polite but firm in demanding that proper medical attention be provided to Kojo.

Kojo is 72 years old and has been in prison since 1975. He was originally transferred to Butner for a hip replacement, which was successful. Now we need to support our elder and ensure he gets the medical attention he needs.

You must refer to Kojo as Grailing Brown #39384-066.

Email: BUX-ExecAssistant-S@bop.gov

Phone: 919.575.3900

Fax: 919.575.4801

14 Jul - Update on Casey Goonan

Casey’s sentencing hearing has been rescheduled again. It is now tentatively slated for September 23 and that means Casey will be spending two more months at Santa Rita Jail.

MORE:

We will update with more info as the new date approaches.

Restoration of phone access and visitation

As mentioned in the last update, Casey was hit with a retaliatory disciplinary write-up and hit with a month long LOP status (Loss of Privileges). That was extended an additional week via an additional write-up but on 7/15 Casey will again have access to phones, visitation, and commissary.

14 Jul - Mahmoud Khalil seeks damages for irreparable

Last week, Mahmoud Khalil filed a claim detailing the harm he has suffered as a result of his politically motivated arrest and detention.

MORE:

The claim is a precursor to a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration, which he will bring under the Federal Tort Claims Act, a 1946 federal statute that allows individuals to sue the U.S. government for damages for civil law violations.

Mr. Khalil is seeking \$20 million, which he would use to help others similarly targeted by the Trump administration and Columbia University. He would accept, in lieu of payment, an official apology and abandonment of the administration's unconstitutional policy.

"This is the first step towards accountability. Nothing can restore the 104 days stolen from me. The trauma, the separation from my wife, the birth of my first child that I was forced to miss. But let's be clear, the same government that targeted me for speaking out is using taxpayer dollars to fund Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza." said Mr. Khalil.

19 Jul - Cop City RICO Trials Begin in Atlanta, First Case Declared a Mistrial

The first trial in the 'Cop City' RICO case began the morning of July 7 in Fulton County Superior Court, with defendant Ayla King returning to court for the first time since January 2024.

MORE:

by Aja Arnold and Sam Barnes (*Unicorn Riot*)

However, proceedings quickly came to a halt following Judge Kevin Farmer's declaration of a mistrial and the defense's decision to appeal the mistrial. King's case is being heard separately from the other 60 defendants after filing for a speedy trial on Oct. 30, 2023.

King is one of 61 people indicted by Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr in August 2023 on Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges for their protest against "Cop City," the \$109 million police militarization facility that was built in Weelaunee Forest (otherwise known as the South River Forest) in unincorporated DeKalb County near Atlanta. More than 40 people, including King, have also been charged under Georgia's domestic terrorism laws for alleged actions related to the Defend the Atlanta Forest/Stop Cop City movement.

The facility was initially proposed in June 2021 and a movement formed to oppose it. Following the police killing of 26-year-old climate activist Manuel "Tortugueta" Paez Terán in January 2023, the movement grew to a global scale. Now, over 70 police training facilities are being planned, expanded, or built across the U.S., and many communities are mobilizing in their efforts to halt their construction.

Atlanta's "Cop City" facility officially opened on April 29.

Surinder Chadha-Jiminez, King's attorney, filed a motion (pdf) to dismiss in January 2024, arguing that King's right to both a speedy and public trial were violated under Georgia law. Following jury selection on Dec. 13, 2023, Judge Kimberly Adams set the first day of arguments for Jan. 10, 2024, after the holiday break. (Adams is no longer presiding over the case as she has since been moved to family court.) Chadha-Jiminez argued that the delay between jury selection and the commencement of the trial itself constituted a violation of his client's right to a speedy trial.

Additionally, Chadha-Jiminez claimed that Adams violated King's right to a public trial when she improperly barred both the public and the media from the courtroom during jury selection.

In October 2024, the Georgia Court of Appeals found that King's right to a speedy trial was not violated, but it ordered a new jury to be empaneled in light of Judge Adams' failure to produce a written order when she closed the courtroom during the previous jury selection proceedings. The appeals court remanded King's case back to Fulton County, and ordered a mistrial. The defense appealed (pdf) the finding of a mistrial to the Georgia Supreme Court, which declined to hear the case in May 2025.

Judge Farmer formally declared the mistrial on July 7 and dismissed the jury selected in December 2023; this decision is being appealed by King's defense. Should that appeal fail, the state intends to continue with a new trial in fall 2025.

Chadha-Jiminez expressed frustration with the mistrial and the selection of a new jury during a statement to the media outside the courthouse last week.

“The Court of Appeals said [that], ‘because the courtroom was closed, you have to start over,’” he explained. “We said, ‘No’ ... We want an open, public trial, but more than that, I want this jury. Those were our jurors.”

Chadha-Jiminez added that a new trial would bring about issues of double jeopardy for his client, which he says is another basis for his upcoming appeal of the mistrial.

“We’re appealing a retrial on the grounds of statutory double jeopardy,” he said during last week’s press statement. “My client has already been placed in jeopardy and this is not one of the very few exceptions, according to our reading of the law, where the state gets to do a do-over. Because they already had a chance to move forward and we said we want this jury and the state said no. The state wanted a mistrial.”

Meanwhile, Judge Farmer says he plans to move forward with trial proceedings for the other 60 individuals included in the massive August 2023 RICO indictment from the Georgia Attorney General’s Office. Details of the trial schedule have yet to be released, but in the meantime, defendants remain in limbo and severely impacted in their lives as the nearly two-year long case drags on with little to no traction.

Atlanta Solidarity Fund co-founder Marlon Kautz also spoke outside the courthouse following the mistrial declaration. Kautz and two other ASF organizers are included in the indictment, along with charity fraud charges. The three were also originally charged with money laundering, which were dropped last September.

“The reason we are all here is because the Georgia Attorney General, Chris Carr, decided it would be a great idea to bring a RICO indictment and terrorism charges against a political protest movement,” he said. “The purpose of political attacks like this is to make an example of activists. To make them fear being targeted, having their life put on hold for years. The disruption of trials like this is very real and has a chilling effect on people. Even people who aren’t on trial are affected by seeing the way political prosecutions like this cause so much pain for defendants.”

27 Jul - Diversity Of Aesthetics

WHAT: Launch Party/Reading

WHEN: 4:00pm, Sunday, July 27th

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

Diversity of Aesthetics collects powerful and timely conversations among leading cultural critics, artists, and organizers to connect the threads between some of the most pressing social struggles and conflicts of our time: policing, war, borders and migration, economic crisis.

27 Jul - Do Not Attempt To Communicate With The Inmates Through The Fence

WHAT: Film Screening

WHEN: 6:30pm, Sunday, July 27th

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

COST: FREE