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Updates for January 23rd

6 Jan - 215 Bodies Found Behind Mississippi Jail

"They just threw him out like trash," said the family of one of the buried.

MORE:

by Amna Nawaz (*PBS News Hour*)

Some 215 bodies were found in a pauper's cemetery behind a prison in Hinds County, Mississippi. The gravesite is intended for people who have no known family, but relatives of the deceased say they were never contacted by officials.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump is representing the families of Marrio Moore, Dexter Wade, and Jonathan Hankins, who were all buried in the cemetery without the knowledge of their families.

"It's like they just threw him out like trash, just like they did with the others," Gretchen Hankins, the mother of Jonathan Hankins, told Fox affiliate *WBLT*.

Activist Arthur Reed, who works with Crump, recently visited the gravesite. The deceased are put in body bags and placed into shallow graves Reed told *Fox 26*.

"The stench from the bodies is drawing buzzards..." he said.

Wade was hit and killed by a police vehicle. Although the victim had an identification, Wade's family was not notified of his death. The family thought he was missing until they recently learned that he was buried, identified by a number, in the pauper's prison just outside of Jackson.

Reverend Hosea Hines, the senior pastor of the Christ Tabernacle Church and the national leader for A New Day Coalition of Equity and Black America, spoke to *The Chicago Crusader*.

"It really saddens my heart to know that their relatives went that long, some over a year, not knowing if their loved ones were dead or alive and then coming to the realization that they had been buried in a pauper's grave behind a jailhouse," he said.

According to Hines, Jackson's new police chief, Joseph Wade, has implemented a new death notification policy that will provide relatives with a notification and details about their loved one's deaths.

"People all across America are scratching their heads in disbelief about what's happening in Jackson, Mississippi, with this pauper's graveyard," Crump said during a press conference.

"It went from talking about the water" that was non-existent or contaminated "to now we're talking about the graveyard. What is going on in Jackson, Mississippi?"

10 Jan - Illustrated Guide Version 17 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2024/01/10/guide_17

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.

11 Jan - Prisoners at Upstate New York Facility Say Guards Waterboarded Them

Here in New York, lawsuits filed by prisoners at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility accuse guards of abuse and torture.

MORE:

via Democracy now!

Two men, 44-year-old Charles Wright and 32-year-old Eugene Taylor, say they were brutally beaten by guards, who also took them to another facility where they waterboarded them. Both men say they were falsely accused of disciplinary infractions after the event. A separate lawsuit, filed by 44 prisoners, says guards inflicted physical and psychological abuse on inmates during an October lockdown, including violently attacking them. Great Meadow prison is located in Comstock, about 200 miles north of New York City.

11 Jan - Faced with life imprisonment in disguise, action is always worthwhile.

Chilean anarchist political prisoner Francisco Solar Dominguez has a new writing and we're providing the translation below.

MORE:

via Dark Nights

Was anything else expected from Power? Although the sentence of 86 years in prison has provoked surprise and some consternation, the Power acted accordingly. It has punished forceful actions directed against its defenders and representatives, the audacity of the open rebellion that hit their spaces that they believed impregnable and also the unabashed and unambiguous vindication of such attacks, demonstrating that they perceive the danger implicit in the dissemination of ideas and actions.

The State has acted as it is and that should not surprise us.

It proceeded as it has historically done when it has been directly attacked, when they have really felt the threat of seeing their lives at risk and when, moreover, it has not found submission or repentance.

Along with seeking to bury me for life in this place, this sentence clearly constitutes an intimidating signal for all anarchist spaces and individualities that openly position themselves for combat insofar as it intends to put an end to offensive practices that refuse to disappear and that demonstrated their scope and potential in the October revolt. It is, in short, a blow to anarchism of action as a whole that reflects the threat it poses to Power, which, although it may sound paradoxical, shows that the insurrectional path fulfills part of its purposes. The fact that we are being persecuted, that years ago they created a specialized anti-anarchist unit which they have now replicated to fight organized crime, and that we are given 86-year sentences, are indicators that the path of action worries and worries the powerful.

The insistence and, at times, the intensification of anarchic action has led to a forceful condemnation that clearly has a demobilizing pretension and a sense of political revenge.

However, it is undeniable that lately there has not been an advance in the anarchic offensive, presenting, rather, a stagnation and even a decrease in the development and multiplication of transgressive practices. I think this is due to multiple aspects among which are the repressive variable as well as a post revolt effect that, apparently, has led to demobilization in several environments and individualities. I believe that a deeper analysis of this issue deserves a more detailed analysis, which is not the case here.

And if you ask me if it was worth it. I answer not only that it was worth it, but that it is and will be absolutely worth it. That taking the individual decision to rebel, to take revenge and to put an end, even for an instant, to the impunity of the powerful is one of the most beautiful moments that can be experienced. That linking word and action, going beyond mere slogans emptied of content, strengthens and gives

meaning to an individual and collective position of conflict. That taking ideas to the realm of the possible is always necessary and indispensable if one freely decides to confront Power, even if it costs decades of imprisonment and even life. Action is always worthwhile.

This concealed life sentence, which is one of the highest international sentences against an anarchist, is obviously intended to pacify, but it is up to us to ensure that this signal achieves its goal. It is in our will and decision to make these sentences completely lose their meaning and even constitute one more motive to attack, as the “Grupo de acción 6 de julio – Nueva Subversión” rightly exposed after the recent explosive attack against a bank branch.

Here inside, understanding, as I pointed out a few years ago, that anarchists in prison are active comrades who are temporarily locked up, in opposition and avoiding the limiting pigeonholing of the figure of “prisoner”, is that I intend to continue contributing to the different initiatives of the anarchic struggle. To insist on the permanent struggle for the annulment of the sentences of the military justice and with the campaign for the liberation of comrade Marcelo Villarroel, the freedom of anarchist and subversive prisoners and the destruction of the prison society.

15 Jan - Mapuche Political Prisoners Hunger Strike Reaches 2 Months

There are countries where double standards are part of the norm when dealing with political issues, or even worse, with human rights.

MORE:

by Carlos Aznárez (*Resumen Latinoamericano*)

On the one hand, intermediate officials, ministers and even presidents will hypocritically spout endlessly about their deep concern about humanitarian concepts, to project an image abroad. This is precisely what is happening in Chile presided over by Gabriel Boric, where the Mapuche people are harshly repressed, their lands continue to be subjugated and stolen, and their most prominent activists suffer in prison the consequences for standing up to this new repressive generation, just as it has been for more than five centuries.

While the converted “progressive” Boric says he sympathizes with Gaza in the genocide practiced by his colleague Netanyahu against the Palestinian people, he himself, with a high dose of hypocrisy, not only does not care about the fate of the 15 fighters of the Arauco Malleco Coordination (CAM), who have already completed 60 days of a hunger strike, demanding the overturn of a flawed trial, but Boric continues to accuse them of being “terrorists”. This is based on the results of these now typical “sham trials”, which we know all too well from their application in other countries of the continent, where before the hearings of indigenous freedom fighters begin, it is already known that they are going to be condemned.

Currently, in their claim, the Mapuche political prisoners of the CAM are also demanding dignified prison conditions, something that in countries that boast of being democratic that it should come naturally to, but the prisons of the Chilean occupier are authentic dungeons for those who were natural owners of their lands before the arrival of the old and new conquerors. And as a third demand, the detainees express their repudiation of territorial militarization and their defense of the recovery of the lands of which they were dispossessed.

The case of lonco Héctor Llaitul, his son and 13 other fighters, who are currently suffering the harsh physical consequences of not eating for two months, continues to be a stigma from which all those who in the name of Chile's ruling progressivism not only allow the abuses imposed by its prison system, but continue to accentuate repressive policies, will not be able to easily escape. Cases such as that of the prisoner Estéban Henríquez, hospitalized in a hospital in a serious state of malnutrition, is just one example of this type of extermination policies applied with total impunity.

In the same way, in other similar prisons, dozens of Mapuche prisoners are there because they put their bodies on the ground to claim the defense of their own dignity, or demanded at the same time the end of the persecution of their families where they live that is being raided and destroyed. Or when they protest against the demonization of the ancestral language with which they communicate and multiple other outrages, which of course are not explained in the hegemonic media.

This is another habitual tool used by the Chilean system of oppression, that of generating a wall of censorship with respect to what happens in the south, both of the resistance and rebellion of the Mapuche people and of the matrices of repression necessary to accentuate colonization, and thus also to favor the advance of the multinational corporations that devastate the conquered territory in complicity with the government.

The flagrant case of the 15 prisoners of the CAM speaks for itself that in the face of the imposed media silence, the campaign of threats and punishment added to the relatives of the detainees and a long list of outrages, makes it necessary for solidarity to multiply, both locally and internationally. It is essential to avoid the naturalization of this type of authoritarian and illegal procedures in that the detainees cannot be heard and have no possibility of a defense without pressure. As it happened at the time with Nelson Mandela, or what is happening today with the thousands of Palestinian prisoners, the emblematic case of the Mapuche prisoners of Arauco Malleco, should be taken worldwide as an inescapable flag of defense of those who are punished by state terrorism, for defending their culture and ancestral identity, and for fighting against the destruction of a territory from which they were dispossessed. In that sense, this colonial offensive is no different from the barbarity endured by the people of occupied Palestine.

15 Jan - Ladislav Kuc Is Free!

Ladislav Kuc is a Slovakian animal liberation activist who has served a 12-year sentence after an explosive action in front of a McDonalds that resulted in no injuries or harm to anyone.

MORE:

He was imprisoned on the 1st January 2012 and over the years his sentence was appealed over and over, at some point facing 25 years with the terrorism enhancements. He has served 12 years and is now out of prison.

His time in prison has been difficult and he has been denied basic medical care so he has spent the past few weeks sorting out doctors' appointments.

On communications with him, he sounds incredibly grateful for all the support he has received, from donations to letters and has sent love to all who have reached out over the years.

Life back from prison is not easy transition. Lado has been in prison for over a decade, so a lot of things have changed, but also he still owes a big fine and money to his lawyer. We haven't worked out how much is owed yet, so for now we are just re-sharing Philly ABC's fundraiser for him, until we work out better options to get money to him and how much is actually needed.

Please join us in wishing Ladislav a huge welcome back to the outside and please, please donate a few coins to the fundraiser. He owes 1000s and needs all the support he can get. Even 5 USD is a massive help. Donate at fundrazr.com/027Cec

15 Jan - Three Animal Rights Activists To Be Sentenced In UK

Over the past years, an animal rights court case has been going on in the UK under a reporting ban, stopping the publicity of it. Folks are now asking for solidarity and support during their sentencing. Read their words below.

MORE:

via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

“there is an ongoing animal rights case going through the Crown Court, regarding the rescue of animals. there is still a reporting ban in place, so we are extremely limited on the information we can share with you and the questions we can answer. one defendant was recently found “Not Guilty” by the jury, one is still yet to stand trial, one is awaiting a retrial, and three are due to be sentenced at Reading Crown Court on 2nd February 2024. we are calling for a show of support for them in court on this date, please share widely and come along if you can!

as raw as emotions might be on the day, we ask that you don’t behave in any way that could possibly backfire on the defendants in this case. please refrain from bringing any banners or placards, any that can be used will be provided. if you want to sit in on the actual hearing, it’s worth noting that your bags will be searched and any face coverings will (most likely) have to be removed. you won’t be alone if you choose to stay outside!

please have a read of this court support guide from Bristol Anti-Repression Campaign (@bristolantirepression), if you haven’t attended before. hope to see some of you there!”
unoffensiveanimal.is/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/signal-2024-01-11-00-49-02-314-3.jpg

16 Jan - What Happens to Non-Human Comrades When Political Imprisonment Hits Us?

After the raid carried out by the PDI (Policía De Investigaciones) on November 4, 2022 at the home of comrade “Tortuga” for the Susaron Case, a cop beat his cat comrade, who was paraplegic by birth. On November 12th, 2022, the cat died from internal injuries. We reproduce this reflection which was taken from a fanzine that was distributed in a solidarity activity with political prisoners held on November 20, 2022 in Villa Francia, Santiago de Chile.

MORE:

translation by *darknights*

To Tony, non-human comrade assassinated by the cops and the pain that prison produces.

Memory is not a single poetic act of narrative; it is the multiple and permanent vindictive actions that bring the living memory of what lies dead: those murdered by the state and capital. From the widest and existing revolutionary positions, we call from and to the anarcho-vegan positions in favor of total liberation, a slogan that is not synonymous with freak vegan fairs or getting happy for the vegan corner of the supermarket, or selling soy in the square, it seems necessary to problematize the situation of vulnerability that our non-human compañerxs live, who live together and share our daily lives; For us it is not a mere discourse to practice horizontality with the animals that live and suffer together with us the violence of capitalism and the patriarchal state.

In this case we want to encourage criticism and consideration of the situations presented by not few animals forcibly separated from their human compas, in raids, arbitrary detentions and political kidnappings, presenting various symptoms associated with loneliness, grief, stress and general health. We consider them as sentient beings, we witness and share their pain, many times they are left without the care, affection and containment that their human compañerxs used to give them, it is here where we must also be critical, support and show solidarity with the non-human compas, our attention and energy must consider them, never obviate or make them invisible, it is part of being consistent and conscious of our political stance.

We do not forget our non-human compañerxs, we will not abandon them, that solidarity transcends species, for a human, animal and earth liberation. We call to multiply the gestures of support and vindicate the memory of all non-human comrades fallen in this struggle, that our speech does not die in our mouths.

For all our compañerxs fallen at the hands of the cops, the dogs, and their harmful consequences. Compañero Tony, your pain and blows that provided your permanent absence remain in our hearts and memory. May the earth be kind to you.

19 Jan - Sekou Odinga, Rest in Power

NYC ABC mourns the death of Sekou Odinga, whom we were honored to count as both our comrade and our friend. Sekou passed on January 12th, 2024.

MORE:

Where to even begin to describe the impact and importance Sekou had on the movement? From the early days of the NYC Black Panther Party (BPP) to the International Section of the BPP, to the Black Liberation Army, to his time as a political prisoner and eventual release, to his subsequent tireless advocacy for the PP's and POW's still being held behind walls with the Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition and others, Sekou's presence in the movement was unmatched. We worked with Sekou on various projects and events over the years, and his consistent warmth, sense of humor, and dedication to his comrades were always inspiring.

We will continue to honor Sekou's commitment to supporting our political prisoners and POW's, on both sides of the walls.

21 Jan - Leonard Peltier Update - Not One More Year!

Coleman I, in which Leonard Peltier is imprisoned, has gone on permanent lockdown.

MORE:

The prisoners are supposed to be allowed out two hours a day. I have not heard from Leonard since the 18th. The last time I talked to Leonard, he asked where his supporters were. He asked me if anyone cared about these lockdowns.

Leonard lives in a filthy, cold cell 22 to 24 hours a day. He has not seen a dentist in ten years. I asked him, "On a scale of 1 to 10, is your pain level at 13?" He said, "Something like that." Leonard is a relentless truth-teller. He does not like it when I say things that do not make sense mathematically.

THAT is why Leonard remains imprisoned. He will not lie. He will not beg, grovel, or denounce his beliefs.

Please raise your voice. Ask your representatives why they have abdicated their responsibility to oversee the Bureau of Prisons and ensure they adhere to Constitutional law.

Leonard should not have spent a day in prison. Click "LEARN" on our website to find out what really happened on that reservation: freeleonardpeltiernow.org

27 Jan - Postcards for Palestine

WHAT: Letter-writing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, January 27th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Interference Archive, in partnership with Librarians and Archivists with Palestine, is opening up our space for letter writing to elected officials. As we enter the fourth month of Israel's escalating genocide against the people of Gaza, it's crucial we use our voices and written words to pressure our electeds to act in solidarity with Palestinians.

Who's invited?

Anyone who is interested in writing letters and/or postcards, in solidarity with Palestinians, to elected officials. This will be a kid-friendly space, and kids are invited to join in letter writing and/or artmaking if they want to!

What should I bring?

You can just bring yourselves! Interference Archive and LAP will supply printed letter templates, envelopes, blank postcards to design, as well as postcards featuring Interference Archive (?) prints, artmaking supplies, and postage stamps. If you have favorite art supplies you would like to use and/or share, feel free to bring those as well.

28 Jan - The Blue Agave Revolution – Book Release from Oso Blanco

WHAT: Book Release

WHEN: 3:30pm, Sunday, January 28th

WHERE: Register at bit.ly/Oso_BlueAgave

COST: \$20, includes a copy of the book

MORE:

Join Philly ABC for the premier release of freshly published, *The Blue Agave Revolution: Poetry of the Blind Rebel*. Collaboratively written by indigenous anarchist political prisoner Oso Blanco and Michael Novick, *The Blue Agave Revolution* is a joint work of speculative/magical realist fiction containing tales of the Mexican Revolution, analyses of contemporary Indigenous struggle, engagement with the work of other political prisoners including Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Jessica Reznicek, art, poetry, and meditations about what struggles for freedom may look like in the future.

After introducing the book and hearing a piece from Oso Blanco himself, we'll jump into a multimedia program on contemporary aspects of the Zapatista movement and other topics related to Oso Blanco's wholehearted connections to indigenous autonomy in Turtle Island. We will be joined by author and journalist Scott Campbell to shed light on the role of Magonismo in the early Mexican revolution.

Remote participation is welcome! If you can't make it in person, we'll ship it to you so you can follow along.