



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for October 23rd

9 Oct - Victory for Valve Turners in Minnesota!

We are pleased to announce a victory in our Minnesota Valve Turner case!

MORE:

via Civil Liberties Defense Center

This trial was a rollercoaster with many twists and turns, but all three defendants were acquitted of their charges this morning in court. They were acquitted, not on the necessity defense, but because the prosecution could not meet the burden of proof that they had committed a crime. Read below to find out more information, and follow along on our social media for updates as this story unfolds on a national scale!

District Court Judge Robert Tiffany acquitted defendants of all charges today in the Clearwater County case of two “Valve Turners,” Annette Klapstein and Emily Johnston, and support person Ben Joldersma. Judge Tiffany ruled that the prosecution failed to demonstrate any evidence of damage to two Enbridge pipelines. Klapstein and Johnston faced state felony charges for their part in the “Shut It Down” climate direct action two years ago, in which climate activists successfully disrupted all five pipelines carrying Canadian tar sands crude oil into the United States.

The acquittal came a week after the climate activists were preparing to present a “climate necessity defense,” with expert testimony in areas including pipeline safety, climate science, climate policy and the efficacy of civil disobedience. The expert witnesses would have corroborated the defendants’ testimony that their actions were justified by the need to avert imminent climate catastrophe. However, in a stunning about-face last week, the court forbade all expert testimony related to climate change and civil disobedience, while still allowing safety testimony, and possibly testimony to direct, non-climate impacts of tar sands extraction and pipelines.

“The Judge found what I was about to tell the jury: that these defendants caused no damage to the two pipelines they closed. Indeed, they acted out of concern for communities that are harmed by fossil fuel pipelines, and the climate emergency,” said Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, an expert who authored the American Pipeline Institute pipeline safety guidelines.

“While I’m very glad that the court acknowledged that we did not damage the pipelines, I’m heartbroken that the jury didn’t get to hear our expert witnesses and their profoundly important warnings about the climate crisis,” said defendant Emily Johnston, 52, a Seattle resident and poet. “We are fast losing our window of opportunity to save ourselves and much of the beauty of this world. We turned those valves to disrupt the business-as-usual that we know is leading to catastrophe, and to send a strong message that might focus attention to the problem. We will continue to do that in every peaceful way we can; the stakes are far too high for us not to,” Johnston added.

With the acquittal, the case establishes two important legal precedents.

“First, the climate necessity defense was upheld by the highest court in the State, which affirmed that these climate activists had the right to assert the climate necessity defense to a jury,” said Lauren Regan, Executive Director of the Eugene Oregon-based Civil Liberties Defense Center.

“Further, the defendants were acquitted of felony criminal damage to critical energy infrastructure and pipelines. In an attack on our democracy, this law, like others of its kind in 31 states, was pushed through

the state legislature at the behest of the fossil fuel industry, which sought to increase the penalties against activists who dared to challenge the profiteering motives of some of the biggest corporations,” Regan said.

Dr. James Hansen was another of the expert witnesses scheduled to give testimony. “It’s great that the defendants were found not guilty, but we missed an opportunity to inform the public about the injustice of climate change. Now we need to go on offense against the real criminals, the government,” said Former NASA Chief Scientist Dr. Hansen. “The government, especially the Trump Administration, is guilty of not protecting the constitutional rights of young people. They should have a plan to phase down fossil fuel emissions, but instead they aid and abet the expansion of fossil fuel mining, which, if not stopped, will guarantee devastating consequences for young people.”

“As older white people, we acknowledge that our white privilege may have resulted in better treatment in the legal system than activists of color often receive. That is why it is important for people of privilege to take bolder risk on behalf of the planet” said defendant Annette Klapstein. “There are lives in the balance, thousands of people are already dying from the effects of climate change and if we don’t put a stop to it, it will be millions within a few short years. It is morally unacceptable to me to stand idly by while even one life is sacrificed to the greedy oil company executives and their already rich shareholders and the banks who fund them can continue to make their even more obscene profits at the expense of all life on earth,” Klapstein added.

11 Oct - Welcome Home Connor Stevens Release Fund

The first of the Cleveland 4 to come home will be Connor Stevens. He will need assistance getting back on his feet and you can help by donating at fundrazr.com/campaigns/d1PY2c

MORE:

Connor Stevens is one of the Cleveland4. He is being released soon so we're raising funds to help get him basic necessities when he is released! It's possible he'll even be released by November!

Visit paypal.me/Cleveland4Donate if you are out of the US and would like to donate via Paypal.

The Cleveland 4 were four Occupy Cleveland activists who were arrested on April 30th, 2012, accused of plotting to blow up a bridge. But it was the FBI, working with an informant, that crafted the plot, produced the “explosives,” and coerced these four into participating.

Connor took non-cooperating plea deals and pled guilty to all charges. The judge applied a “terrorism enhancement” to their sentences, elongating their sentences as well as subjecting them to harsher prison conditions. Connor served 8 years 1 month—all to be followed by lifetime supervised release.

11 Oct - Reality Winner Finally Transferred To Federal Prison Where She’ll Serve Sentence

Former NSA contractor Reality Winner was transferred to Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, where she will be incarcerated for her sentence.

MORE:

by Kevin Gosztola (*Shadowproof*)

Winner was charged with violating the Espionage Act after she mailed a copy of a classified report from the NSA on alleged Russian hacking of voter registration systems to the Intercept. She accepted a plea deal on June 26 and was sentenced to five years and three months in prison on August 23. She is serving the longest sentence ever for a person accused of an unauthorized disclosure.

As of October 9, Winner prepared herself for another week at Grady County Jail in Chickasha, Oklahoma, an overflow facility used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

She shared, “I had a real tough time last night kind of accepting that we weren’t going to Carswell today, which means at least one more week here in this environment. ”

Winner stayed up until 3 am, hoping a guard would tell her the transport vehicle for Carswell arrived. A guard earlier claimed nobody was leaving because of weather. “I just went to the darkest place.” The next set of guards suggested the weather was not so bad. There would be prisoners shipping out. No names were called.

“It should not be a privilege to be able to go to prison, but it really is. It’s not fair,” Winner declared.

But prison authorities called her number in the morning on October 10, and she was finally moved to Carswell.

The Bureau of Prisons did not have to move her to Carswell. They could have kept her in an overflow facility in Oklahoma for a few more weeks.

The amount of time an inmate could spend in-transit varies widely. According to the Bureau of Prisons guidebook for the Federal Transfer Center Oklahoma City, in-transit inmates could be held for more than 60 days, and the average stay is four to six weeks.

The Bureau of Prisons adds that for inmates in the process of being transferred, “It is not unusual for other inmates to arrive after you and depart before you. Movement is normally based upon when you were designated,” not when they arrived at the facility.

Yet, Winner was in a facility with no programs. Inmates do not go outside. There is no visitation. If inmates do not have money or a smart phone with good wifi, they do not get to see their loved ones. She was warehoused with around 80 or more women.

“Our recreation is the email kiosk, and there’s some books,” Winner shared. “I’ve never seen so little provided in a space housing so many.”

At Grady County Jail, federal inmates temporarily live with county inmates or state prisoners. The jail has had funding issues with local inmates taking up beds in the facility. Most of the jail’s income comes from holding federal inmates.

Winner suggested the jail had a “multi-million dollar contract” with the federal government, and each federal inmate brought in much more money than local inmates. But there are no programs and next to no resources provided to inmates. “Where is that money really going then?”

For over a year, Winner was detained in a county jail in Lincoln County, Georgia. She was transferred a few weeks after she was sentenced in August to a facility in Baker County, Florida, where she was placed in isolation.

“I really wasn’t supposed to be there for more than 24 hours. I was supposed to leave the very next Tuesday morning, and the plane broke down,” Winner said. “So, I [spent] a week in isolation and then they finally let me go to general population for a week.”

On October 2, she was taken to Jacksonville and put on a plane. She showed up at the federal processing center in Oklahoma City. There were no beds left. She was moved to Grady County Jail.

Supporters with the Stand With Reality organization were relieved that she made it to Carswell.

“She has been in transit for over 25 days,” said Lisa Ling, a former drone operator, whistleblower, and organizer with Stand With Reality. “Transit has been extremely difficult for family and friends and especially Reality, who has not been outdoors in all of that time.”

Billie Winner-Davis, Winner’s mother, who has been her biggest advocate, was also relieved that her daughter was now at Carswell and in the same state where her family lives.

“I am so very happy. I checked the BOP site all night, and when I finally saw her listed at Carswell this morning, I cried,” Winner-Davis shared. “She is finally going to get medical treatment, access to music, fresh air, recreation, college classes, and good food.”

“Having her in Texas means I get to remain home. And I can’t wait for our first visit with her when I will finally be able to hug her.”

Since Winner was detained in 2017, her mother has not been allowed to hug her when she visited her in county jail.

12 Oct - Three Years In: A Call to Support It’s Going Down (IGD)

We admit this is only tangentially related to political prisoners and ask that you support this anarchist media project as you can.

MORE:

Over three years ago we set out to create a platform that was both of use to the wider public as well as the growing anarchist and autonomous social movements across so-called North America.

In that time, our platform has grown, as well as many of the others that have fed into it. Despite mistakes we’ve made and lessons learned along the way, we are ultimately very proud of the platform that IGD has grown into. But it hasn’t been easy, both in terms of the massive amount of work that this project requires, as well as the constant barrage of attacks that comes along with maintaining it.

But what makes IGD more than a labor of love, is the constant feedback we get that what we are doing is important, that it is valued, and that our work helps social movements and struggles on the ground.

Some of the things we’re most proud of:

- Helping to publish some of the very first in-depth analysis, critique, and reporting on the Alt-Right, its growth as an auxiliary force to the Trumpian State, and the need for a broad, autonomous movement, based around solidarity and community self-defense, to combat its racist violence.
- Years of publishing translations of actions, communiques, prisoner updates and reports from Mexico. This has included two columns, Insumision and currently Revuelta Comunitaria. This work has helped bridge gaps in communication on social movements and revolt across language barriers, and has also helped to raise money and awareness for Mexican anarchist prisoners.
- Provided a space for updates on political prisoners, prisoner rebellions, and prisoner voices through Bloc Party, prisoners interviews, and republishing a variety of support organizations.

- Continuous roundups of large scale mobilizations, clashes, and strikes.
- A new column, Resistance is Life, which reports directly from the heart of the Rojavan revolution, and written by comrades in the Internationalist Commune.
- Through roundups, interviews, and publishing report backs, covered and helped amplify news and the demands behind the national prison strikes in 2016 and 2018.
- Provided a space for the amplification of news on autonomous mutual aid disaster relief projects.
- Recorded and produced a series of podcasts and audio documentaries on the unfolding struggle at Standing Rock and the growth of anti-pipeline battles across the US.
- Organized a series of media collaborations with our comrades in CrimethInc. and Sub.Media. Also helped grow the Channel Zero Anarchist Podcast Network.
- Helped grow a podcast platform that now has thousands of listeners, that in turn has given a microphone to striking teachers in West Virginia, Mexican political prisoners, rent strikers, antifascist organizers, people mobilizing against ICE, and those reporting on the ground during riots, student occupations, and large scale mobilizations. This is not to mention the wide range of guests we have had on the program, from journalists at *Newsweek* covering the far-Right, to former UN diplomats turned anarchists.
- Edited and produced a podcast series written and recorded by J20 defendants that covered the ins and outs of the trial as it unfolded.
- Published a huge variety of columns, interviews, and original essays on the major crises of our epoch, touching on everything from climate change, automation and the gig economy, the failures of Centrism and social democracy, to Trump and the State itself.
- Maintained a platform that has been used by organizers on the ground for a variety of successful call-in campaigns and mass mobilizations. As a project, we have personally been thanked by prisoners for spreading the word about their case that has resulted in better conditions.
- As a website, we have broken and pushed a variety of stories that have then been picked up on by a variety of more mainstream outlets. Also given interviews with a variety of outlets, from the *New York Times*, to *The Independent*, to *Mel Magazine*.

The Path Ahead

Over the past year, we've tried to keep our nose to the grindstone and focus on the work of keeping this site up and running. But now we're at a place that we need to again start asking for money to keep the lights on. We also want to:

- Roll out a new shirt design by the holidays.
- Create new full-color sticker packs.
- Publish by the end of the year an analysis of our current situation, the crisis we face, and some thoughts on a path forward for the growth of a revolutionary autonomous material force.
- Go back to publishing a weekly e-newsletter sent out to supporters that includes links to our original content, popular articles, and new podcasts.

Winter Fundraiser

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by the end of the year. This will help us keep the project running and also print new shirts, stickers, and booklets which will in turn, continue to fund the project. In the past, our supporters have helped us fundraise between \$2,500 to \$3K a month, so we know that with the help of our readers and listeners, we can make our goal.

Help IGD Continue Into 2019

There are several ways to donate to IGD:

- Make a one time donation at itsgoingdown.org/product/one-time-donation
- Make a monthly donation at itsgoingdown.org/product/recurring-donation
- Buy an item from our store. itsgoingdown.org/shop
- Have access to making shirts and stickers or printing zines? Get at us if you can help!
- Participate in our antifa sticker pack design contest by submitting your art and ideas. itsgoingdown.org/help-igd-antifa-sticker-design-contest

Winter Sale

As a thank you for all our supporters and as a way to get ready for new shirt and sticker designs, we are slashing the cost of our shirts in half! We are also offering for \$20, a shirt of either design, and the Weekend Warrior sticker pack – combined! itsgoingdown.org

13 Oct - Compassion Vs. Consumption

After some time away from writing, we have a new piece by Walter Bond to offer.

MORE:

Human greed and avarice have been killing the planet and this has been the case for a long time running. It was ramped up to a fever pitch with the advent of the industrial revolution. Ever driven by a filthy, environmentally catastrophic smoke stack society with both capitalist and communist countries locked into a death spiral of consuming the Earth; stripping Her of all ‘raw material’ and spewing forth chemicals, pollution and disease into an environment where once there was vitality and growth.

All this ‘development’ (really destruction when looked at with open eyes) has put our species at loggerheads with all species, all for the pettiness of consumption for consumption’s sake. Our way of life, eating the dead, lapping their milk and stealing their eggs has not only poisoned the environment through the mechanized slaughterhouse industry (to give only one of several examples), but has poisoned our ideals as well.

This deadening of empathy to apathy has created a wholly selfish human-centric perspective that within a few short generations has made it nearly impossible for 9/10ths of adults living within the most economically viable countries to show any serious consideration for any being outside of humanity. So prevalent is this myopic worldview that to simply have genuine concern for the less fortunate amongst ourselves is considered heroically altruistic. This overconsumption, this excess fosters a ‘warped value system’ where the silliest and most trivial wants and desires are viewed as rights. This stems from heavy conditioning by advertising that starts in the cradle and ends in an early grave.

Does an Animal have a right to live?

Doesn’t that supersede your desire for fast food?

Doesn’t that Animal’s right to live supersede your entertainment? your fashion? your profit margin?

To us, the ethical Vegan community, the answer is an emphatic YES! But we are a small minority even amongst herbivores. Most are repulsed by the idea that consideration for Animals or for Mother Earth should ever interfere with the flow of holy commerce. Their (the non-Vegan World’s) logic is backward and twisted, as well as self-perpetuating, for the more we indulge in products of death and murder, and the longer we sit by and passively allow the slaughter, the more craving and passivity grow and the weaker becomes our resolve to put an end to it.

This sham idea sold to us, this faith in collective consumption, leaves us devoid of love and inner peace and to the contrary we become consumed by the very products of our design. We become unable to experience serenity, the satisfaction of being, and yet we know not why. It is only when we learn to put others ahead of ourselves and the community of life before our own desire for flesh as food that we start to gain an insight into our equal footing with Animals and the Earth.

Starting from the day we go Vegan, we can begin, for the first time, to see the Animal's plight objectively without the prejudice of our palate affecting our better nature. For the first time we can see without a vested interest in justifying their profound loss for our petty gain. Of course capitalism is now sullyng the entire point of Veganism with its co-modification, with its Borg like way of assimilating everything into an empty shell.

How many of us are truly Vegan for the Animals?
How many of us are still compelled by our conscious?

How many more are simply foodie Vegans ever obsessed with another delicacy, another crappy product produced by the same corporations that bring us dead Animal's body parts? Only now the cardboard packages have huge green "V"s and dancing cartoon vegetables on them instead of cows.

Are we content now?
Are we caring and compassionate because our food costs twice as much?

Perhaps, just maybe, we miss the point again when we internalize a message meant for those outside of ourselves. Because it's supposed to be about them, about the chick in the grinder, under the hot wire, and crowded into filthy living conditions. Or the goat that has been dehorned by a drill bit to the skull, ruining the cuticle that allows for a horns normal growth. A dehorning process that is done without anesthesia and often leaves remnant horns growing deformed even bending back into the Animal's eyes. It's about the rabbit scorched and burned for chemical testing or blinded by having oven cleaner shoved in their eyes during a Draize test. Veganism is about taking yourself out of the cycle of abuse. But it is only the starting point and not a final destination. Not eating or using anything that has been tested on an Animal is the least you can do, if you care.

So, is your Veganism going to be a stepping stone, the crucial first step in a journey of Animal and Earth Liberation?

Or will it just become another way to get diabetes eating raw cane sugar cupcakes instead of that old nasty bone charred stuff?

15 Oct - 'I feel hopeless': Families call new Pa. prison mail policy devastating

Pennsylvania prison books and mail policies draw protests, petitions, and possible legal challenges

MORE:

by Samantha Melamed (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*)

The pile of drawings in Lori Robinson's house grows thicker by the week, creations her 7-year-old son, who's autistic, wants to send to Robinson's husband, the only father figure her son has ever known. But recently, Robinson told her son he's not allowed to send any more drawings, or the letters he was learning to write.

"It's good for him to develop those skills, and he would always mail them to his dad," she said. "But I'm not comfortable with that anymore. I don't want my 7-year-old autistic child's stuff to be able to be searched in some database in Florida."

It's a response to new mail policies in the Pennsylvania state prisons, where her husband, Hakeem Robinson, is serving a life sentence.

Under the policy — the first of its kind in a state prison system — incoming mail must be addressed to a Florida company, Smart Communications; from there it's scanned, digitally forwarded to printers at each state prison and stored indefinitely for ongoing surveillance purposes. The Department of Corrections said this and other restrictions, including an entirely different but also controversial policy for managing legal mail, are necessary to stamp out drug smuggling by mail — but, a month in, families say it's devastating one of their few means of maintaining connections with incarcerated loved ones.

Their complaints include missing pages, misdirected letters, weekslong delays, and copies so poor as to be illegible. Though the DOC says it is working out the kinks and that all 25 prisons now have color printers, some inmates say the grainy printouts of photos onto copy paper — sometimes shrunk to fit photos four to a page — continue to arrive in black and white. For others, the notion that their personal correspondence would be stored in a database, equipped with technology to convert printed materials to searchable text, has deterred them from sending mail at all.

Robert Pezzeca, a lifer incarcerated at Dallas state prison for the 1998 murder of his roommate in Bensalem, said that lately the mail call that was once a highlight of his day has become a source of frustration.

"On two occasions, I've received only the photocopy of the envelope that the mail came in, but not the letters," he said. He filed a grievance asking for the mail to be reprinted, but it was rejected. "So I don't expect to ever get my mail."

Smart Communications chief executive Jon Logan said Pennsylvania was the company's first state-prison contract, though it works with more than 100 county agencies. More than half of those use its "MailGuard" service, which was launched in 2016, just as prisons and jails around the nation began exploring ways to limit or eliminate postal mail. In recent weeks, the 20-worker company has ballooned to 50 employees to keep up with the volume of 3,000 to 8,000 pieces of mail each day. Logan said there are now two- to three-day wait times, but when new equipment is in place, he expects same-day turnaround.

Logan said the scanners are of very high caliber and that each piece of mail goes through a four-step quality-control process, so he believes the mail should not be degraded by the time it arrives in prisoners' hands.

"There are a lot of people looking to poke holes in this because they don't like change," he said.

The Department of Corrections contracted with the vendor through an emergency-procurement process, which means there was no public solicitation or competitive bidding process.

"They were the only ones with correctional experience to do it within a week. That was our timeline," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said at a community meeting in South Philadelphia on Oct. 11, called by members of the Legislative Black Caucus to address families' concerns. He said digital delivery was deemed superior to other ideas the department had contemplated, such as limiting mail to postcards only.

The Department first alluded to the plan in an Aug. 21 announcement; the contract — worth \$376,000 a month, or close to \$16 million over three years — is dated Sept. 5.

Wetzel said the emergency procurement was justified because of a number of staff illnesses related to incidental exposure to new, synthetic drugs. (He said he did not agree with experts in medical toxicology who've cast doubt on that narrative.) He also cited other indications of an out-of-control drug market: 23 inmate drug overdoses in August. That month, he said, 1 percent of random drug tests came back positive. That's three times higher than has been typical.

Wetzel acknowledged that there had been delays in mail delivery, and said he had met with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to seek special accommodations for those who may have missed legal deadlines.

Numerous studies have shown that incarcerated people who maintain supportive family relationships fare better after they return home from prison. A survey of incarcerated people by the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit think tank in New York, found that letters were the most common means for keeping in contact with family, and that more than 92 percent of prisoners stay in touch that way.

At the meeting, many comments from the crowd, submitted on index cards, spoke to the impact of the mail policy.

"I feel hopeless that I cannot now send my brother a photo from a family event with a personal message written on it. A photo is a visit from a loved one faraway," one read.

Another lamented: "My mother is considered to our family as a card concierge. She can spend hours at a Rite Aid or a CVS reading cards and picking out the best card for any occasion. It has to be the perfect card. She underlines and adds words to it, or cute little drawings. Our brother's birthday is coming up in November, and she already has his card. She'll plan to send it out on a certain day so he'll get it on his actual birth date. How personal do you think a scanned copy of that card is? And it may not arrive on his birthday, as she has done for 22 years."

At a protest outside a fund-raiser for Gov. Wolf at Yards Brewery in North Philadelphia, Oneida Taylor, 53, said she thought that the process had effectively cut off communication with a friend at Phoenix state prison: "If I want him to know something, if he gets the letter, it already happened a week or two ago."

Angela Baker, 50, who married a lifer named Eric Jolson just two days before postal mail was terminated, said she mailed her husband their marriage license; it came through in a double-sided photocopy.

Yvonne Queen, 62, agreed: Her son's mail has been taking two weeks to arrive, and when he receives photos he finds them distorted or of such poor quality that he can barely make out the faces.

She and others are equally dismayed with the situation in the visiting room, where a 90-day moratorium on food-vending — visitors' only access to food — has led many to curtail or cancel their visits. Queen, a diabetic, said she's had to cut her visits considerably shorter. "I try to maintain two to three hours, but it's hard."

Lorraine "DeeDee" Haw of Philadelphia has canceled plans to visit her son, Phillip Ocampo. Since Ocampo is serving a life sentence at Smithfield state prison — a four-hour drive from Philadelphia — she would normally visit for several hours at a time. But she can't bring her 5-year-old great-granddaughter to see him without any access to food or drink.

Haw is hopeful that she'll be able to visit when food service is restored. But the permanent elimination of mail service feels like a lasting blow.

For nearly 22 years, Haw and Ocampo have played an ongoing tic-tac-toe game through the mail — a trivial amusement that made their relationship feel slightly more normal.

"He would try to let me win and I would try to let him win, and neither one of us would win," she said. "Now it won't be the same. And if I write to him, he won't be getting a letter that I touched, that I cried over, my feelings in the letter. He'll get a copy of something."

She said she's stopped sending photos, and Ocampo's 5-year-old granddaughter no longer sends the crayon-on-construction-paper drawings she makes for Ocampo — fanciful images of the entire family, reduced to stick figures but reunited.

"She has a vivid imagination," Haw said. "We continue to let her draw what she wants; we just have to keep them."

16 Oct - Help Needed for Arrested Black Mesa Supporter

On Sunday, October 7th, a supporter heading back to Black Mesa was arrested in Utah and is being held at an immigration detention center in Logan, Utah pending a hearing from a judge to grant his release.

MORE:

Online fundraising at [**gofundme.com/solidarity-with-ab**](https://gofundme.com/solidarity-with-ab)

On Sunday the 7th of October our brother Abraham Hernandez was detained and arrested in Millard County, Utah where he was kept on an Immigration hold. From there he was transferred to a detention center in Logan, Utah where he waits to see a judge that may grant him release.

From the fundraiser:

"Abraham is not only our loving brother but also a compassionate, valued and vital part of our community. As a water protector and land defender, he is constantly looking for ways to lend his many skills to the local community to help build the autonomous world we all want to see. His dedication to environmental justice and indigenous sovereignty has also made him a crucial asset to the support and resistance in the Black Mesa/Big Mountain community. From sheep herding, hauling water/wood, to fire keeping and fixing hogans, Abraham is known by fellow organizers to always be there and always be ready to support.

"Abraham was arrested while on his way back to camp where he frequently spends months at time dedicated to land defense and to the protection of sacred water and indigenous ways of life. We ask that you may support our community effort to gather resources to guarantee the safety and intentional protection of Abraham. Please donate to this fundraiser and share with your networks so that our family may continue to navigate this violent immigration system and Abraham may be able to return to the people that love him and need him."

16 Oct - Update On Anarchist Prisoner Eric King In the SHU

A quick update since Eric is still in the Specialized Housing Unit (SHU, segregation) and it is unknown how long he will be there.

MORE:

He still hasn't received a write-up nor has he been brought up on charges, but is facing a precarious situation. Eric also has some new rules regarding mail. All paper has to be plain white or regular lined

notebook paper. Envelopes have to be straight white or manila if sending something larger. Eric is also unable to receive cards.

As folx know Eric has been through a lot of trauma recently and really could use support through mail and always always books. He was pretty badly hurt, he misses his family and really needs the community right now. Eric is so grateful for all the support, letters, and books he has received so far. We in the support crew are so appreciative of people showing our friend the love!

Please keep Eric in your mind and heart, these are hard times and our friend will need a ton of solidarity and help in the coming months.

17 Oct - Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign Fundraiser

Today marks the beginning of RAPP's 2018 online fundraising campaign.

MORE:

This year, we have a very ambitious goal. We want to raise \$20,000 to support our 2018-2019 campaign for parole justice. Please help us reach our fundraising goal and support our work to #FreeOurElders.

These funds will help us cover the cost of our community organizing efforts, advocacy and educational materials, trips to Albany and other parts of New York State, honorarium for formerly incarcerated leaders, and other key aspects of our work.

By making phone calls, showing up to events, meeting with legislators and doing just about everything you can to #FreeOurElders, we know that you already give so much of your time, energy and resources to our work. However, to continue our efforts, we have to have the necessary funds and resources. Please help us get them today.

The link where you and your friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and comrades can donate by November 13th is **gofundme.com/rapp-campaign-fall-fundraiser**. Please share this link widely throughout your networks and on social media!

Please let us know if you'd like any additional materials in order to make RAPP fundraising pitches to friends. And feel free to send people to our website <rappcampaign.com> and Facebook page <facebook.com/RAPPCampaign>.

22 Oct - The Evidence is There! All out for Mumia!

In just one week Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal will be back in court in Philadelphia for yet another hearing.

MORE:

This will be the seventh hearing since April 2017, and the fifth since District Attorney Larry Krasner took office. We are appealing to Mumia supporters and justice seekers everywhere to step up to the plate and demand that Krasner do the right thing. The Judge and DA keep searching for proof former DA Ron Castille violated Mumia's right to appeal his wrongful conviction but the evidence is there. Dragging out yet more boxes, and hiring yet more staff to do a search is in effect a smokescreen to cover their heel dragging.

Please take action now! Email the letter below and call DA Krasner. Come to a press conference on October 25. Pack the court on Monday, October 29 at 8:00AM, in the Criminal Justice Building, corner of 13th & Filbert Streets in Philadelphia. Keep the heat on Krasner.

Press Conference – 11:00am, Thursday October 25, 3 South Penn Square

Just days before Mumia's court proceeding on October 29, attend a Press Conference outside the DA's office which will feature speakers demanding the DA stop acting in the interest of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

LETTER TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY LARRY KRASNER October 15, 2018

Dear District Attorney Larry Krasner,

You were elected on your claims of being a "progressive DA" and that you would "end mass incarceration." You stated that you would investigate and overturn wrongful convictions. However, in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal you have to date shown yourself to be in tandem with the Fraternal Order of Police. This is despite the history of the evidence of Mumia's innocence and the police, prosecution, and judicial misconduct that permeates his case. In a letter sent to you in January 2018, Pam Africa and international representatives of the movement to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal requested a meeting to discuss his case with the objective of obtaining a dismissal of the charges against him and his release from prison. We also asked as a first step that you join in or at least not oppose Mumia's pending petition for new appeals based on the precedent of *Williams v. PA*. Over the past months after first agreeing to that meeting, you then refused, but later met with Maureen Faulkner. Since April 30 you have submitted legal arguments to Judge Leon Tucker that deny the relevance of the evidence from prosecution files of Ronald Castille's significant involvement in Mumia Abu-Jamal's prosecution and death sentence. You have called for Mumia's petition to be dismissed. Documents show that DA Castille tracked the status of capital cases and that he sent a letter to former Governor Casey that "urged" him to sign execution warrants to "send a message" to all "police killers." Ronald Castille's very public and vociferous support of capital punishment and the Fraternal Order of Police combined with the evidence to date disclosed from the prosecution files meets the test of *Williams v. PA*. Judge Castille should have recused himself from Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeals. Since Castille refused to do that, Mumia Abu-Jamal should, at least, be granted new appeal rights. So far, your handling of Mumia's case has been very much in line with the wishes of the Fraternal Order of Police and you seem to show no interest in opening up a case that has been denounced around the world as reflecting the worst of a racist and classist judicial system that finds poor people, and especially people of color (and even more so dissenters) guilty and sentences them to the most extreme sentences: for Mumia, he was initially sentenced to death, but in 2011 was resentenced to life in prison without parole, that is without the possibility of ever getting out. We call on you to release all the police and DA files relevant to Mumia's case, to stop fighting to close this opening in the case by insisting that there is no evidence of Castille's significant involvement in Mumia's case, when that is clearly not the reality. The world is watching you out of its concern for Mumia and for justice.

Krasner's email address is: justice@phila.gov

DA's office number to call is **215.686.8000**—Tell him to stop the cover-up & release all DA & police files on Mumia.

Visit this link for an important article with background on this case: thiscantbehappening.net/material-misrepresentations-and-missing-memory-mangle-mumia-appeal

3 Nov - Freedom Dance

WHAT: Party with a Purpose

WHEN: 9:00pm-1:00am, Saturday, November 3rd

WHERE: The National Black Theatre—2031 5th Avenue, Harlem

COST: \$20

MORE:

In the proud tradition of struggle and liberation, Freedom Dance honors those who have carried high the banner of resistance.

We remember those Sisters and Brothers who bravely gave their lives and liberty in the cause of freedom and justice - knowing they cannot represent themselves because they are imprisoned for those very beliefs and actions.

Freedom Dance is a party with a purpose – all proceeds go to the support of political prisoners held captive in the United States... some of whom remain behind the walls after more than 40 years!!! FREE THEM ALL!!!

Every Freedom Dance celebrates exiled Black Liberation Fighter - Assata Shakur. November 3rd marks the 39th year of her liberation!