



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for December 24th

9 Dec - No good is served by David Gilbert's continued incarceration

Chesa Boudin was recently elected district attorney in San Francisco. His promise of a new approach to criminal justice grounded in fairness appealed to voters more than his opponents' law-and-order model, which has failed citizens throughout the country. When he received the news, Boudin was visiting his father in an upstate New York prison.

MORE:

by Cynthia Grant Bowman (*Albany Times-Union*)

His father, David Gilbert, has been imprisoned for 38 years; he is 75 years old. The fact that he is still behind bars is a disgrace to the criminal justice system in New York.

Gilbert was sentenced to 75 years to life under New York's felony murder law, which holds anyone involved in a felony responsible for any death that results from it, even though they did not kill anyone, fire any shots, possess a weapon, or have any intention, or even expectation, that anyone would be killed. Gilbert and other former members of the Weather Underground served as getaway drivers for a botched robbery by the Black Liberation Army, a group formed in the wake of the murders of numerous black activists, such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Mark Clark and Fred Hampton. A Brink's armored car guard and two Nyack police officers were killed. Gilbert was unarmed and not involved in the shooting.

The felony murder doctrine is unique to the United States. It rips apart the traditional connection to responsibility and intent in our theories of criminal punishment. England abolished felony murder in 1957; Ireland and India have abolished it as well. Felony murder was declared unconstitutional by the courts in Canada in 1990, and several U.S. states have moved to abolish the doctrine, either by legislation or in judicial holdings. When one tells foreign legal scholars about felony murder, they are shocked.

When Gilbert was incarcerated, his son Chesa Boudin was an infant. While in prison, Gilbert managed, with the help of New York's enlightened system of trailer visits with immediate family, to help parent Boudin. He imparted to his son both his love for the child and his social justice values, which include the preciousness of life and the errors in his own earlier political vision. Boudin's devotion to public service is no doubt influenced by what he learned from his father.

While remaining free of disciplinary violations for 38 years, Gilbert also co-founded a trailblazing program of AIDS education in prison, tutored countless other prisoners, and facilitated anti-violence programs.

Like so many other aging prisoners in the New York system, his health is declining. It makes little sense to continue to imprison older people who have served lengthy terms, pose no threat to the public, acknowledge and accept responsibility for the harms they caused, and require costly medical care for which the state must pay.

We are law professors who have spent time visiting Gilbert in prison — one of us five or six times a year over the past five years. Many other names could be added to ours as well. Everyone who meets Gilbert is impressed by his deep thoughtfulness, compassion and profound remorse for his role in the tragic deaths of three people — and for the pain their families have suffered. He listens to visitors intently and helps them think through their problems, whether personal, political or intellectual. One such visitor describes him in a letter as "a kind and peace-loving person, concerned about the well-being of those around him, interested in my own personal and professional responsibilities, and deeply remorseful for his participation in the Brinks Robbery."

Gilbert has paid a heavy price for his crime. We believe that it is past time for him to be released from prison. We are absolutely certain that granting him clemency would present no danger to society. Rather, he would contribute his many talents to his family, friends and the community at large, and his release would send a message of hope to the many elders serving lengthy sentences across New York.

13 Dec - Joseph Dibee Granted Pre-trial Bond, Revoked Following Prosecutor Appeal

Joe had a detention hearing on Dec 13th, and the judge ordered him released to his family with strict release conditions. The U.S. Attorney's office appealed his release order, arguing that the judge stated the wrong legal standard when she explained why she was releasing him. On the 18th, the 9th Circuit court of appeals overturned his release, and he was taken back into custody and he was held at the federal detention center at SeaTac. On the 20th, they moved him to the MCDC in Portland where he is now.

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The judge ordered a phone conference on Monday Dec 23rd at 11am. We are not sure what she will do on that phone conference, or whether she will revisit and revise her ruling then or at some point in the future.

Neither we nor his family has been able to talk to Joe since he was taken back into custody. We are optimistic that we will be able to speak to him Saturday or Sunday.

December 13th - Accused eco-saboteur Joseph M. Dibee who was fugitive for more than a decade can live with sister while awaiting trial, judge rules

by Maxine Bernstein (*The Oregonian*)

A judge on Friday granted accused eco-saboteur Joseph Mohamoud Dibee release from custody pending trial even though he fled the United States and remained out of the country for 12 years avoiding federal arson charges.

U.S. District Judge Ann L. Aiken's decision came after Dibee spent nearly 10 minutes describing in detail several environmental projects he's worked on while living in Syria and Russia over the last decade.

Dibee, an engineer by training, spoke of a solar thermal power project he developed in Syria before fleeing the war, of a separation machine he developed for gold mining in Ecuador to avoid the use of mercury and his research to create a biological process for industrial mining to avoid the use of cyanide.

"The charges are literally from three lifetimes ago," Dibee told the judge. "As times go by, people develop ... people change over time. We learn from our mistakes."

Aiken agreed that Dibee, now 52, is "a different person." "You have enough skills to provide and you can do that on pretrial release," she told him.

The judge ordered Dibee be placed on home detention at the Seattle residence of his sister, a doctor, and be monitored with an electronic anklet. He was ordered to turn over all his travel documents to the government and have no contact with the co-defendants in the extensive case. He must also have regular check-ins with his pretrial services officer.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Barrow said there's a risk Dibee will flee again to avoid prosecution and that he remains a danger to the community. While on the run, Dibee chose to live in Syria and Russia, two countries that he knew had no extradition treaty with America, the prosecutor noted.

“He was only willing to come back to the United States if the charges against him were dismissed,” Barrow said.

Dibee is accused of taking part in a string of environmental sabotage across the West.

He was indicted in 2006 in Oregon on charges of arson, conspiracy to commit arson and destruction of an energy facility. He also faces charges of conspiracy to commit arson and possession of a destructive device in federal court in Washington and conspiracy to commit arson, arson of a government building and possession of a destructive device during a crime of violence in California.

He’s accused of helping destroy the Cavel West Inc. meat-packing plant in Redmond on July 1, 1997. Those involved wore dark clothing, masks and gloves. Dibee drilled holes and poured flammable gel into holes around the property, prosecutors said. One of three explosive devices ignited prematurely. The arson caused \$1.2 million in damage.

He also is accused of willfully damaging a Bonneville Power Administration tower near Bend on Dec. 30, 1999, though his attorney said Dibee didn’t play a role and called that charge “bogus.”

According to the government, Dibee was subpoenaed to a grand jury in the Western District of Washington on Dec. 7, 2005. He met with a federal prosecutor and an FBI agent two days later to hear about evidence they had tying him to arson at the Redmond plant, but Dibee never provided any information and didn’t testify before the grand jury.

Dibee left the United States less than 72 hours later. He went home, burned incriminating material in his fireplace, had a friend drive him to Mexico City, where he then flew to Beirut, Lebanon, and traveled to Syria, according to Barrow.

He remained on the run until his arrest last year, when he was stopped in Cuba, traveling with a Syrian passport in the name “Yousef Deba.”

The prosecutor argued that the passport was in a false name. Dibee’s lawyer, Paul Hood, countered that the name on the passport represented the Arab Syrian version of Joseph Dibee. It wasn’t an alias and there was nothing nefarious about it, Hood told the judge.

When Dibee left the United States in 2005, no charges had been filed against him yet, his lawyer said. In that December 2005 meeting Dibee had with an FBI agent, the agent was “hoping to flip him,” Hood said. Since Dibee refused to cooperate or provide any information, the government has taken an aggressive stance toward his client, his lawyer said.

From 2005 through 2018, Hood said Dibee engaged in “good acts,” seeking to affect change through the research and development of better environmental practices that would financially benefit companies and their bottom line.

Dibee, sitting beside his lawyer and wearing a black-and-white striped jail suit with the word “inmate” stamped in red on back, told the judge that he’s learned direct action and protests don’t really work. “The best way to make change is to make good environmental and financial practices,” he said.

Dibee said he was planning to fly back to Russia when he “ended up being kidnapped in Cuba.”

He was caught when he tried to fly from El Salvador back to Russia through Havana on Aug. 2, 2018, using a Syrian passport under the name “Yousef Deba.” When Dibee landed in Havana, Cuban officials detained him and he was turned over to the FBI on Aug. 9, 2018.

He wasn’t kidnapped, Barrow responded. “He was arrested on an arrest warrant,” the prosecutor said.

Dibee’s lawyer argued that four co-defendants in the case were granted pretrial release, including two who faced up to 17 and 18 charges, compared to Dibee’s three charges.

Aiken, who sentenced most of the co-defendants in the case, urged the government to move Dibee’s case along, noting he’s been in custody since his arrest. Lawyers likely will work to resolve the federal charges Dibee faces in Oregon, Washington and California in court here.

“If you’re gonna make a run for it” that will impact sentencing, Aiken warned Dibee.

“You’re a Syrian citizen. You knew there were charges. You could have come back and dealt with them. But you’re here now,” she said. “I’m hopeful you’ll take this time and finish your projects.”

Federal investigators said Dibee was part of “The Family,” describing it as a terrorist cell of about 20 people who committed crimes in the name of two groups, the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front.

They were arrested starting in 2005 in what the FBI called “Operation Backfire,” a task force that tracked down the suspects with the help of an informant deep within the underground group.

By the time it disbanded in 2001, the cell was responsible for at least 25 criminal acts totaling about \$48 million in damages, including the 1998 torching of a ski resort in Vail, Colorado. Along with arson, their crimes ranged from vandalism, property damage and animal releases, prosecutors said.

Six men and five women prosecuted in Oregon received sentences ranging from three years to 13 years.

December 19th - Appeals court orders alleged eco-saboteur Joseph M. Dibee returned to custody, overruling release decision

by Maxine Bernstein (*The Oregonian*)

A three-judge federal appeals panel overturned U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken’s order releasing accused eco-saboteur Joseph Dibee pending trial.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel on Wednesday granted an emergency motion to return Dibee to custody and ordered Aiken to reconsider her ruling.

The appeals judges found that Aiken failed to make sufficient findings regarding Dibee’s potential flight risk or danger. Aiken only ruled that prosecutors had failed to meet the government’s “clear and convincing burden.”

Dibee was released from custody Friday night in Portland and directed to report to federal pretrial services in Seattle to be fitted with a GPS monitor. Aiken allowed his release to live with his sister while he awaited trial.

After the appeals ruling, Dibee, 52, surrendered to federal authorities in Seattle. He’s expected to be transferred back to Oregon.

Dibee is accused of taking part in a string of environmental sabotage across the West.

He was indicted in 2006 in Oregon on charges of arson, conspiracy to commit arson and destruction of an energy facility. Dibee is accused of helping to destroy the Cavel West Inc. meatpacking plant in Redmond on July 1, 1997, and destroying a Bonneville Power Administration tower near Bend on Dec. 30, 1999, though his attorney said Dibee didn't play a role in the tower vandalism and called that charge "bogus."

He also faces charges of conspiracy to commit arson and possession of a destructive device in federal court in Washington and conspiracy to commit arson, arson of a government building and possession of a destructive device during a crime of violence in California.

The 9th Circuit judges noted that the felony charges Dibee faces carry a presumption in favor of detention and the standard for finding someone at risk of not reappearing for court is "preponderance of the evidence," a lower bar than the "clear and convincing" burden that Aiken cited.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly Zusman wrote in the emergency motion that Dibee has been an international fugitive for 12 years, traveling to Syria and Russia before his capture in Cuba in August 2018. Zusman described Dibee's alleged violent criminal conduct spanning five years and pending federal charges in the three states. Dibee's wife also remains in Russia, Zusman noted.

"The evidence in this record proves that Dibee cannot be trusted not to stay and address the charges. He fled in 2005 and was able to travel internationally to countries without U.S. extradition treaties, he traveled internationally on a Syrian passport in a name that differed from the name he used in his American passport, and he gave every outward indication that he would never voluntarily return," Zusman wrote.

Though Dibee argued at his hearing last week that he's a changed man, Zusman stressed the seriousness of his alleged crimes.

"Dibee was part of a group that carefully planned and successfully executed arsons by means of explosive devices Dibee helped design and create. Dibee helped destroy a meat packing plant, a research facility, and a BLM barn. He and his cohorts took pains to conceal their identities while promoting their cause," Zusman wrote.

"His facility for international travel, his ability to secure travel documents in other names, and his skill in creating destructive devices all pose too great a risk."

Aiken has now ordered Dibee to be held while she reconsiders his release request. She set a status hearing for next Monday.

15 Dec - Urgent Medical Update: Please Read and Support Dr. Mutulu Shakur

Dr. Shakur received a diagnosis of life-threatening bone marrow cancer in October, 2019.

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Until now, he has requested that this information be kept private. For over a year he had experienced pain in his bones, but he was not even x-rayed until April 2019. Although the prison doctor probably suspected cancer and called for a CT scan, the scan was delayed for four months. After a year of delay, we know now that Mutulu is suffering from extensive painful bone lesions, caused by a rapidly growing bone marrow cancer. He is 69 years old, and aging in prison after 33 years of incarceration. In 2014, he suffered from a

stroke, which required several months for recovery. He has high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and vision problems from glaucoma. We fear for his survival and his life.

Dr. Shakur's legal team has filed a compassionate release petition, because now Dr. Shakur's very survival depends on his release. He meets the conditions for compassionate release under federal law. He is a recognized advocate for human and civil rights who poses no danger of committing any crimes against anyone. As evidenced by widespread support for his parole, he will be welcomed back into a community that will also provide for his financial and medical support. However, on December 5th he was denied compassionate release by the Central office of the BOP. He is currently receiving chemotherapy, but the BOP has not told him or his lawyer the exact type of treatment he is getting. He has been able to talk with his newest lawyer Mark Kleiman and may receive a family visit from his son. Most importantly, Mutulu says that he is managing the treatment and his spirit is strong.

Our next steps are two-fold: Mutulu will petition his original judge, Judge Haight in the Southern District of New York, to modify his sentence so he can be released immediately based on his current medical condition. Dr. Shakur also has a habeas petition in front of Judge Wilson in federal court in Los Angeles, detailing the parole commission's abuse of discretion through their politically-driven denials of parole. We will move to expedite that petition based on the newest information about his life-threatening medical condition.

We are asking his comrades and supporters to give money for medical, legal defense, commissary, and more. The quickest way to send financial support is through the Family and Friends of Mutulu Shakur paypal (go to mutulushakur.com and click on the red and white DONATE button in the right sidebar).

For your contribution to be tax deductible, FFMS has a partnership with Community Aid and Development (CAD) (cadnational.org) that allows for tax deductible donations via the Paypal button on their website. For a check or money order to be tax-deductible, make it payable to CAD, and send to Post Office Box 361270, Decatur, Georgia 30036-1270 with "FFMS" in the memo line.

At Dr. Shakur's request, we are not creating a public campaign for his release at this time. We will update this information as we move into federal court.

23 Dec - Deep Loss: Robert Seth Hayes, Oct. 15th, 1947 - December 21st, 2019

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of beloved comrade, friend, father, and grandfather Robert Seth Hayes.

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Seth transitioned Saturday morning December 21st, 2019 in his own home at the age of 72 years old. Seth devoted his life to fighting for freedom, justice, and peace. We will forever miss his uncompromising spirit, love, gentleness, and grace. We will honor his legacy every day in our lives and communities.

A memorial will be held in Buffalo, New York Friday night, December 27th followed by a burial service on Saturday, December 28th. We will share the exact details as soon as we can. If you would like to travel from NYC to Buffalo for the services, please contact Dave George (ddgeorge23@gmail.com). If you are able to, please consider making a donation to Myaisha Hayes through PayPal (myaisha@mediajustice.org) or through the Venmo app (@Myaisha-Hayes-1) to help cover the funeral costs. We appreciate the tremendous love and support.

23 Dec - Support Former PP Nina Droz Franco

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign is calling on our allies and supporters to join us this holiday season and Support the Nina Droz Franco GoFundMe Account!

MORE:

Transitioning into civilian life isn't easy! Nina has to deal with transportation issues, medical expenses, and other costs.

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated: gofundme.com/f/nina-quiere-retomar-su

Give a donation! Help her get back on her feet!

24 Dec - A 70-year-old priest is choosing to spend Christmas in a Georgia jail

Father Steve Kelly and other activists were arrested after protesting at a Georgia naval base.

MORE:

by Joshua Sharpe (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

The Rev. Steve Kelly, or Inmate #015634 as he is known at the Glynn County Detention Center, was arrested with other activists after a protest at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in coastal Georgia. He has chosen to remain behind bars rather than abide by the conditions of bond.

He and other members of the group face sentencing in early 2020. This is their story.

As they walked toward the U.S. Navy base, the group carried lock cutters, hammers and bottles of human blood. It was dark with a chill whirling through the marshes. The gates were locked. No security in sight. The group paused to pray.

There were seven of them, all Catholic activists from around the U.S. They had planned for several years to come to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, near Cumberland Island in coastal South Georgia, to protest nuclear weapons by “symbolically disarming” the facility - hanging banners and defacing signs.

The seven are part of a movement to end all possession of nuclear weapons. The movement is not new, but has taken on life in recent years, especially after a period of brinkmanship between the U.S. and North Korea. Pope Francis’ public statements “firmly condemning” nuclear weapons has emboldened them.

U.S. leaders, including Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper, take the position that the weapons are a deterrent to protect America from adversarial nations that have or could obtain nuclear weapons. The government considers protests like the ones the Kings Bay activists set out to do troublesome because of the damage to government property and a potentially dangerous disruption.

Since 1989, the base at Kings Bay has been home to the U.S. Atlantic Fleet’s submarines equipped to fire ballistic missiles tipped with nuclear warheads. The arsenal has been culled since the Cold War thawed, but, according to the Navy, Kings Bay still serves as home base for six of the subs. The base, home to more than 1,000 enlisted and civilian government workers and their families, is also a significant population center in otherwise rural Camden County.

Five of the seven activists — including a Jesuit priest and an 80-year-old former nun whose late husband was a pioneering anti-nuclear activist — had done jail time, typically stints of a few months, for symbolic disarmings before arriving at Kings Bay on the evening of April 4, 2018. The activists range in age from 57 to 80 and have spent their lives protesting for various causes and working in Catholic houses of hospitality.

Martha Hennessy was new to the movement.

The 62-year-old is a retired occupational therapist and a grandmother of eight from rural Vermont. She spends her time helping homeless women in Vermont and in New York City. She is also the granddaughter of Dorothy Day, the late journalist and activist for charity to the poor and anti-racism who is currently under consideration for sainthood by the Catholic Church.

Like her six partners in the protest, who call themselves the Kings Bay Plowshares 7, Hennessy has openly admitted what she did there in court documents and, recently, in an interview with *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

Hennessy knew going in that the protest was unlikely to change policy, but she hopes to at least make people think.

“It certainly looks hopeless, but I think from a faith-based perspective, we really can’t not do it,” she said. “It’s an act of hope.”

Her path to the events of the night began half a century ago.

When Hennessy was a teenager, Day handed her a copy “Hiroshima,” John Hershey’s devastating book on the Japanese city after the U.S. dropped a nuclear bomb at the end of World War II, killing 140,000 instantly or in the months after. The book, with its vivid depictions of terrible painful deaths and fallout, scarred Hennessy’s mind. She was less moved by supporters of the bombing, like President Harry Truman. Hours after the attack, Truman said the mission was to “completely destroy Japan’s power to make war” in response to the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Before arriving at Kings Bay, Hennessy had been involved in numerous anti-war and human rights protests, but she had never put into action her objections to nuclear weapons. She simply lived with the knowledge that the weapons were always on hand, prepared to bring destruction whenever a nation decides to use them. When she speaks of her past inaction, she sounds regretful and almost confused, like she doesn’t understand her former self.

The subject of nuclear weapons had grown more offensive to heart in recent years though. She heard what Pope Francis said and agreed. Hennessy became friends with a group of activists, went to retreats with them, where they studied the history of nuclear weapons, as well as the dangers, and they spent long hours in prayer about how to make a statement.

Now they were poised to break into a military base – a federal crime, which could very likely send them to prison, as it had other anti-nuclear weapon activists.

‘Beat their swords’

Hennessy had spent recent months feeling like her conscience and faith required her to do something to voice her concern. She also had been afraid, unsure if she could actually go through with it.

One of her group found a padlock on a gate. He placed the ring of the lock into the teeth of his bolt cutters and squeezed until the lock split open.

As Hennessy climbed through the gate, she stepped into the footsteps of other activists who, over the past 40 years, joined the Plowshares movement. The name comes from Isaiah 2:4, where nations are urged to “beat their swords into plowshares” and abandon war. (A plowshare is the blade of a plow.)

The movement began in 1980, when a group of eight entered a General Electric facility in Pennsylvania where warheads were made and poured blood on documents. Since then, similar protests have been done in Tennessee, Washington state and other points across the country and world.

Before arriving at Kings Bay, Hennessy hadn’t told any of her three children, or her grandchildren, or any friends that she was going. She told only her husband. He was upset because he foresaw the consequences: his wife making statement that, like the dozens of Plowshares protests before it, would not lead to the world disarming. That statement would be followed by criminal charges. The world has so far seen about 100 Plowshares actions, and only six didn’t result in prosecution, according to The New Yorker.

Hennessy told her husband how important it was for her to speak. That did not quell his fears.

‘Disarm’

Inside the sprawling base, the group split up.

Three of them cut concertina wire and a chain-link fence and climbed through into a restricted area, which they believed held nuclear warheads. The plan was to hang banners decrying nuclear war so the military personnel could see them and, the activists hoped, be moved.

Two went to a site than can only be described as a missile monument. Several inert weapons are mounted side-by-side to the ground, backed by flags. The group considered this an outrageous monument to death and world destruction. With red spray-paint, they tagged the missiles: “BLASPHEMY.”

Hennessy and another woman walked to the Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic, Engineering Services Building.

Hennessy had in her possession a baby bottle full of blood, which had been drawn from her fellow activist, the former nun. Hennessy splashed the woman’s blood on the building’s sign and tipped the bottle to the pavement, spilling it liberally at the entrance.

She and her partner strung crime scene tape across the entry.

On the walkway, she spray-painted: “MAY LOVE DISARM US ALL.”

And on the door, Hennessy taped the document that made explicit the group’s position.

“Today,” the paper said, “through our nonviolent action, we, Kings Bay Plowshares (7)—indict the United States government, President Donald Trump, Kings Bay Base Commander Brian Lepine, the nuclear triad, and specifically the Trident nuclear program.” The “indictment” goes on to argue that the possession of nuclear weapons are illegal because they run afoul of various treaties struck after World War II.

After placing it, Hennessy went with others to the missile monument. They prayed and waited until police came and took them to jail.

Consequences

All seven were held in jail and would face federal charges: conspiracy, destruction of federal property, destruction of naval property and trespassing. Together the charges carry a penalty of 25 years in prison.

Hennessy and her co-defendants got to know other inmates and did Bible study with them.

In pretrial hearings, the government argued that the group had been reckless, causing \$30,000 in damage and putting military personnel in a dangerous position.

“Thank God,” said prosecutor Karl Knoche, “that some young marine wasn’t put in the position of shooting, wounding or killing these trespassers in the performance of his duty and then having to live with that.”

The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 refused to take a plea deal. The movement generally calls for three steps to a protest: the symbolic disarming, testifying at trial and going to jail.

Their attorneys argued against the charges, saying the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 protected their protest because they were motivated by their faith. Bill Quigley, one of their attorneys, said The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 were the first to try that argument in federal court. The attorneys also argued that nuclear weapons are illegal, as the indictment Hennessy taped to the door alleged. Quigley said that argument has never worked in federal court.

At the trial, which took place this October in Brunswick, the prosecution worked to keep the case about the facts of what happened at the base — not about nuclear weapons. As far as the government saw it, the group committed crimes regardless of their motivations.

On the stand, Hennessy started to read from a 1945 article written by her grandmother, in which Day railed against the attack on Hiroshima. The prosecution objected, and the judge agreed. The same happened when Hennessy attempted to show the jury photos of bodies at Hiroshima.

The jury convicted the seven on all counts.

All but the Jesuit priest are free on bond awaiting sentencing, which is expected to happen in January or February. The Rev. Steve Kelly, 70, who has spent more than a decade in jails and prisons for various protests around the U.S., asked to stay behind bars because he didn’t want to cooperate with conditions of bond. Quigley, the defense attorney, said Kelly’s prison stints are often lengthened due to his refusal to comply with probation or bond. He’s often in solitary confinement because, as a matter of principle, he refuses to work while incarcerated, according to the National Catholic Reporter. Kelly uses the time behind bars to pray, Quigley said.

The Plowshares group plans a Dec. 27 vigil at Kings Bay.

When the protesters are sentenced, Quigley said he fears all will be sentenced to prison time, though he finds it unlikely they’ll get the maximum of 25 years.

As she heads toward sentencing, Hennessy said she has a feeling she didn’t quite expect, one that isn’t typically encountered when facing a prison sentence.

She feels “great liberation,” she said.

24 Dec - project FANG Fundraising Campaign Extended

Please donate at fundrazr.com/project_FANG

MORE:

The climate crisis, and ongoing destruction of landscapes and wildlife, are provoking a deepening sense of urgency in an increasing number of people. It can be a serious struggle to care for a world that is being plundered for profit, but there are more and more people turning their grief into resistance in defense of nature and other animals. From water protectors to pipeline protestors, and wildlife and caged animal defenders – good people who care for our world are standing up for all of us. Unfortunately taking such a stand can result in arrest, court, jail, and prison time.

Background:

In 2016, project FANG was established by the NYC ABC as a much-needed attempt to fill a gap in the ongoing support work for the growing number of eco and animal rights prisoners in the United States. The focus of project FANG funding is to help pay for prison visitation costs for friends and family of these prisoners.

Why are visits so important?

Visits from friends, family, and loved ones are repeatedly identified by prisoners as one of the most important life lines that exist for them. Without visits, the crushing isolation of life inside a prison becomes unbearable. However, visits can often be prohibitively expensive. Travel costs might include not only an expensive plane ticket, but also lodging, a rental car, and meals. These quickly add up to hundreds of dollars.

How you can help:

Currently, project FANG has committed funding of \$5,000 per year, but due to the increase in eco and animal rights prisoners, and requests for visitation funding, we need to increase our available funds. With your support we are aiming to double the fund's annual budget for 2019 and 2020 by raising \$10,000. Can you help us reach our \$10,000 goal?

31 Dec - Noise Demo Against the Prison Industrial Complex, In Solidarity with PPs and POWs

WHAT: Noise Demo Against the PIC, for the Liberation of PPs + POWs

WHEN: 9:00pm, Tuesday, December 31st

WHERE: Metropolitan Correction Center–Pearl Street, between Cardinal Hayes Place and Park Row (J to Chambers Street or 4/5/6/ to City Hall)

BRING: Noisemakers, air horns, drums, anything that is loud!

MORE:

On the noisiest night of the year in New York City, come help us remind folks locked up that they are not alone. NYC Anarchist Black Cross, in response to an international call for noise demonstrations outside of prisons, is asking folks to join us outside of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in lower Manhattan. Come, not to appeal to authority, speak truth to power, or any other contrivance, but rather to stand arm in arm with comrades and show direct solidarity to those on the other side of the wall.

The state, writ large, is targeting anarchists all across the United States and abroad. This will be both protest and celebration. To keep the cold at bay, comrades from MACC will be on hand with cookies and hot cocoa to keep the vocal cords nice and warm.

4 Jan - Mutual Aid Fest III: Mutulu Shakur

WHAT: Benefit for Dr. Mutulu Shakur

WHEN: 7:00pm, Saturday, January 4th

WHERE: Starr Barr–214 Starr Street, Bushwick, Brooklyn

COST: \$10

MORE:

FEATURING:

All Of Us Or None Ensemble and more...!

Dr. Mutulu Shakur was just diagnosed with bone marrow cancer & needs money for lawyers!

If you cannot make the show, donate via paypal at Family and Friends of Mutulu Shakur paypal (go to mutulushakur.com and click on the red and white DONATE button in the right sidebar if this direct link doesn't work).