



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for June 24th

10 Jun - Antifascist Maja's Court Statement

Hungary: The court offered Maja a so called "Deal": 14 years of custody in exchange to confession of guilt. Maja refused this offer. Instead, they read out a the following declaration:

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via Anarchist Black Cross Dresden

"Yes, i want to say something! I want to speak to you, who represent the Hungarian state and its civilians. To you, who you are to judge me in this states name.

But also i want to speak to all the people, who want to listen to me. I am not standing here alone today, what fills my heart with deep gratitude. Also i am not the only defendant in this case, there is a depressing continuity in repression. But what i am reading out today speaks only for me. Everything else seemed to be presumptuous to me.

But one thing can be said for sure: I would not be standing here if i didn't knew about all the burning hearts full of solidarity.

So I am standing here in chains, I am on trial in a state for that I am not existing as a non binary person, for that I am not existing as Maja. I am on trial in a state, that is openly discriminating and excluding people because of their sexuality or their gender. I am accused by an European state because I am antifascist. Despite all of this i decided to speak. I am standing here today, after I was kidnapped and extradited in a lawbreaking act 8 months ago. The state that made all this possible is the same state, that's constitution promised to respect and protect my person and my dignity and that's executive organs disregarded the decision of the allegedly highest German court, knowing that their behavior was illegal and knowing about the threats expecting me here. They brought me to a country, who's confessions about human rights and democratic principles fade even on the paper, where people who dare to defend self-determination of all the people become or dare to say "never again!" become detained in their prisons.

I am very aware that I am standing here today because my birth held a promise from which I grew: The promise to be a human being. It had never been growing alone, never fully free, privileged yet full of suffering, always seeking for how to accomplish, that the one thing never happens again, what no devil ever could achieve. Only humans were and are capable of doing so, still and again creating totalitarian, oppressing states, driven by hatred and grudge, trying to escape the imperfection. Humans created the Shoah and more cruelties than the sky counts stars, although never losing hope in a peaceful morning.

The prosecution accusing me recognizes hatred in my burning heart, while they intend protect those who glorify the murderers and crimes of the holocaust. So it's crucial to point out that the prosecution claims that I physically attacked people, that came to this city two years ago to take part of the so called "day of honor". At this day there happen demonstrations, hikes, concerts, that serve as international gatherings for right-wing extremists, legitimized and protected by state actors. The people gathering there proudly and full adoration for those who's paths they choose to tread: German and Hungarian fascists who tried to escape their responsibility as murderers. They celebrate at concerts from deeply racist and antisemitic bands, calling for hate and violence. So money flows to the bags of right-wing terrorist networks like "blood and honor".

And so today we gathered here to prepare a court case in that I am already condemned, in which remand in custody already is means my punishment, since I am confronted with conditions that stand in contradiction

to what the Hungarian state has assured. Neither the “European prison rules” nor the “Nelson Mandela rules” of the United Nations are respected.

I live in ongoing solitary confinement, what means less than 30 minutes of contact with other people per day – for over 200 days. I am not allowed to study or to work, I don’t get books nor vitamin supplements that I need, they deny visits to the medical staff, I am lacking healthy food and daylight. I got extradited to a prison that imposes humiliating and degrading security measures for which there is still missing any justification or explanation. If you ask them you they remain silent, and so I was forced to wear handcuffs while official visits in my cell or even during Skype-calls. In the meantime I have been forced to take off my clothes and stand completely naked in front of a dozen of people. I didn’t dare to change my clothes inside my cell feeling so ashamed because a camera had been hanging there illegally for 3 months. What remains till today are bed bugs, cockroaches and the hourly cell controls with bright light also during the night what deprives me of sleep. Sleep, in which I dream of finally holding my family in my arms, people at whose side I was not allowed to grieve and whom I’m only allowed to see behind plexiglass panes for two hours a month. I am standing here today already carrying physical and mental damage with me. My eyesight is fading and my body feels exhausted while custody forces me to soliloquy, by banning me from contact to other prisoners, justifying this with my queer identity. It’s only about punishing me, about breaking me and me being alive. Responsible for this is not only the Hungarian justice system, but also every court that prolonged the investigation custody. Lately they extended it up to the coming 2,5 years or until the end of the court case.

There are reasons why I am sitting here alone in the dock. The Hungarian justice system lost any credibility, this is why other European courts deny cooperation. And this is right! Also this trial against me should have taken place in Germany, together with all the other defendants there, where I could have prepared and defended myself. I expect this finally to end, that I will be able to prepare for a court case on an equal footing and not deprived of any opportunity for self-development. I expect that I will no longer be punished with inhumane solitary confinement, which already left long-term damage in my body. Not only the conditions of custody itself represent a punishment that is to be condemned, but also the fact that there is objectively not existing any risk of escape or repetition. I was never informed of the arrest warrant issued by the German or Hungarian authorities a month before my arrest, nor did I ever say that I wanted to evade any proceedings.

I want to emphasize that I’m supposed to defend myself against alleged evidence that I was not allowed to see. Until today I was not allowed to see all the accusation files, and the main part of the documents I got was not translated. I was supposed to prepare myself while my lawyers were rejected at the prison gate. On top of everything these lawyers were not allowed to show me all the documents they got and now you expect me to comment on an indictment that largely consists of hypotheses?! There can not be found a single word that outlines my life or my personality. Instead there is the claim that I was part of a criminal association, but no justification on which this assumption is based. Do you seriously expect me to make these allegations my own, confess them and then let myself be locked behind bars for the period of my youth that has just passed?! For 14 years in the strictest prison, without the possibility of parole, just to spare them the embarrassment of having their fragile sentences collapse for lack of credibility.

Honored court, please be honest with me and all of us. You hope the isolation will break me and forced a verdict without a trial.

I have to state that I am in custody now for 14 months. On 11. December 2023 I got ripped away of my old life, torn away from my family, deprived of the opportunity to study, to work, to participate in a society and to contribute something to it. Deprived of necessity to develop myself as a human being and to realize my life draft. I was robbed of all this with the aim of tearing me apart as a political person. But I still have the words that I write and speak, and I will not stop doing this as long as I am and think.

I also wrote an indictment. I wrote what I experienced during the last year. This helped me to endure the wounds, and a part of the indictment I want to present today. I will remain in silence about the nightmarish

details, cause today is about more than only me. It's about the question what kind of society we want to live in and if we accept state's actions if they stand in contrary to our moral values. Neither I call this country my home, nor did I manage to learn its language. But I do know what it does to its citizens, I heard about how this state treads the people who are defenselessly at its mercy. Yes, I heard people screaming while getting beaten up in their cells, I heard people whimpering and crying inside this walls, and I heard anger and despair, that loses all human melody over time. I saw frightened glances and heard despising words, growing in a system where people try to break each other through domination and punishment. I saw prisons in Germany and Hungary and will state, that these systems deprive people of their dignity, no matter if the watch or if they're being watched. I don't dare to judge the people that I met here, but what I know is that society is failing here.

I won't deny that there these moments exist, these moments, when I sit at the desk in my cell and it seems to be impossible to keep the world's beauty in myself but my mind merely follows the suffering of fellow prisoners, interrupted by the throbbing of my own wounds.

My mind flees from the feeling of impotence, lost in powerlessness, ripped away from my body, ripped away from the yesterday or the tomorrow. In these moments I can only see what seems to be unreachable for now, but from what germinates being human. The legacy of seeking common ground with each other without judging people for their nature, their bodies and their abilities, of trying to create something valuable together without exploiting and oppressing, of being able to forgive each other for failures without remaining silent and, finally, of admiring how trust for a coming, peaceful tomorrow germinates from all this.

But the tears of pain dry, at the latest when I read your letters, when the newspaper tells me about the world and I learn that our utopias are reaching the people. People who are not abandoned by self-evident and moral values, who are ready to defend and create them, who are not able to look away where others commit atrocities, who seek human imperfection, which neither paralyzes nor embitters, but instead lives in the attempt of creativity and solidarity, seeking a way out of the violence driven by power, greed and complacency. I admire every person who tries to grasp the complexity of our world and takes action where it seems humanly possible.

I want to share my path with those who have doubts, without trading their moral and tenderness in deceptive promises of individual luck. I admire all those who try to understand humanity as one and accomplish it without losing sight of the uniqueness of each person, which has germinated from what they have experienced. It is not a perfect being – no, we fail, we can escape neither ourselves nor the world. But we are able to act, we can learn to trust each other and ourselves, we are able to grow beyond ourselves when we try to understand, comprehend and decide from the impulse of humanity, we are able to help where there is a fire, where there is a lack of protection and people are fleeing, we can share and stay where the pain and suffering is greater, always knowing that we are not alone.

These days I can't prevent my eyes from falling shut in fatigue and tiredness. But even with my eyelids closed, I can't escape the fact that wars, hunger, environmental destruction and unfair distribution continue to create painful realities. There is still an imperial war ranging in the middle of Europe and it's almost impossible to ignore the fact that fascism and its followers are once again gaining power, whether on a supposedly distant continent or in the neighboring garden. Totalitarian yearnings and authoritarian entanglements in our societies, exclusion and isolation are experiencing a renaissance. I wonder what will happen if everyone just saves themselves? Is this how we escape collective powerlessness? Where will fear and despair drive us? I myself have experienced how fear paralyzed my body and mind, how it made me loose hope and turn away from life. But then I saw a delicate plant sprouting in a place where no sunshine has fallen for months, knowing that winter would be over soon. And then, I had to admit to myself that – no matter how hellish this place is on earth – flowers can grow there, whether in cracks of the wall or in my very self being. It doesn't take much, but the trust that courage and confidence create great things from small things, because from them springs resilience against waiting for better days, in which we experience that our every action determines what branches out in our front garden and blooms on the coming spring

days. Often I don't know how, all I know is that we need to dare and if we are honest we know it is possible by meeting strangers like ourselves.

Today I see some of your faces, have read about dreams, have been able to share some time, feel solidarity, admire and envy you as you stand up for a humanity that resists, overcomes rusty boundaries of cold iron in word and thought and unfolds in queer, loving being, in feminist self-empowerment of boundless humanity and all the liberating struggles for justice among all people.

Now my words will soon come to an end for today, if necessary I will disagree, especially if people continue to put me in chains, lock me up and try to break my dignity. Because yeah, today it is still about the question of a constitutional procedure, about the question of how it is allowed that I am exposed to these conditions of detention and that attempts are made to punish me in this humiliating and hurtful way. However, it is not in my hands to change this. German authorities have extradited me and disregarded their highest court, Hungary is breaking assurances and European law, once again showing how it is moving away from supposedly "democratic values". All that remains for me to do is to report on this, to object and to appeal to everyone to do the same. I know that experiencing all this is not mine alone and so I hope my words also reach all those who stand up against right-wing extremism, fascism, patriarchy, exploitation of nature and people, against structural and racist violence and repression, who create alternatives and stand up for emancipation, queer existence and a dignified life for all. I want them all to know that I am with them in thought and word, may they soon be free.

My last words belong to my family, friends, companions, lawyers and all those people who strongly stand by our side. You show me: utopias of a better world are not so far away, you fill me with vitality, keep my beating heart safe and help me to hold on to the knowledge in me again and again that I will not perish here. I know that gratitude makes me fight to give it back to you one day. I love you.

And to everyone else, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for taking the time to listen to my words!"

11 Jun - A History of Anarchist Prisoner Support

Recently on the Final Straw Radio, they shared an interview with Matt Hart of the Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross chapter of the ABC Federation.

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They talked about the book Matt just released via PM Press, an expanded edition of Boris Yelensky's history of anarchist prisoner support "Shadows In The Struggle For Equality", illustrated by NO Bonzo. Matt talked about the work of the LA-ABCF, ABC's pre-history with the Narodnik movement in mid-19th century Russia, prisoner defense under the nihilist movement, some moments in resistance and mutual aid through the following hundred and fifty years or so, some colorful moments and comrades up into the 21st century. We hope you enjoy: thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/post/2025/06/08/a-history-of-anarchist-prisoner-support-with-matt-hart-june-11-2025

13 Jun - LA protester charged with assaulting officer says he was the one attacked: 'I thought I was going to die'

A father facing eight years in prison comes forward to the Guardian as lawyers and advocates say US prosecutors are criminalizing free speech and targeting people injured by officers

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by Sam Levin (*The Guardian*)

A Los Angeles protester charged with assaulting a federal officer at a recent demonstration against immigration raids says he himself was brutally attacked by law enforcement and is strongly rejecting prosecutors' allegations.

Jose Manuel Mojica, a 30-year-old born in LA, spoke to the Guardian on Wednesday at his apartment, two days after he was released from jail and charged with a federal crime carrying up to eight years in prison.

The father of four said he had gone to a Saturday demonstration in Paramount, in southern LA county near his home, after hearing reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) indiscriminately targeting workers and neighbors in his predominantly Latino community.

When he tried to de-escalate tensions between federal agents and protesters, he said, a group of officers took him to the ground, held him in a chokehold and pushed him into the pavement, causing a large contusion on his nose and bruises all over his body. His lawyer provided cellphone footage that partially captured the scuffle.

“We are not the violent ones. They escalated it. They are chasing down innocent people,” said Mojica, who lifted his shirt to show the bruises on his ribs. “There was a different way to handle the situation than to beat me.”

Mojica was one of nine people arrested and charged on Monday with federal crimes in a first wave of prosecutions tied to the protests against immigration raids in the LA area on Friday and Saturday. In recent days, the US attorney’s office has charged five additional people whom prosecutors claim threw molotov cocktails, rocks and other objects at officers.

The Department of Justice cases are moving forward after Donald Trump deployed US marines and the national guard to LA, against the state’s wishes, an extraordinary step that California leaders say is unlawful, authoritarian and provoking chaos in the nation’s second-largest city.

The nine prosecuted protesters – including David Huerta, a union leader observing an LA Ice raid – have been accused of assaulting, resisting or impeding officers.

Defense lawyers and civil rights advocates who analyzed the justice department’s criminal complaints and footage of the incidents have sharply criticized some of the charges, arguing that authorities in some cases were criminalizing free speech, misrepresenting events and going after people who were themselves injured by officers.

“My client and others believed in exercising their first amendment right and expressing frustration and discontent with what was happening in their community,” said Meghan Blanco, Mojica’s attorney and a former federal prosecutor. “They were met with physical assault by agents and then on top of that, my client was charged with something he didn’t do. He did nothing wrong.”

The DHS, Ice and border patrol did not respond to detailed inquiries about Mojica’s case.

‘I had to speak up’

Mojica, who works at warehouses in the region unloading shipping containers, recalled attending protest marches with his father when he was a child, but said he had not participated in demonstrations since.

His family has been affected by US immigration enforcement before, with his father being deported to Mexico in 2019. But the immigration crackdown in Trump’s second administration has felt different, he said, with so many families torn apart as Ice agents in recent months have aggressively rounded up people at their jobs and in other public areas.

“People aren’t able to go to work or even get groceries or go to the doctor’s. It’s terrifying,” he said.

The first protests against immigration raids in LA took place last Friday in the city’s fashion district when immigration agents showed up at a garment factory.

The following morning, Mojica woke up to news that border patrol agents had gathered near a Home Depot in Paramount, a south LA county suburb that is 80% Latino and just a few miles from his home, and that protesters were also gathering. As a US citizen, he felt obligated to attend the rally so close by, he said: “A lot of people are not able to go out and protest, but I knew I could speak up.”

He went to the protests with his spouse, Jasmine, who had said she wanted to take photos of the actions.

A crowd of dozens of protesters had gathered outside a complex down the street from Home Depot where the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has an office. Residents feared immigration authorities were targeting day laborers who sometimes wait outside the store seeking work.

Mojica said he initially helped direct traffic when he arrived, trying to ensure there were no accidents as the streets became clogged.

As more federal agents showed up heavily armed, some wearing Ice uniforms, others with border patrol, the scene intensified, he recalled: “They’d walk up to our face and try to stare us down and intimidate us.”

Grainy cellphone footage, including a shaky video taken by Jasmine, captured the moment Mojica became caught up in a commotion between a small group of protesters and federal agents. As some protesters shouted at the officers, an agent is seen forcefully shoving a demonstrator standing near Mojica. The footage doesn’t show exactly what happens next, but depicts a chaotic scene of yelling and cars honking as they move through the crowd and protesters film.

Mojica said he tried to stop the protester who was shoved from retaliating so the situation wouldn’t escalate further, but a crowd of officers quickly appeared to take both of them down.

“I thought I was going to die at that moment and never get up from the ground and see my kids again,” Mojica said. “I couldn’t breathe.”

Jasmine said she watched as an officer grabbed Mojica by the neck and thought of George Floyd.

Mojica said he felt he briefly blacked out, then was handcuffed, lifted off the ground and placed in the back of a vehicle before agents began arresting more people and firing teargas and flash-bang grenades to disperse the crowds. He said he saw two youths detained, whom he later learned were 14 and 15, and he became increasingly concerned as the teargas entered the cars where arrested people were being held, begging the officers to move them away: “We were choking.”

At one point, when he was having trouble getting into another vehicle due to his injuries, an officer said: “Don’t act like you’re not used to this,” according to Mojica, who said he responded that he had never been arrested before.

Eventually, he and five other detained people were driven away by federal agents. In the SUV were the two youths, two arrested women and the protester who was initially shoved, Mojica said. They were handcuffed and without seatbelts, and Mojica said he asked an officer to drive more carefully.

The youth became terrified they would be sent to Tijuana, the Mexican city just across the California-Mexico border, he said, but were eventually, it appeared, released to their parents. DHS did not respond to inquiries about Mojica’s claims of detained youths.

Mojica and the other arrested adults were shuffled as a group to multiple facilities in Orange county, the county south of LA, and at one point, a federal agent told them they could be facing 20 years in prison for assaulting officers, the punishment for cases involving bodily injury.

“I knew I wasn’t going to get that, because I knew I was innocent,” he said. He was deeply concerned for the wellbeing of the two women who broke down crying: “I just tried to keep them calm.”

He said he repeatedly asked for medical attention for himself and the others, but was denied help.

Jasmine meanwhile called law enforcement phone numbers and visited hospitals searching for her partner, unable to track him down until she got a call from jail on Sunday morning.

The charges

Mojica and other defendants were brought to federal court on Monday. The protester who was shoved by an agent on video was charged with assaulting an officer, with a criminal affidavit alleging that it had been the protester who had “pushed the [border patrol] agent in the chest”. The complaint’s claims against Mojica were brief, saying he “physically made an attempt to thwart [the other protester’s] arrest ... and elbowed and pushed” agents.

Mojica was relieved to be bailed out, but said he couldn’t fathom which officer he was even accused of assaulting or who would be considered his victim.

Blanco, his attorney, who previously prosecuted use-of-force cases against federal agents, said the footage of the incident suggested Mojica had been subject to an unjust attack by law enforcement. The affidavit also grouped four cases together and suggested that Mojica and the other man had been detained after the two women were, but Blanco said the men were arrested first and the incidents were not connected. Mojica doesn’t know his co-defendants and knew no one at the protest besides his spouse.

Complaints against other protesters who were arrested over the weekend have raised civil rights concerns.

In the most high-profile case, Huerta, president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) of California, is accused of “conspiracy to impede an officer” at the Friday garment factory protest. An affidavit, written by an unnamed DHS agent, said that when Huerta was asked to move, he said: “What are you going to do? You can’t arrest us all.” The DHS agent said this comment “indicated to me that he and the others had planned in advance of arrival to disrupt the operation”.

Summer Lacey, the ACLU of Southern California criminal justice director, who is not involved in Huerta’s case, said the affidavit was describing lawful activities: “Within the confines of the complaint, I don’t see sufficient evidence that this is conspiratorial activity in any way, shape or form.”

In the case of Russell Gomez Dzul, also accused of assaulting an officer, an affidavit said two border patrol agents in LA spotted him passing on a bicycle and that he “appeared startled and nervous when he saw the agents” and “abruptly changed course, moving away from the agents at accelerating speeds”. His “reaction and movements” suggested he was “attempting to evade the agents”, which led the agents to suspect he was “in the US illegally”, according to the complaint, which provided no further explanation of why the officers believed he was undocumented.

When Gomez was ordered to stop, he fled on foot and “physically resisted arrest by forcefully pulling his arms away from the agents’ grips”, the complaint alleged. The agent claimed that, as protesters gathered, Gomez tried to “force his way” out of the vehicle and then assaulted the agent.

“The idea that someone who is changing course when they encounter law enforcement out on the streets would be an issue that would raise suspicion is laughable,” said Sergio Perez, executive director of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, a southern California-based legal advocacy group. “A lot of Americans have that instinctive response. The lawful act of riding a bicycle and changing course is not probable cause.”

Perez – a former justice department civil rights lawyer who reviewed the complaints against protesters, but is not involved in the cases – said the agents’ unsubstantiated assumption he was undocumented suggested he was racially profiled.

The White House blasted Gomez’s mugshot in a press release as an example of one of the “sick criminals taken off the streets”.

In the case of another protester accused of assaulting an officer, the defendant’s public defender noted in court that his client was showing signs of a concussion or traumatic brain injury, unable to read his documents and with his eyes drifting. The lawyer cited video that appeared to show an officer running up to his client and slamming him on the ground. A judge ordered that this defendant be “immediately provided with a medical examination and/or treatment”. The Guardian is only naming defendants who have already been publicly identified by law enforcement spokespeople.

Kade Byrand, also accused of assaulting an officer in a case publicized by the FBI, lives downtown and went with his fiancée to join “what he thought would be a peaceful protest of the immigration raids going on near his apartment”, his lawyer Mark Werksman said in an email: “The situation descended into chaos and he got caught up in it. He never meant any harm to any federal agents, and he deeply regrets getting involved.”

Perez said he was concerned to see that Byrand’s affidavit included a screenshot of his social media post that encouraged people to attend the demonstration: “Posting that there is going to be a protest is just first amendment speech.”

Ciaran McEvoy, a spokesperson for US attorney Bill Essayli, who is prosecuting the cases, declined to comment on the claims by Mojica’s and others’ defense lawyers. Essayli said earlier this week that his office was investigating hundreds of people: “We’re coming after all these people. So let’s be clear, this is the beginning, not the end.”

Ice and border patrol spokespeople did not respond to inquiries.

In a statement, Tricia McLaughlin, the DHS assistant secretary, said Huerta had “assaulted Ice law enforcement”, though the union leader was charged with conspiracy to impede and was not accused of assault in his criminal complaint. She did not comment on Mojica’s case or those of the other protesters.

“Democrats must call on this violence to end – not glorify rioters that endanger our brave law enforcement,” said McLaughlin, who alleged there had been an increase in assaults on federal officers. “[DHS] Secretary [Kristi] Noem’s message to the LA rioters is clear: you will not stop us or slow us down. Ice and our federal law enforcement partners will continue to enforce the law. And if you lay a hand on a law enforcement officer, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

Since the protests against the raids on Friday and Saturday, tensions in LA have severely escalated, with daily mass protests and Trump ordering the national guard and marines deployed to guard immigration officials.

Separate from the federal cases, the Los Angeles police department said on Thursday it had made nearly 400 arrests since Saturday, and the LA county district attorney has filed initial charges against more than a dozen people, adding there would be additional prosecutions.

LA advocates have also raised concerns about the forceful response of the LA police department and other local agencies, highlighting incidents of officers firing rubber bullets and other munitions at close range at journalists and protesters.

‘I’m not free’

Mojica, seated outside his apartment as his children played with their dog Princess, said he wanted to speak up for the “innocent people trying to do their jobs” who are being detained and deported.

“It feels like we have less rights now,” said Mojica, who also serves as a caregiver for his sister-in-law, who has disabilities.

Mojica took several days off work after his arrest and said he has been afraid to be out in public. His bail conditions require him to be in his apartment from 7pm to 7am.

He has struggled to sleep on his back, due to pain from the arrest, he said, and on Tuesday, as he was lying in bed, he had a flashback to being in jail and broke down crying.

He gestured to his ankle monitor and said: “It feels like I’m not free, like I’m still there.”

14 Jun - Alexander Snezhkov spent over three months in solitary confinement

Russia: As of the end of May, Alexander Snezhkov, a defendant in the “Chita anarchists’ case,” had spent more than 90 days in the SHIZO (penal isolation ward, hole), after which he was transferred to a PKT (cell-type facility) with even stricter detention conditions.

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via avtonom

PKT (cell-type facility) is a special section within a correctional facility (prison within a penal colony), where inmates are sent as a disciplinary measure for severe violations of prison rules in general, strict, or special regime colonies.

Initially, his stay in the PKT is set for two months, but given the situation, it could be extended up to six months. Alexander has also been placed on a preventive watch list as a leader and active participant in “negatively inclined groups”.

According to Snezhkov, all of this is happening because he refused to cooperate with the prison administration and declined to work in the cafeteria as was suggested by staff at IK-10.

Pressure on Snezhkov has continued since the end of February. As soon as he was transferred to penal colony IK-10 in Krasnokamensk, Zabaykalsky Krai, he was placed in the SHIZO. For over three months, he faced a carousel of decisions prolonging his solitary confinement. Alexander believes that what’s next will likely be EPKT and a closed prison.

EPKT (Unified cell-type facility) is the strictest form of isolation for serious violators of prison rules, separating them from other prisoner categories.

Closed prison (“Krytaya tyurma”) refers to a facility within the prison system where especially dangerous criminals serve their sentences—typically those with life sentences or those who have repeatedly violated rules in other colonies. It imposes stricter conditions and isolates inmates from the general prison population.

However, Alexander poses no threat to either inmates or prison staff. He is only 21 years old and was essentially convicted for a few posts in a small Telegram channel and anti-government graffiti. The absurdity of the situation is extreme.

14 Jun - Hridindu Roychowdhury held in contempt of court

Reproductive Justice prisoner Hridindu Roychowdhury was recently found in contempt for refusing to answer questions within a grand jury room.

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Currently, Hridindu does not have a dedicated support page. He is currently housed in a county jail in Wisconsin after being transferred there from the federal prison he was assigned after he took a non-cooperation plea deal and was sentenced. Hridindu is currently being held in federal civil contempt of court for refusing to cooperate/snitch at a federal grand jury proceeding. After the judge recently found him in contempt for refusing to answer questions within the grand jury room, he sits in this county jail without earning any good time—in essence his federal time is frozen until contempt is purged. Stay tuned for more.

16 Jun - Call to support the Frederick Four

Call to support the Frederick Four, individuals violently arrested by police in Frederick, Maryland on May Day.

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On May 1st, commonly referred to as May Day, thousands of protests were planned across the US, ranging from DC to Alaska, and hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets. Local organizers held marches in Baltimore which saw over a thousand people demonstration and one in Frederick which gathered a smaller crowd of about two hundred. Both events went off without a hitch, until later in the evening a crowd of protesters were attacked by police, four of whom were beaten, falsely arrested, and then doxxed Frederick Police department on Facebook, which was picked up by Fox News and then again by neo-fascist trolls on social media.

That night after an evening of protests and marches in Frederick, a smaller group formed to continue the protest and they took to the streets. While they marched, multiple cars passed, some voicing support while other drivers attempted to injure them, with one driver striking one of the protestors. Thankfully no one was injured to the point of needing medical attention. The group eventually came to several SUVs both city and sheriff, parked in the middle of the road. Two or three cops exited each of the parked cars and blocked the small crowd from moving between them, before anyone could even think of potentially leaving the area, a fire truck with a police escort appeared. The Frederick Police began shouting to move out of the way for the fire engine, screaming, “Get out of the street.”

The police then attacked the protestors from behind as they were exiting the street where they started. The Frederick Police allege that the fire truck was responding to the report of an injured protestor from a vehicle attack, though due to the aggressive nature of the firefighters, we believe they were not there to administer aid; regardless, the police utilized the fire engine as a distraction to attack the crowd. The four people arrested, now known locally as ‘The Frederick Four,’ sustained multiple injuries including a concussion, lumbar fracture, cervical strain and a chipped tooth. Those injured were not treated for any of these injuries while they were held for 12 hours.

Frederick police have a reputation for instigating assaults and are known to be especially violent towards protestors who they would deem “criminals” or “antifa,” for simply wearing black and marching together. They have made it clear which protests are allowed in Frederick and which will be attacked and doxxed. Since these events occurred, the Frederick After Party Care team has been rallying support for the four comrades arrested by gathering funds for legal fees and physical therapy via social media and posting fliers at community events.

There is currently a court date set for July 3rd (subject to change) which will be followed by a block party at a near by park. The Frederick police need to be held accountable for their actions and for attacking people who are exercising their right to protest. Support the Frederick Four!

17 Jun - All Is Not Well In Babylon

The former Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal was sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder of a Philadelphia cop. His freedom is no longer a prominent cause for musicians — but he's still paying attention. There is an excellent new interview with Mumia and we are excerpting some of it below.

MORE:

by Dave Zirin (*Rolling Stone*)

Seven minutes from bucolic Molly Maguire Historical Park in Frackville, Pennsylvania is the State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy. Behind the dull-grey concrete walls and razor wire, in a situation he describes as “live from slow motion death row,” is Mumia Abu-Jamal, prisoner AM 8335. At one time an international cause, Abu-Jamal spent nearly three decades on Pennsylvania’s death row, maintaining his innocence and rousing millions to call for his release. Today, more than 40 years after he was convicted of murdering police officer Daniel Faulkner, he remains a third rail in Philadelphia politics. The Fraternal Order of Police has worked for decades first to have Abu-Jamal executed and now behind bars for killing one of their own. Amnesty International won’t take a position on his guilt, but has said his case is rife with police, prosecutorial, and judicial misconduct. In 2011, his death sentence was overturned and the District Attorney chose to not pursue it further, conceding to a sentence of life without parole. Now 71, the numbers marching for his freedom have dwindled without the urgency of imminent execution dates. But even if we’re not paying attention to him, you better believe he’s paying attention to us. “There’s a feeling of mass disorder; that everything is off of its orbit,” he says. “All is not well in Babylon.”

Speaking with a direct, calm urgency, Mumia Abu-Jamal has much to say about the demise of due process, the hypocrisies of the Constitution, and the long political road that has delivered us to the current crisis. Before death row, Abu-Jamal was a youth leader for the Black Panthers and an award-winning reporter for NPR, covering culture, housing, and music. A recent president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, his future was bright. That’s what made Abu-Jamal’s 1981 arrest for the killing of Officer Faulkner over a traffic stop so difficult to believe.

The state of Pennsylvania said that Officer Faulkner had pulled over Abu-Jamal’s brother, William Cook, and Abu-Jamal, then working as a taxi driver, happened to be passing by and stopped. As police and many other pro-prosecution sources have described as “a physical altercation ensued.” Abu-Jamal, the prosecution alleged, came running across the street firing a gun, killing Faulkner while taking a bullet to the stomach. The prosecution submitted examples of Abu-Jamal’s political writings as a Panther that they said demonstrated hostility to the police. Abu-Jamal has always asserted that he is a political prisoner, behind bars as part of a reactionary wave by police and prosecution against Black radicals in Philly. His trial and numerous appeals, even when new eyewitnesses came forward disputing police accounts, have not been enough to set him free.

As execution dates approached in 1995 and 1999, Abu-Jamal’s case became a central cause for the music community. Rage Against The Machine, the Beastie Boys, KRS-One, Anti-Flag, and many more produced singles or played concerts to advocate for his freedom. But when he became a lifer without an execution date, his cause largely faded. Even as cries to “Free Mumia” have quieted, he appreciates the support he has. “I still hear from folks and I appreciate every last rap, every last word.” he says.

A self-described “history nerd” and “C-Span junkie,” Abu-Jamal has written or edited 15 books while behind bars, (including the recent *Beneath The Mountain: An Anti-Prison Reader*, from City Lights), and is finishing a PhD on highly influential 1950s doctor turned revolutionary Frantz Fanon at UC Santa Cruz. This is someone who not only writes about the ugliest sides of this country, he is living it every day. Mumia and Rolling Stone were face to face in Frackville, and followed that up with a recorded phone call. I had interviewed him previously 15 years ago, but now, amid the current political upheaval, the stakes are much higher as we discuss whether the oft-discussed “road to fascism” has already arrived at a destination.

You also interviewed people like The Pointer Sisters, Peter Tosh... where does your love of music come from?

Music is the closest we ever get to magic in the world. I was a kid singing tenor in the Philadelphia All-City Choir. I remember one of our biggest songs was something you'd never believe. (He sings a few bars of "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" in Latin.) Because I couldn't read music, I had to memorize my part, so it stuck in my head forever.

Bands like Rage Against the Machine and the Beastie Boys stood up for you when you were on death row. There are also many hip hop tracks about you and for you. What did that mean to you in the 1990s when musicians were taking up your case?

It was electric; truly a wonder. My regret is that I did not get to hear most of these songs because in many of the jails I was at, we would only get local radio stations. They didn't play hip hop, so we would get country and western nonstop, because we were in western Pennsylvania. I had some young guys who came on the row, and they would sing or recite some of the lyrics they knew, and it would blow my mind, because these were songs I had never heard. I had no idea they ever existed. Musicians are by nature the most sensitive people in our creation because, in a way, they have to be, because they're listening to the sounds of souls to guide their art. Every one of them has magic within them. You can only have magic within to bring it out.

18 Jun - Illustrated Guide Version 18.5 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2025/06/18/guide_18_5

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.

18 Jun - What actually happened at the Salt Lake City 'No Kings' shooting?

One man is dead. Another is in jail—but not the one who fired his gun.

MORE:

by Marisa Kabas and Bryan Schott (*The Handbasket*)

Here is what we can say for sure: Approximately 10,000 people gathered in downtown Salt Lake City on Saturday for the No Kings protest and march organized by the Utah chapter of the 50501 Movement. Among the attendees was Arturo Gamboa, 24, a local man openly carrying a rifle, which is legal in Utah. An armed "safety volunteer" in a bright yellow vest spotted Gamboa, perceived a threat, and fired his weapon in his direction. He struck Gamboa, and in the process struck and killed protester Arthur Folasca Ah Loo, 39. Gamboa, who police say did not fire his gun, was arrested a few blocks away and booked in county jail for suspicion of murder.

The early—and now clearly wrong—version of events went something like this: Gamboa was seen manipulating his gun, aimed it at the crowd and began running towards people; the safety volunteer (previously referred to as a "peacekeeper") spotted Gamboa advancing on the crowd, fired his weapon to stop him, and accidentally struck and killed Ah Loo. An initial and now-deleted statement from organizers even referred to Gamboa as a "domestic terrorist." But in the days since the chaotic scene, video evidence and eyewitness testimony appear to show Gamboa made no such threat, the volunteer took matters into his own hands, and it seems that a man who never fired a shot is being scapegoated as the villain.

A press statement issued late Monday by Utah 50501 night shed a bit more light on how the volunteer even ended up at the protest. The group said that their team of "safety volunteers" were "selected because of their military, first responder, and other relevant de-escalation experience." They said the volunteer who shot Gamboa and Ah Loo is a military veteran, but did not disclose his identity, and maintained he acted appropriately. "The person currently in custody was apprehended thanks to a protestor who saw the rifle and brought it to police attention."

The 50501 statement acknowledges that Ah Loo—a fashion designer and beloved father of two—was killed, but not that their volunteer was the one who may have fired the fatal shot.

“Volunteer peacekeeping teams are common for protests,” Sarah Parker, a national coordinator for 50501 Movement, told The AP in the immediate aftermath of the shoot. But Parker said the organizers asked attendees, including the peacekeepers, not to bring weapons. Per AP: “Still, Parker said they stopped what could’ve been a larger mass casualty event.”

Initial response

Shortly before 8 pm MT on Saturday, some of the crowd marching toward the Wallace Bennett Federal Building in downtown Salt Lake City began to panic and scatter as word spread about a possible active shooter situation. Reports from local news outlets and on social media about a shooting began pouring in around the same time.

Some initial accounts reported that Gamboa was suspiciously touching his AR-15 rifle, the safety volunteer spotted him, yelled verbal commands for him to drop his weapon, and when he didn’t, opened fire. Other reports made it sound as though Gamboa was the one who shot Ah Loo and then ran to hide from authorities.

Video taken at the scene after Gamboa ran from the safety volunteer shows, as the Utah 50501 statement referenced, a bystander surreptitiously taking his gun bag, alerting a nearby police officer while pointing out Gamboa, who then arrested him. At the time it was likely they believe Gamboa was the one who had fired the shots a few blocks away because he was carrying a gun.

That evening, Utah 50501 issued a statement that pinned responsibility for the tragedy on Gamboa without naming him.

“We are grateful to the SLC first responders and our safety team at the event for their quick response to the shooting, for apprehending the suspect before he could injure more people, and for helping get the protesters to safely clear the area,” the statement read. “We condemn the shooter and all violence directed at our peaceful community members in the strongest possible terms.”

About two hours after the incident, Salt Lake City Police Chief Brian Redd said they detained Gamboa, who had also suffered a gunshot wound, about two blocks away from where the shooting happened. Redd said they also had detained two other people involved.

On Sunday, Salt Lake City police told the now highly-disputed version of events that the 50501 “peacekeepers” told police that they saw Gamboa move behind a wall, remove an AR-15-style rifle from his backpack and “manipulate it.” They said they confronted Gamboa and ordered him to drop the weapon, but he ignored that command. One of them fired three rounds at Gamboa when he allegedly began to advance on a group of protesters. Both of the men were armed.

On the ground

Jake Gatenby, a Salt Lake City-based freelance photographer, was by his estimation 15-30 feet in front of Ah Loo when he was shot. He said he was angry to learn the armed volunteers had been hired by the protest organizers, “but from what I experienced before, during, and after the shooting it makes sense.”

Gatenby said the behavior of the volunteers in yellow vests had struck him as strange from the start. He said they “acted as if they were there to control the protestors, rather than protect them.”

According to Salt Lake City Police Chief Brian Redd, witnesses reported that Gamboa “raised the weapon in a firing position and began running toward the crowd.” But video taken from a balcony overlooking the protest appears to show something different.

“It clearly shows Arturo in full black dress casually walking towards the protest with his rifle pointed down towards the ground and one hand on the barrel,” a friend of Gamboa, whose name isn’t being shared to ensure his safety, said after watching the video many times over. “The security team approach him from the side and rear, almost across the street, with weapons out.”

He continued: “You can hear in the audio that they fire on Arturo, at which point he leans forward, which causes the rifle and his hand to come up, but not in a ready position, in a fleeing position. The security team continues to fire twice more, and Arturo runs away as the video ends.”

It was this sudden repositioning in response to the volunteer shooting his gun that may have made it appear as though Gamboa was aiming his weapon at the crowd. But no video shared so far bears out that version.

“I am shaking with anger with how unnecessary it all was,” Gatenby said. “It feels like there were major lapses in top-down judgment since the conception of this event. A man is dead, another innocent man is in jail, and hundreds of people are traumatized because of piss poor decisions from the organizers to the shooter.”

The use of “peacekeepers” for safety and security by the 50501 organization is an extra step that other groups organizing protests in Salt Lake City don’t seem to employ. Earlier on Saturday, about 3,000 people showed up for a “No Kings” protest at the University of Utah sponsored by Salt Lake Indivisible. That group relies on local police for their events or the Utah Highway Patrol if they are demonstrating at the Utah State Capitol.

Sources say the 50501 peacekeepers operate in pairs and often use body cameras to document their interactions. It’s unclear whether the two peacekeepers involved in the fatal incident were wearing cameras on Saturday.

On Tuesday evening, a local television station published new video (that had already been circulating on social media) of the incident which appears to show the two volunteer peacekeepers with their guns raised toward Gamboa, who is pointing his rifle at the ground. At that point, three gunshots can be heard and Gamboa can be seen running away.

Who is Gamboa?

Arturo Gamboa, 24, is a local Salt Lake punk musician who started attending protests in 2020 in the wake of George Floyd’s murder and in support of Black Lives Matter. An attendee at Saturday’s protest who did not witness the shooting said he remembered seeing Gamboa earlier in the day handing out masks to fellow protesters.

“He’s a good kid,” Gamboa’s friend, who has known him since 2015, said. “Literally willing to take a bullet for his community.”

In a 2021 podcast interview along with one of his bands, Rade, Gamboa described what it was like growing up with mixed parents and in the Mormon Church. “It was a game of ‘try and be as Americanized as you possibly can’,” he told Slug Mag.

In the interview he also talked about growing up in a military family and how that informed his views on international and community relations. “The American system is a steam train that’s always been fueled by Black and Brown bodies and by the emotional, physical, and spiritual pain of poor people,” he said. “It was

very clear that only white men were considered equal. That opened the floodgates for me to understand the real horrors of living in America.”

Now Gamboa, the son of a Venezuelan immigrant, has become one of those bodies.

Robert Evans, host of the popular podcast *Behind the Bastards*, posted on Bluesky on Sunday, that he’d learned a bit more about Gamboa from a local. “He’d done armed protesting before. Dressed more radically. Was a little awkward. No more than that.”

“I think the most important thing is shifting perspective from violent extremist to community member and activist,” his friend said. “He put himself on the front lines of dozens of protests all through 2020 because he cares deeply for his community, open carrying as a deterrent and acting as a protector.”

The friend described him as smart, level-headed, well-read and passionate. “He would never act as an aggressor, but is fiercely protective, willing to step in and deescalate or protect whenever needed.”

He acknowledged that going solo and armed to a protest put on by a large organization working in tandem with law enforcement was a risk. “I just don’t think he thought past wanting to be involved and supportive.” Even still, he called the media portrayal of his friend’s actions “sickening.”

Gun laws & safety

The circumstances of the protest invite other questions: Does the mere possession of a gun at a protest in an open carry state constitute a threat? Do protesters have a right to know ahead of time that organizers intentionally selected volunteers with military training to monitor them?

Utah’s gun laws are extremely lax. Anyone over 21 can carry a loaded pistol, either concealed or in the open, in most public places. Other guns, like rifles and shotguns, can be carried in public so long as there is no round in the chamber.

The organizers of Saturday’s protest have still not made it clear whether or not they asked the safety volunteers to be armed or not. While it’s certainly possible the presence of Gamboa’s gun made other protest attendees uncomfortable, all available evidence at this point does not show him using it in any nefarious way.

“If he had intent to do harm, he had at least 60 feet before nearing the crowd to have shot,” Matthew Tycer, a Portland, Oregon-based firearms safety instructor who teaches Utah state concealed firearm permit requirements and reviewed video of the shooting, said.

“He could have returned fire. He could have been engaged, then started shooting at others around him,” Tycer said. “Instead he ran because he was shot at by the inept security.”

21 Jun - Fundraising for the defense of anarchist Ruslan Sidiki

Russia: On May 23, anarchist Ruslan Sidiki was sentenced to a record-breaking 29 years in prison.

MORE:

He received this sentence for two acts of sabotage against military infrastructure: blowing up a railway track and carrying out a drone attack on an airfield. Ruslan explained his actions as an attempt to hinder attacks on Ukraine.

Ruslan carefully planned the actions to avoid casualties. As a result of the airfield attack, the runway was damaged, and the controlled explosion on the railway tracks caused the derailment of 19 freight train wagons.

Despite the absence of any casualties, Ruslan was sentenced to 29 years in prison! This is unthinkable in a country where murder usually carries a sentence of around 10 years.

Under such conditions, there's no hope for justice—but Ruslan is an Italian citizen, so there is a chance for a prisoner exchange. Ruslan's lawyer also filed a petition to have him recognized as a prisoner of war (under the Geneva Conventions, members of resistance movements can also be granted POW status), to increase the chances of such an exchange.

When Ruslan was detained, he was brutally tortured, and later threatened with more torture. That is yet another reason why we believe it is essential to provide him with legal support.

We are raising 210,000 rubles to pay for a lawyer's work for three months. This includes filing an appeal, visiting Ruslan, and other necessary legal actions. Support the fundraiser! No one should be left without legal defense!

Donating for legal defense in Russia is entirely legal, and there is no precedent of persecution for it. However, if your work requires complete anonymity in such matters, we recommend using the anonymous cryptocurrency Monero.

26 Jun - Land Sovereignty, Degrowth and Anarchism

WHAT: Discussion

WHEN: 4:30pm, Thursday, June 26th

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

A short presentation on the intersections, overlaps, and tensions between anarchism, food sovereignty, degrowth, and land reform will be followed by a participatory discussion of praxes to actively explore these overlaps and navigate these tensions, specifically in the context of the so-called USA.