



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for June 25th

11 Jun - June 11 Roundup

We have solidarity statements and reports from events related to the June 11 international day of solidarity with anarchist political prisoners. So far, solidarity events and actions are being reported from the United States, Germany, the UK, Greece, Australia, Canada, and Rojava.

MORE:

June 11th - Solidarity Message From Jeremy Hammond

A raised fist to you all this June 11th! May this letter find you in revolutionary health and spirits. Although I am unable to be with you physically on this occasion due to being held in captivity by the BOP, I still feel connected with you on this day of solidarity. It was nice to run the 5K with you a few days ago for Running Down The Walls. I also sent out a few dozen origami models decorated with June 11th anarchist tattoos; you should be receiving those shortly.

Big ups to the other anarchist comrades behind bars. We have been through a lot of trials and tribulations over the years: harassment from abusive guards, solitary confinement, diesel therapy, the mind-numbing frustrations from battling the brutal bureaucracy for so many years. Never have we been alone, however. Despite every effort the system has made to cut us off from our friends and loved ones, from disconnecting us from the rotations of the Earth, we have still been able to stay connected to the movement. The letters, the books, the messages of encouragement – by undermining the punitive, isolating deterrent effect of the prison system, we are strengthened to keep struggling through the storm.

For all this, I want to express my appreciation for the Anarchist Black Cross chapters, the Books to Prisoners groups, the Friends of AK Press book club, those who sent in their personal zines: your work has an immeasurable positive effect on our lives behind bars. Know that every prison library we've passed through is saturated with radical literature, ready for the next curious soul looking for something interesting to check out. Also inspiring are the various solidarity actions, hearing that people are still out there taking direct action to destroy the old world and manifest new ones. Where we are, we often aren't in the best position to be hacking and smashing things ourselves, but we can still rest easy knowing that things are still being hacked and smashed.

This June 11th also falls on the yearly "Officer Appreciation Week" (a separate event from the National Police Week last month). Across the federal prison system, we are locked down in our cells during the day while the pigs feast on fancy food from the free world, throw basketball tournaments, and give each other cheap awards manufactured by prisoners. They clap each other on the back when all the while their brethren continue to get away with murdering innocent people in the streets. It's hard to imagine what sickeningly nationalistic sociopath could support such a week – but then again, this is the United States, headed by a fascist pig that pardons racist police and war criminals!

Watching the sky fucking fall from afar, it is sometimes frustrating not being able to do much about it. I'm often asked was all worth it, and how I have kept from being burnt out. Though I have regrets about not carrying out my actions with complete precision, I have never once regretted my involvement in the anarchist movement or committing the specific Anonymous activities that have led to my incarceration. My only regret is that I didn't carry out my actions with complete precision, and that I was caught too early before I could complete many other half-finished plans!

Reflecting on this year's theme of combating amnesia, drawing inspiration, and looking to previous generations, I thought about some things I recently read in Nelson Mandela's autobiography Long Walk to

Freedom. On multiple occasions, the authorities offered him release from prison if he would only renounce his actions and condemn the use of violence. Each and every time, he refused to turn his back against his comrades! There is no greater integrity than those who have been tested and stayed true, keeping their heads up high for so, so long. Having developed an appreciation for the immense gravity and preciousness of time, I want to express my deepest respects for you all serving long-term sentences, and commit myself to work towards your immediate and unconditional release.

June 11th - Statement From Indigenous Anarchist Political Prisoner Miguel Peralta

The cell where I live is kind of dark. Fragments of light enter from two directions. On one side, there are the shadows of a fence with four vertical bars and four horizontal bars, all of which are not visible. Next to that, another fence can be seen but in the form of blinds, elongated, not very wide. The other side where the light enters is almost the same, but disfigured. The scarce shadows manage to reflect small figures in the shapes of small squares with different shades. Outside, in the corridor, by the window that has 24 bars covering it, is a wall, recently painted with a blue sign that says: RESTRICTED AREA.

And if you lift up your head and look, behind the wall, there are nine young almond trees, aligned, green almost all year. On more than three occasions they have been pruned, which has limited their growth. If one looks further, behind the almond trees there is an old leafy mango tree. In three years it has only come to bloom once, since the month of January. It has not produced mangos and I do not have the least idea what it needs. Even further, is a very tall coconut palm tree, approximately 25 meters in height. Its fruits are small, you almost can't see them. Further in the distance you can look at the stars, the clouds, freedom and a bit of the universe.

Very little separates us, don't you think? Yet we are far away. You might ask how I can see so much? The place where I am located is on the upper floor of the prison (hahahaha).

This time of the year, the heat is unbearable. You sweat at every moment. I try to get air by waving an object, a book or a shirt. Like that the night comes to an end, while I write, trying to remember to dedicate some written lines to the compas that have had long term prison sentences imposed upon them. I remember when I wrote something last year for June 11th, I still had not been sentenced to 50 years in prison. I interpreted time differently. It was like waiting for a bus to travel. I conceived the final court hearing as the correct place, space and time to take back my freedom. But in that moment, it did not happen. I had a hard time imagining, understanding and feeling how the monotonous days, years, and decades in confinement are endured. Then I imagined the compas Da Silva and Sebastián and I asked myself, what have they done to not break down, to be so strong, to endure so much humiliation from the system and its jailers, to endure the ups and downs of the day to day, the loss of loved ones and of compas to which they could not say goodbye. It seems that they only clung on to their thoughts, their actions were derived from this, they believed in what was really right. While in confinement, they preserved their human dignity and rejected humiliation.

Mumia for example, has always spread so much energy to so many compas, both inside and outside the prison. He has not allowed anxiety, sadness, injustice and the machine itself to erase the smiles of rage that come from his resistance.

Another idea that I want to share with you all is the implications of taking a political position inside prison. On the outside for example, it is easy to manifest an idea or thought and publish something on social networks. The question, I think, is how do we transform the raw material into action. Trying to be anarchists while being locked up is very difficult. We know beforehand that we will come up against the rules, the authoritarianism, the imposition of certain behaviors. Because we navigate against the current, we are stigmatized in their attempts to align and individualize us at all times.

On the other hand, there are clear warning shots from the judicial system. The legal processes will be made as slow as possible, filled with irregularities and delays. The penitentiary system has its delicate arrogance to fuck up the prisoner's daily existence in prison. Sometimes, in the experience of isolation, remaining

silent can be a strategy, at least for a certain time. We are limited in our capacities to develop ourselves in a personal and human manner. At all times, little by little, we are trying to free ourselves, the body and the spirit, passing through various emotional stages.

We struggle for water, here on the inside of the prison. Water belongs to everyone, but here it is not sufficient, neither to drink nor for other uses. We struggle against the food that they impose on us, and we struggle in our work, to not depend on the boss. We search to collectivize some of the established processes in the prison. We are against the conditional freedom that people have experienced throughout history. As such, we will continue completing and reconstructing ourselves to be free.

June 21st - Solidarity graffiti for anarchist prisoners by Eco-anarchists

Just outside the city limits of Bristol tucked away in the dark is a poultry farm (Ivy Farm) owned by P&S Mitchell LTD. Located in Whitchurch Lane, Dundry, the birds never see the light of day. Despite the CCTV, the grain silo and broiler house were both spray-painted with the words "Animal Prison".

A new McDonalds restaurant that is not welcome is being built in Fishponds Road, but maybe the "Burger Off!" posters in local's front windows isn't enough. Graffiti was sprayed inside the building site – "McWork Prison".

Vinney Green, hidden in Emersons Green on the edge of Bristol is a special secure detention unit for 10-17 year old "dangerous kids". The unit holds up to 24 detainees. A large hole was cut in the perimeter fence and then the next inner security fence was broken through by bending back the bars, causing a second human size gap. Then the prison buildings themselves were sprayed with the words "Child Prison", "Screws Work Here".

Solidarity to Brian Vaillancourt who is serving a 9 year sentence in the USA for an arson of a McDonalds. To the imprisoned comrades in Italy who are fighting from inside the cells on hunger strike. To the 3 comrades arrested for bank robbery in Thessaloniki, Greece. To Lisa held in Spain. For all the imprisoned anarchists around the world.

13 Jun - MOVE 9 Update

We are writing to the two remaining imprisoned MOVE 9 political prisoners, as just last week Eddie was released on parole. More updates follow.

MORE:

June 13th - Help Janet and Janine Africa Rebuild
fundrazr.com/janet-janine

Janet & Janine Africa are rebuilding their lives after over 40 years in prison. Please help them by making a donation.

"Janet and Janine Africa, released on parole on May 25th 2019, were political prisoners since August 8th 1978, spending more than 4 decades in prison for a crime they did not commit.

As you can imagine, there are many basic necessities that are needed when coming home after 40 years.

Both Janet and Janine appreciate all the help during their imprisonment and say they just need a little more to get established on the outside. Having just opened a personal bank account, funds will go directly to them."

June 15th - Support Chuck Africa for Parole

This is as simple as spending three minutes on your phone or computer to sign a petition directed at the current governor of Pennsylvania. Chuck and Delbert Africa are the two remaining MOVE 9 prisoners who are still in prison.

Our goal is to reach 100 signatures and we need more support. You can read more and sign the petition at chng.it/6jKDQYgYWM

June 21st - Eddie Africa of the #MOVE9 is home after four decades of incarceration

The Abolitionist Law Center and the People’s Law Office are proud to announce that Eddie Africa, of the MOVE 9, has been released from state custody after more than forty years of incarceration. Earlier this morning, Eddie Africa was released from SCI Phoenix after being transferred from SCI Mahanoy, where he spent the majority of his incarceration. He has been fighting for parole for the last ten years.

The MOVE 9 are 9 individuals who were incarcerated following an August 8, 1978 police siege of the MOVE Organization home in West Philadelphia. The MOVE 9 were all sentenced to 30-100 years after the death of an officer during the raid.

“Eddie’s release is a victory for him, his family and the movement that has been fighting for his freedom. This is the newest chapter in the decades-long struggle to free all the MOVE 9, which is a struggle that continues with the fight to free Delbert and Chuck Africa, who are both up for parole this year.” ~ Brad Thompson

Eddie is the fifth member of the MOVE 9 to be released on parole, all represented by lawyers from Abolitionist Law Center and People’s Law Office. Like Debbie , Janet, Janine, and Mike Africa, who were recently released, Eddie is now able to experience holding his loved ones outside of prison walls for the first time in decades. Eddie was a father when he was arrested and has four adult children and several grandchildren who he has been able to maintain strong relationships with. Today is the first day his grandchildren will be able to hug him outside of a prison wall. The release of the Move members, after more than forty years, is the culmination of the MOVE organization, public support, legal action, and policy changes.

Two other members of the MOVE 9 remain incarcerated (Chuck and Delbert Africa), while two others (Merle Africa and Phil Africa) died in custody. Abolitionist Law Center and People’s Law Office represent Delbert and Chuck in the struggle for their freedom. To support the fight, you may donate to the MOVE9 Legal Fund at abolitionistlawcenter.org/2018/11/05/action-alert-support-the-move-9-legal-fund

18 Jun - The U.S. Parole Commission Just Says No, an update from Bill Dunne

Bill Dunne has again been denied parole. This is unsurprising, yet terrible news.

MORE:

via Sacramento Prisoner Support

Four years ago we published an article Bill wrote after being denied parole. One of the reasons they listed for denying Bill parole back in 2014 was due to the fact that he maintains ties with anarchist individuals and anarchist organizations. Since that hearing where they did give him a 15 year “hit” (meaning he won’t be reconsidered for parole until 2029) he still gets what is referred to as statutory interim hearings every two years. At these interim hearings the best possible outcome could be that they reconsider the 15 year hit and give him a parole hearing before 2029. He has had two interim hearings so far since receiving the 15 year hit and after both he was denied the possibility of reconsideration. Over four years later they are still punishing Bill for simply maintaining connections with anarchists or anarchist organizations. Here is an article Bill wrote after most recently being denied reconsideration.

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On Wednesday, 1 May 2019, I attended a statutory interim hearing before U.S. Parole Commission Hearing Examiner [FNU] Asbury. Also, in attendance was my U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Case Manager, Melissa Lawrence. This hearing was more than four months late, for which Ms. Asbury blamed Trump’s

government shutdown (though that didn't stop at least one hearing examiner from coming out here to conduct hearings five months ago). The main topics of discussion at the hearing were: my presence on political, and particularly anarchist, web sites and the continued failure/refusal of the commission to provide documentation for its giving me a 15 year "hit" (postponement of a full reconsideration hearing as opposed to an interim hearing covering only the period since the last hearing) for that reason in 2014; an incident report for fighting in 2017; codefendant disparity; and the elevation of my offense behavior severity category. We also discussed my participation in various recreational and educational programs and my work as a GED tutor.

As a result of my 5 November 2014 reconsideration hearing, Hearing Examiner Scott Kubic recommended, and the commission adopted the recommendation, that I be denied parole and the next full reconsideration of my case be put off until November of 2029. The rationale of this action included, according to the Notice of "Action, that "the Commission finds your continued association and affiliation with anarchist organizations is evidence you still harbor anti-authoritarian views that are not compatible with the welfare of society or with the conditions of parole". Mr. Kubic assured me at the hearing that I would get the documents on which he (and, later, the commission) relied for this claim. Despite repeated requests, I was never provided any such documents because there are none. Maybe that's why I was not on the docket for a timely hearing here the last time the commission visited: Mr. Kubic was the examiner for that docket. Being associated with, affiliated with, or an anarchist is not necessarily (there are right wing anarchists out there) "not compatible with the welfare of society or [even] the conditions of parole".

For that reason, I have been asking and asked again at the recent interim hearing where the documentation is. The proposition that association or affiliation with anarchist organizations is somehow inherently contrary to the welfare of society needs further explanation because it is facially counterfactual. I would argue precisely the opposite! Ms. Asbury whipped out a one-page printout of what appeared to be an approximately 10-year-old picture alongside some text. She said, "You're not hard to find out there. This popped up on my first try." She read a line about my being a political prisoner but would not let me have a copy or read it more closely than when she flashed it. "So what?" says I. "Does it attribute to me anything illegal?" She said it did not, which left hanging what was wrong with my appearance in it. She told me to file a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request if I wanted it. I said the content was important to defending against the allegation, and illustrated the point with jihadi vs. mainstream Muslim websites where both objectionable and salutary content may appear under the same rubric (even though I support no religion). Without the content, I could not – then nor previously – distinguish threatening material from the protected conduct/opinion/thought expressed in the material the commission alleges is the basis for concluding my anarchist connections warrant denial of parole. But Ms. Asbury said the commission has already addressed that issue in its denial of my 2014 appeal.

The second thing Ms. Asbury was exercised about was an incident report (infraction) I was given for fighting a couple years earlier. According to the infraction, a guy (to whom I'd never spoken and did not know) punched me in the nose without provocation (on camera!), and we adjourned to the bathroom (no camera!!) to address the issue that raised. The reporting employee wrote that when he entered the bathroom, he saw us "hugging ". The DHO didn't think we were just making up, and he avoided having to dismiss the incident report on technical grounds with sleight of paperwork. We were found guilty, dude was released to population, and I was shipped, inverting the usual practice. Ms. Asbury said the commission relied on the DHO findings in such cases, so that is another issue for the court. I, in fact, want to litigate the incident report, not only for the improper finding, but also because the BOP keeps such negative records forever, but only keeps positive records like good work reports or grades for 18 months.

I also reraised the issue of codefendant disparity. Ms. Asbury (as did Hearing Examiner Mark Tanner at my previous hearing) said we were not there to discuss that issue because the commission had already "spoken" on it in its denial of my 2014 appeal of the new 15-year hit. I protested that no, it hadn't, because the only reasons it has given for the now 15-year disparity (I'm not entitled to an identical release date and no infractions versus infractions) do not explain it. Plus, it is now two years greater. It appears the commission made my codefendant do about 200 months for his role in the offense and, according to the

commission's own guidelines, all my infractions are worth about 100 months. That would argue for a release date in the 300-month range. But even by the BOP's count, I already have around 400 months served. Well, Ms. Asbury insisted on dodging the issue.

She also ducked on the same grounds the related offense severity issue. For 14 years my "offense behavior" had been rated at "Category Seven severity". Then, in 2014, the commission raised it to category eight, the highest, which has no upper guidelines by so much and without explanation. My upper category seven guideline, infractions included, passed in 2006. The commission did two things wrong in raising my offense severity: it conflated vicarious liability and offense behavior; and it mischaracterized the wounding of a cop during an offense as attempted murder where the state had found only assault. But the hearing examiner wasn't hearing any of that.

We also discussed at the hearing what the commission views as positive things I've done over the last two years. These included participating in various educational and recreational programs, working as a GED tutor, and helping other prisoners with their paperwork. To my surprise, my BOP case manager saw all of that in a favorable light and did not interject anything bad. I tried to get a recommendation from the commission that I be permitted to participate in the electrical apprenticeship program. The BOP is denying me access to the apprenticeship programs on the allegation I am an escape risk (which would not enjoy club fed's hospitality?), even though I don't meet the escape risk criteria in the only program statement (BOP policy) to address the issue. But the commission don't play that, Ms. Asbury said, not even a recommendation.

When Ms. Asbury got tired of evading the things, I was trying to make a record on, she announced she was ready to make her recommendation to the commission, as if she hadn't been when I walked in. Her recommendation was that there be no change in the 2029 reconsideration date due the infraction and the disinformation that anarchist associations/affiliations were contrary to the welfare of society. The other fighting charge I received, in 2000, only warranted 0-2 months added to my parole guidelines range. Ms. Asbury apparently tried to avoid making the anarchist association/affiliation charge too explicit on the record by saying, "the infraction and this", pulling the folder into which she'd slipped the screen print of me on a web site forward and putting her finger on it, in stating her reasons. I don't recall her mentioning what it was when she pulled it out, either. I didn't catch it at the time, but still think the issue is sufficiently recorded as an illegitimate basis of the action against me.

I didn't really expect favorable action from the commission, notwithstanding the favorable treatment of a few political prisoners in the last few years. But I did get another opportunity to resist my own oppression in court on the basis that I was denied parole (again) for improper reasons. I will challenge the codefendant disparity and increased offense behavior severity and disciplinary charge. More importantly, I will challenge the denial of parole to any extent for political reasons. Fill in the blank the U.S. Parole Commission here filled in with "anarchist" with any other "-ist" displeasing to the apparatus of oppression and its imperial capitalist owners, and it is clearly an attack not only on political prisoners. It is also an attack on people outside whose consciousness compels them to struggle for the most equitable social reality and against the political use of the U.S. gulag archipelago to control their expression of that consciousness. Continuing and defending such struggle, however, is necessary push back against exploitation and oppression in all its myriad forms.

18 Jun - Please Sign Petition for Mumia

Act today - sign this petition calling for immediate medical treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal for potentially blinding cataracts and for genuine, humane compassionate release for this political prisoner who is an innocent man!

MORE:

actionnetwork.org/petitions/emergency-appeal-for-mumias-health

After you sign, please share link through your social media. We can also make a paper version available for you to get signatures on your own. We will be delivering signed petitions to Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner in July.

19 Jun - Bend the Bars Conference August 23rd in Lansing!

You're invited to Bend the Bars 2019, a day-and-a-half long conference about strategies and tactics for supporting the prisoner movement and the struggle for a world without prisons.

MORE:

Bend the Bars is a day-and-a-half long conference about strategies and tactics for supporting the prisoner movement and the struggle for a world without prisons. In 2016 and again in 2018 national prisoner strikes swept the nation and shifted the narrative about prisons and incarceration. At the same time, in response to both the slow decline of law-and-order politics as well as recurrent state budget crises, the methods of incarceration are changing with a shift away from large and costly state facilities to pouring resources and people into county jails as well as an increase in the use of ankle tethers or "e-carceration."

In the wake of these two national strikes, and in the midst of this ongoing re-organization of incarceration, it is important to come together to critically reflect on the past struggles, their limits, the potential to exceed these limits, and the ways that we should be adapting to a changing terrain. The conference will consist of presentations and facilitated discussions about media/-making, tactics of support (letter writing, newsletters, phone zaps), broad strategies (prisoner strikes, legislation), and reflections on our efforts to build outside networks of solidarity.

Activists, organizations, and currently or formerly incarcerated people and their family members from across the Midwest are all welcome. The conference will take place from the evening of Friday August 23 to the evening of Saturday August 24 in Lansing, Michigan. Plan to arrive before 5pm on the 23rd. A more specific schedule will be sent out closer to the date of the event.

We hope to hear reflections from incarcerated organizers by phone. Please consider inviting a comrade behind bars to the conversation, to share thoughts on the state of prisoner struggle and forward-moving strategies for people inside and out.

If you are in need of accommodations in Lansing for the days of the conference, please let us know and we will do our best to meet your needs!

Proposal Submittal Guidelines:

- Please keep proposal submissions less than 500 words
- In addition to an abstract/outline, please send a short biography of you and/or your organization, as well as a few links to your work! We will be circulating biographies ahead of the conference as well
- Email your proposals to maps@riseup.org as PDFs or .txt files with "Bend the Bars 2019 Proposal" in the subject line

Where: Cristo Rey Church, 201 West Miller Road, Lansing, Michigan 48911

When: August 23-24th, 2019

20 Jun - Lawyers Say Chelsea Manning Lacks Financial Capacity to Pay Fines

In a reply brief to be filed last week, Chelsea Manning will propose guidelines for a hearing to assess her financial capacity before Judge Anthony Trenga, who, just over a month ago, ordered her to pay fines that could total up to nearly half a million dollars.

MORE:

via *The Sparrow Project*

These fines were imposed in addition to her incarceration.

While the government has alleged that she has access to resources that would enable her to pay these fines, that perception is simply wrong, say Chelsea and her lawyers. Although prior to her recent confinement, Ms. Manning was able to earn a living from public speaking, she is not a wealthy person, her team says. Records show she was forced to lay off the individual employed by her small business after her incarceration in March, 2019. She has no personal savings, an uncertain speaking career that has been abruptly halted by her incarceration, and is moving her few belongings into storage, as she can no longer afford to pay her rent.

Chelsea — who made exhaustive financial disclosures to the public during her 2018 run for the U.S. Senate — requested an opportunity to share her records with the Court shortly after the imposition of the fines. She will produce documents demonstrating that her current debt and compromised earning capacity have left her balance sheets near zero:

The government, and maybe the general public, think that I have access to resources just because I am a public figure but that's just not true. Making money has never been my priority.

I do the work I do for the same reason I do everything: because I want to make a difference. Now, my work has been totally interrupted by my incarceration. I definitely feel the costs of these sanctions, but I never expected to have a comfortable life, and I would rather be in debt forever than betray my principles."

Chelsea E. Manning

Ms. Manning and her legal team argue that, as it stands, the fines imposed are so much greater than her current and potential net worth that she will not be able to pay them in full. Moreover, while corporations are routinely financially sanctioned, it is unheard of for an individual to be hit with such heavy fines, particularly where the underlying matter involves no financial misconduct. For all of these reasons, her lawyers argue, the fines should either be reduced or vacated altogether.

Furthermore, they argue, Chelsea will sooner bankrupt herself trying to pay these exorbitant fines than cooperate with the grand jury; since these fines will never coerce her cooperation, they are impermissibly punitive. Finally, they ask Judge Trenga to acknowledge that the jail sanction has definitively failed to coerce Chelsea, transforming any further confinement into an illegitimate punishment, rather than a civil sanction.

21 Jun - Support The Base Anarchist Center in Brooklyn

Call to support The Base, an anarchist community center located in Brooklyn, New York.

MORE:

The Base is an anarchist social center in Bushwick, Brooklyn. We opened the space about over 5 years ago, in hopes that it would develop into a revolutionary space where people could meet, learn, and start laying the foundation for a better world together. We hoped to forge the strong bonds we will ultimately need to rid the world of capitalism and slavery, while preparing our hearts and minds for the work ahead and honoring those who came before us, the sacrifices they made, and the knowledge they imparted. Finally, we hoped to serve as a valuable resource for anyone in the neighborhood who might need immediate assistance, such as food or safe harbor for a night.

We are really hyped to see that our dream has become a reality! The Base is now used by several radical groups, including the local chapters of the Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement (RAM-NYC) and Anarchist Black Cross (ABC-NYC), the Radical Gardeners collective, and the Jane Adams Mental Health Collective. The Base regularly hosts solidarity events for prisoners, immigrants, and others who need our support, such as RAM's Support through the Walls every other Wednesday and ABC's Political Prisoner Letter Writing every other Tuesday.

The Base is also a space in which individuals or groups can pay homage to revolutionaries who have fallen in the struggle against oppression. Earlier this year, we mourned the loss of Lorenzo "Orso" Orsetti, also

known as Tekoşer. Tekoşer was an Italian fighter with Tekoşîna Anarşîst (Anarchist Struggle), an international anarchist militia based in Rojava, Syria.

The space also contributes to revolutionary study by hosting reading groups, film screenings, and open discussions on subjects such as imperialism and anti-statehood. The Radical Gardeners maintain a beautiful garden of fresh veggies and herbs right outside of the Base, and the food therein is free for anyone who wants it. The Jane Addams Collective and Psychological Emancipation for Revolutionary Abolition (PERA) are building non-hierarchical mental health care triads – so people can provide the tools for each other's care. We are also in the process of setting up a rapid response network so that people who need immediate assistance can get in touch with us.

These are just some of the many projects and events that occur at the Base, and we have tons of ideas for things we'd like to launch in the coming months; however, as you already know if you live anywhere near here, Bushwick rent is expensive. We're about to lose our shirts out here, so we are having a fundraising drive in hopes of keeping the space open for as long as possible. We're asking for folks to subscribe with monthly donations to buttress recurring costs of rent and utilities and we are offering some gifts at various donation levels.

Monthly donation: thebasebk.org/product/recurring-donation

Donate anonymously using Bitcoin: thebasebk.org/shop

23 Jun - A Response to Police Repression Following Hamilton, Ontario Pride

The following statement from the anarchist community center The Tower responds to the recent repression against those targeted by police after clashes erupted between those defending Hamilton Pride and the far-right and arrest of anarchist comrade Cedar Hopperton.

MORE:

by Northshore Counter Info (*It's Going Down*)

It's been a very intense and revealing week since Hamilton Pride. We helped our friends heal, debriefed our strategies, and circulated as much information about the people who attacked us as we could. The videos and statements have gone viral, the outrage is visceral. Homophobic white nationalists attacked Pride, they were confronted by a huge group of queers, the police did nothing and then took credit for stopping the attack, the mayor backed the police despite hundreds of witnesses, and the homophobes walk free. While the helmet-wielding maniac who smashed our faces continued his crusade in Toronto, posing for celebrity pictures with a new helmet and brutally attacking at least one more person (you can watch the video here: <http://anti-racistcanada.blogspot.com/.../violence-after-pegi...>), the police were busy banging on the doors of known queer anarchists in Hamilton, lurking in backyards, and shaking down our entire community.

On Saturday they arrested Cedar Hopperton for allegedly violating their parole conditions, and later issued a press release that accused them of attending the Pride events and confronting the bigots. This only magnified the outrage, and over a hundred people came together that night outside of the police station to demand Cedar's release. Others participated in a phone zap that flooded the police station with hundreds of calls demanding they let them go. Social media has exploded with condemnations of the arrest, and people of all political stripes seem to agree on one basic fact: criminalizing people who defended Pride from vicious right-wing attacks is fundamentally wrong.

But here's the thing: Cedar Hopperton was not at Hamilton Pride. They weren't masked up, they weren't there holding a sign, and they weren't involved in any confrontation. They weren't there at all. They weren't anywhere close to Gage Park that day. Instead they stayed home and offered support to those who left the park bloodied, battered, and shaken. As the papers reported, they did come out with supportive statements of those defending pride during an LGBTQ advisory committee meeting in the days after. Standing at a pedestal in city hall, Cedar argued that police are not and should never be part of the queer community, and applauded those at Pride who stood up for themselves in the face of violence. Cedar's

arrest is a clear and calculated retaliation for these statements, and an attempt to muddy the waters by equating what happened at Pride with what happened on Locke Street last year.

Because of the way the legal system and the media work, their revenge has already done it's damage. National news covered the fact that Cedar Hopperton was arrested for their involvement in a confrontation at Pride Hamilton. Even some of Cedar's supporters carried the narrative (understandably), explaining that "Cedar was only there defending queer people." The police fabricated a story, and within 24 hours it had become a national truth.

Despite the fact that they weren't at Pride, Cedar could spend weeks in jail just waiting for a parole hearing in order to make their case. In order to speed this process and apply pressure on the Hamilton Police, Cedar has begun a hunger strike. We don't have any other details as of now, but we know that since being arrested on Saturday morning Cedar hasn't eaten anything. We need people to mobilize around this, to help spread the word, and to make sure Cedar's case doesn't get lost in the weekly news cycle.

To be clear, this isn't about Cedar's "innocence" per se. We know the word "criminal" is only used to devalue someone's actions or humanity, and we don't believe that breaking a law makes someone either good or bad. We are putting this statement out because we feel that it is important to state publicly: the claim that Cedar was involved in the events that took place at Hamilton Pride is categorically untrue and unfounded. At the same time, that doesn't mean that other queers that may be arrested should be supported on the basis of innocence. What folks did that day at Pride was self-defence and they do not deserve to be arrested. We need to be upset at the police for falsely accusing Cedar AND for targeting those of who were there and tried to protect our community.

The police have said it repeatedly to the media, they aren't finished. They're almost certainly going to arrest other people who were involved in defending Pride, with or without evidence. Like Cedar, we too will feel the sting of arrest, the trauma of strip searches, the horrors of jail, and the humiliation of a bail hearing. The police will continue to do everything they can to get us fired from our jobs, to terrify our families, and jeopardize our housing. At no point will any of the cops involved be held accountable. That is what the police do. Often they exercise this kind of routine violence without even being seen, but this time all eyes are on them. Queers across the country are watching Hamilton right now to see how this unfolds. Hamiltonians are fuming mad about the naked injustice of this situation. People aren't as easily tricked or distracted as the police would like us to be.

The most threatening thing to the police are communities that feel empowered to use force to defend themselves because it undermines the thing they hold most dear – their unquestioned authority. The arrests and intimidation being used by them now are punishment for us standing up for ourselves.

This is far from being over. Please stay diligent. Please keep holding the police accountable and watch for updates about others who may be arrested. The amazing feeling of being in this together has been the most validating and important thing to us. And Cedar must have felt amazing hearing the fireworks being set off yesterday outside the jail. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your solidarity.

27 Jun - Emma Goldman's 150th Birthday: Ice Cream Social & Film Screening

WHAT: Ice Cream Social

WHEN: 6:00pm, Thursday, June 27th

WHERE: The Hancock Community Backyard Garden Park—324 Hancock Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Come out to Hancock Community Backyard in Bed-Stuy and help us wish Happy Birthday to the great Emma Goldman!

The Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council is a non-membership free association for self-identified anarchists. We will be celebrating the memory of Emma Goldman by reading speeches, screening a film *Acts and Intermissions: Emma Goldman in America* by Abigail Child (trailer available here: <https://vimeo.com/196207685>) and of course, eating Ice Cream! Vegan options will be available and prioritized!

The film screening will be followed by a free-form discussion of Emma Goldman's legacy. Folks are encouraged to bring their favorite Goldman quote or passage to share with the group!

29 Jun - Drinks and Solidarity with Chelsea Manning

WHAT: Letter-writing & fundraiser

WHEN: 2:00-6:00pm, Saturday, June 29th

WHERE: Erv's on Beekman—2122 Beekman Place, Brooklyn

COST: Free to enter, discounted drinks with proceeds going to Chelsea Manning

MORE:

Please join us for a fundraiser raising awareness for Chelsea Manning's incarceration for resisting a grand jury. Drink specials available - a portion of the proceeds will go to Chelsea's case. Writing supplies provided!

If you can't make it, you can donate here to support Chelsea's legal defense:

actionnetwork.org/fundraising/chelsea-manning-needs-legal-funds-to-resist-a-grand-jury-subpoena

29 Jun - Tattoo Party for the Base Fundraising Month

WHAT: Tattoo Party

WHEN: 5:00pm, Saturday, June 29th

WHERE: The Base—1302 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: It's a fundraiser and tattoos are not free. Bring your wallet.

MORE:

We are PSYCHED to kick off our fundraising drive for The Base with a TATTOO PARTY next Saturday!!! We will be there late afternoon, into the evening, and on into the night; so come through whenever, get a tattoo, eat some food, learn your future, and see what you might look like if you were a cartoon. You can make a one-time donation on the spot, if you like; or, if you are able to contribute monthly, you'll have a chance to get some cool swag, like revolutionary t-shirts and flags. Either way, we hope to see you there!

30 Jun - MACC Bloc at Reclaim Pride

WHAT: Queer Rebellion

WHEN: 9:00am-1:30pm, Sunday, June 30th

WHERE: 7th Avenue and Christopher Street, Manhattan

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join the Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Committee (MACC) in the Queer Liberation March preceding the corporately funded pink-washed monstrosity that the Pride Parade in NYC has become. The Queer Liberation March is a people's political march—no corporate floats, and no police in our march. We honor the powerful legacy of the Stonewall Rebellion by highlighting the most marginalized members of our community, as we commit to addressing the ongoing struggles that we face.