



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for November 25th

9 Nov - In Contempt #1

Following the closing of It's Going Down (IGD), a new collective will continue publishing monthly "In Contempt" updates on incontempt.noblogs.org

MORE:

Updates, calls to action, news, statements, actions, corrections, and all else can be submitted to the email in_contempt@autistici.org

"In Contempt," as always, will compile what's happening in the world of repression, those who struggle against it, and other relevant news from a prison abolitionist perspective. If you're unfamiliar with the project, the archive of the original "In Contempt" on IGD is still up to view.

12 Nov - Illustrated Guide Version 18.10 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2025/11/12/guide_18_10

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. Thankfully, this edition includes the removal of Jessica Reznicek.

12 Nov - Contribution from Rebibbia prison

Italy: Please read Anna Beniamino's "scattered notes" as a contribution to the October 11 assembly in Rome against 41bis.

MORE:

via *La Nemesis*, translated by *Dark Nights*

There is no shortage of analysis of the authoritarian turn currently underway, a real turn, albeit perceived in these parts as a low-intensity phenomenon, amid the cynicism of the powerful and the indifference of their subjects, sedated by the bread and circuses of the digital age.

The 'Cospito case' has been and continues to be one aspect of this shift: Alfredo has been held hostage, under 41bis, as a warning of this repressive crackdown, but it is not an extreme case, a distortion of the system. Rather, it is a tangible sign of the lowering of the threshold of punishability for political and social opposition and the consolidation of preventive repression strategies, from the tabula rasa on active components to the outright annihilation of speech and the silencing of critical thought.

Analyses of the repressive context and of whether or not to focus on the discourse (41bis – Alfredo in 41bis – anti-anarchist repression – repression simply) are not uniform, I believe, but hopefully converge on the need to oppose it, a need that is non-negotiable and cannot be misunderstood as a mere remnant of indignation at a legal distortion.

"Necessity" in the sense that we must maintain awareness, as a manifestation of vitality and planning, that the struggle is an existential dimension, not a ritual deadline on micro or macro issues. Whether it concerns specific and limited issues, such as a campaign to show solidarity with a single comrade or a situation under repressive attack, or macro issues such as the current state of widespread war, the genocide of a people, or the technological restructuring of forms of exploitation of man by man and of nature, we must

first of all be aware that this is not a matter of external, superficial adherence, but of an intimate reason for struggle.

Having made this “light” introduction...

Although the authoritarian shift in Italy is being led by a handful of showmen controlled by the interests of global capitalism, such as the current holders of government positions, it is a fact that they are succeeding in carrying out a concerted effort to reduce the scope for protest, tightening prison and legislative conditions in the name of security and the specter of the democratic stability of institutions. Of course, this is not only the result of the new actors on the parliamentary stage; it was already well underway in the 1980s, with repressive strategies launched against the revolutionary component, from which much has been taken in rhetorical and propagandistic form, more indigestible than any reheated dish (if before the “bad teachers” were Toni Negri, now they are mathematicians such as, mind you, not Theodore Kaczynski but... Piergiorgio Odifreddi, to give a small example from recent days). And those who are not obtusely sedated by the institutional narrative, on either side, should grasp the meaning of certain continuities, where the only function is subservience to domination, to capital.

It is no coincidence that, amid this deluge of propaganda and television talk show rhetoric, the battle cries of any regime remain unchanged: in addition to the criminalization of public squares, anarchist press, grassroots trade unionists... even pacifist environmentalists, there is an obsessive search for enemies, political opponents, and terrorists to be destroyed.

If there is a lack of ready-to-use material, given that we live in relatively peaceful times in terms of social opposition, in addition to new or very new material (complete with the criminalization of non-conformist immigrants and keyboard warriors turned into dangerous Islamists), old or very old material is dusted off or kept warm, sought after by entire countries and continents or walled up alive for half a century. Counterbalancing the inconsistency of the initiatives of struggle and solidarity is the constancy and inevitability of the state moloch. It is quite significant that the long repressive memory is counterbalanced by a revolutionary amnesia (to use the definition of some comrades in reference to the German movement grappling with a repressive backlash that culminated in the arrest of Daniela Klette) of everything that has been a heritage of struggle and critical thinking.

Amnesia is not random but is one of the effects of a strategy of tabula rasa on the defeated enemy. “Carthago delenda est” [DN: ‘Carthage must be destroyed’ meaning ‘It must be destroyed’] and let’s throw salt on its ruins. Today’s tyrants prefer luxury resorts built on human bone meal and artificial intelligence that trains young Palestinians to be happy waiters or odalisques [*Dark Nights*: harem slave], but it is a model applied at both the micro and macroscopic levels. It is precisely this feeling of tabula rasa that leads to having to rebuild from scratch every time and in every place, struggling in increasingly restricted and claustrophobic communication bubbles, illusory comfort zones among like-minded people who comment and criticize the moves of others like spectators at the edge of the ring... rather than feeling part of a movement in struggle.

And here we come to another sore point, the “movement” which, by definition, should be something bubbling with energy, discussion, and planning, yet in many quarters it is one of those terms used almost with embarrassment or declined in the plural as if to give uniformity to individual experiences distant in place, time, and intent, “the movements.”

Yet it is a fact that there are forms of action and resistance, comrades who give generously of themselves, sometimes with remarkable inventiveness and effectiveness.

It is a fact that, focusing on the anti-authoritarian area, there has been an analytical awakening, a progressive liberation from some of the shackles and snares of victimhood and apathy that have engulfed libertarian discourse for too many years, returning to value the purest essence of revolutionary anarchism and its tools.

But on the one hand, we must be careful not to get bogged down in a discussion of the need to act in almost philosophical terms, losing touch with the situation and the ability to communicate in contexts that are not just limited.

The issue of movement aphasia (and the monologues and protagonists/protagonism that counterbalance it, if there is no training in meeting and discussion) is compounded by the broader problem of communication, the problem of understanding what references one wants to have and what discourses are possible. The flexibility to understand what times and places make sense.

In the case of the past mobilization, one of the problems was precisely the inability to ‘capitalize’ in the long term on what was a moment of visibility obtained through an unprecedented combination of factors (which, in the opinion of the author, was in itself a value: the intertwining of practices without debasing the underlying discourse and around a refractory comrade who, despite media attempts, was not spectacularly canceled). The mobilization did not yield as much as it could have in terms of increasing the critical awareness of those who had approached (or reapproached) it, but it nevertheless remained alive and clean. Without victimization and without wheeling and dealing with the small parties of the parliamentary left, without begging for visibility but taking it. Now, three years later, we are left with an issue that is still open in terms of repression (both for Alfredo and for the comrades involved in the mobilization), and the first question, the most simplistic but clearest one, is: is it still worth it?

Is it believed that the gravity of the authoritarian shift currently underway and the need to oppose it (not only “Alfredo-41,” but the world we live in and endure) are more or less important than the small areas of comfort or counterculture that are created?

Fearing today that a meeting point is a political washing machine is a sign that we are no longer trained to discuss face to face, too accustomed to delegating to the keyboard (a lot) and to newspapers (less and less). Not that the web and newspapers are useless, but they should be a starting point, not a destination. Otherwise, we discuss and argue with ghosts, with the image we have of the other person, not with the other person themselves.

It is rather surreal that we fight against the censorship imposed on Alfredo with prison and perfected with 41bis, yet fail to seize the opportunity to effectively break the self-imposed aphasia and gagging. If we really aspire to break communication and sectarian bubbles, somewhere, in reality, we have to start reweaving the threads. We must first get to know our comrades (and enemies) in order to recognize them as such; affinities do not arise in the abstract.

If you can’t manage the discussion and defend your arguments in restricted circles, how and with whom can you do so? On the one hand, in the knowledge that overexposure and fast scrolling are the tactics of the media and those who control them, where sometimes overexposure linked to a substantial emptying of meaning is preferred to outright censorship. On the other hand, in the awareness and pride of knowing how to break the imposed narrative.

Although it is true that the magnetic attraction of the dying anarchist on hunger strike who challenges the powerful with his stubborn survival is now lacking... it is also true that, as things stand, part of the discourse is already on the table, the wall of silence on 41bis has been broken, the concept of Italian prisons as places where suicide and violence are the order of the day is also out in the open, and the evidence of a mendacious narrative is clear.

A discussion left unfinished can be resumed, and the reasons for doing so remain valid: never before has there been such a stark contrast between the reasons for the revolt and those of a government of operetta hierarchs, servants of every master, traffickers of arms and votes, liars and cowards... in recent years, anecdotes on the subject have proliferated. There is no need for macro-geopolitical analysis or dissertations on the strategies of postmodern capitalism. Any individual walking down the street with their eyes open to the world and a modicum of critical thinking should be able to assess which side integrity lies on and which

side (to paraphrase something very old) barbarism lies on. The reasons are all on the table, it's just a matter of understanding how...

13 Nov - The trial against Lucas and Aldo Hernandez comes to an end

Chile: On Monday, November 3rd, the trial against Aldo and Lucas Hernandez came to an end, with both being sentenced to 21 and 12 years in prison, respectively, after more than three months of hearings, in which the authorities attempted to use all their power to achieve an exemplary punishment for both brothers.

MORE:

via Informativo Anarquista

On July 21st of this year, amid protests and multiple solidarity actions, the lengthy trial against Aldo and Lucas Hernandez began at the Center for (In)Justice in Santiago. The prosecution, made up of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Public Security, and the Chilean Gendarmerie, initially demanded intolerably excessive sentences, ranging from 20 years in prison for Lucas to 90 years in prison for Aldo Hernandez.

Subsequently, after the verdict was read on October 3, the prosecutors requested a sentence of 32 years and 1,100 days for Aldo and a sentence of 18 years and 800 days for Lucas, while Aldo's defense requested a sentence of 26 years and Lucas's defense requested a sentence of 12 years. Finally, on November 3, Aldo was sentenced to 21 years and Lucas to 12 years.

The sentences, set out in a document of more than 400 pages, referred to three incidents: 1) the attack on the General Directorate of the Gendarmerie in December 2021; 2) the raid on a residence in Loncura; and 3) the raid on a residence in La Victoria.

Aldo Hernandez was found guilty of the attack on the Gendarmerie Headquarters but acquitted of the crimes of minor injuries to prison guards and the crime of receiving stolen goods. He was also found guilty in relation to the items found in the raid on Loncura (incident 2) but was acquitted of all the crimes he was charged with in relation to the raid on the home in La Victoria (incident 3). Lucas, for his part, was convicted of most of the crimes related to the residence in the La Victoria neighborhood, but was acquitted of the crimes of manufacturing weapons and manufacturing explosive devices.

On behalf of Aldo's defense, attorney Washington Lizana, in communication with La Zarzamora, stated: *"Our overall assessment is positive. Although not all of the defense's objectives were clearly achieved, if we analyze it in relation to the prosecution's case and the claims of the public prosecutor's office, we returned to a more reasonable situation. I think that's the word. We have to start from the basis that the prosecution's case against Aldo and Lucas was based on a request for a sentence of more than 100 years in Aldo's case and 26 years in Lucas's case... The prosecutor charged them with several crimes, 16 crimes grouped into three different incidents, one of which occurred on December 27, 2021: the planting and detonation of explosives at the National Gendarmerie Headquarters by two individuals traveling on a motorcycle, and several crimes related to that main incident, plus two incidents that occurred on December 22, 2022, in the context of various entries and searches of several properties related to the investigation of incident number 1. Incident number 2 was linked to items found at a residence in the municipality of Quinteros, and incident number 3 was linked to items found at a residence in Pedro Aguirre Cerda. Sixteen crimes were related to Aldo Hernandez, of which the court acquitted him of 10 crimes and convicted him of 6, two from incident 1 and four from incident number 2. In this regard, a ruling that partially upholds the Public Prosecutor's claim and is 20 percent of the total sentence requested. It acquitted him of all crimes from incident number 3 related to Aldo."*

Regarding the outcome of this trial and in relation to the increase in the length of sentences handed down in recent trials of comrades, he added:

"It is a step forward. It was not ideal, it was not the objective of this defense, but it puts the situation, the framework of criminal prosecution, in a more reasonable scenario. In this sense, we must consider that this trial is taking place in a social context characterized by a punitive fever, an exacerbation of the media and various state agencies, the criminalization of political and social organizations that confront the state, more direct confrontation, and the

manipulation of public opinion in this policy of accentuating criminalization. It was a difficult scenario, and we had seen that in recent years, in the latest cases related to these crimes, the penalties had reached irrational levels. For example, in the case of Camilo Gajardo, which was in 2017-2018, there was a trial related to that young man, and the prosecution in this same court obtained a sentence of 43 years. In this same court, a couple of years ago, there was also the conviction of Francisco Solar, of 86 years. So, of course, the prosecution, based on those criminal penalties, emphasized its demands for punishment, its punitive demands, its strategy of criminal prosecution, and wanted to repeat the same scenario here in the same court with very, very increased penalties, with multiple charges, and I believe that with this ruling, the court is putting things in their place.”

It should be noted that both brothers were arrested on December 22, 2022, at their home in the La Victoria neighborhood, after being investigated by the Southern Metropolitan Prosecutor’s Office in connection with the attack on the Gendarmerie Headquarters (2021). The investigation was entrusted to OS9, Gope, and Labocar in order to incriminate the brothers, who were then considered persons of interest. It should also be mentioned that these raids were witnessed and experienced by children, who were exposed to the violence of the repressive forces, which could have been avoided.

15 Nov - Jamil al-Amin critical update

With aching hearts, we share that Imam Jamil has an estimated prognosis of only 3 months to live following the gross neglect by the prison system of Imam Jamil’s cancerous tumor growth on his face.

MORE:

via Students for Imam Jamil al-Amin

Imam Jamil dedicated his life in service to the people and gave more love to us than we ever gave back to him. Now, in this critical time, let’s show our love to one of the greatest revolutionaries this country has ever known.

Imam Jamil has not received any of his mail in the last 2.5 months. We’re calling on everyone to write a handwritten letter to Imam Jamil with the details in the post. Share words of support, gratitude, and how Imam Jamil has impacted you. Let’s make sure the Federal Medical Center’s P.O. Box overflows with letters to Imam Jamil to remind the prison that he is not forgotten.

Tag us on your story with your letter so we can amplify the love and support being sent to Imam Jamil.

November 17th - Action Alert re Jamil al-Amin’s mail

It has been reported that doctors say Imam Jamil has 3 months to live. Allah, in His Grace, Mercy & Wisdom, knows best. However, Imam Jamil has reported that his mail is being slowed down and withheld. He has just received some dated back to September.

Let us please use the power of our collective advocacy to relieve this further injustice on Imam Jamil by writing to Warden Thomas Scarantino to ensure Imam Jamil timely receives his mail.

Below is a sample letter for your use:

**Warden Thomas Scarantino
Federal Medical Center (FMC) Butner
Old NC Highway 75
Butner, North Carolina 27509**

Re: Request for Timely Delivery of Mail for Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (Reg. #99974-555)

Dear Warden Scarantino,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to respectfully express concern regarding significant delays in the delivery of incoming mail addressed to inmate Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, currently housed at FMC Butner.

It has been brought to my attention that Imam Jamil has not been receiving his mail in a timely manner, and in some cases, important correspondence has been withheld or delayed for extended periods. As you know, timely delivery of mail is a fundamental right protected under federal guidelines and essential to an inmate's ability to maintain communication with family, legal representatives, and outside support networks.

Time-sensitive and important mail is being delayed. Imam Jamil is currently awaiting important and time-sensitive information. Any delay or withholding of mail places unnecessary strain on his well-being and directly impacts his ability to receive critical updates, personal communication, and essential correspondence.

Respectful Request

With full respect for your leadership and the responsibilities of your staff, I am requesting the following:

- A review of the mail processing timeline for Imam Jamil's incoming correspondence.
- Assurance that all mail addressed to him is delivered promptly, in accordance with Bureau of Prisons policy.
- Clarification of any issues or procedural obstacles that may be causing delays, so they may be properly understood and addressed.

Ensuring timely mail delivery

is a small administrative step that can significantly improve inmate care, transparency, and adherence to federal standards.

Closing

Thank you for taking the time to review this matter. I trust that, under your supervision, FMC Butner will ensure that Imam Jamil's mail is handled promptly and in accordance with established regulations. I appreciate your attention and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]

Imam Jamil remains Spiritually & Mentally Strong. Separately, mail Imam Jamil a card of thanks, get well, of love for his life's work and example.

It is crucial for the prison to know that a prisoner is not alone. It is crucial they know Imam's family, friends and supporters care deeply and that he is not alone.

16 Nov - Anarchist and Antifascist Organizations in Europe Face Terrorism Designation by US Regime

The United States Department of State has decided to designate four European groups associated with the Antifa movement as "Foreign Terrorist Organizations" (FTOs) and "Specially Designated Global Terrorists" (SDGTs)—a move that marks a new escalation in the specific designations to have been applied to cells internationally linked to the anarchist and antifascist movement.

MORE:

via *Abolition Media*

According to *Fox News*, the inclusion of the four organizations on the FTO and SDGT lists places them in the same category as groups like ISIS (Islamic State), Al-Qaeda. The decision extends former U.S. President Donald Trump's prior directive on domestic terrorism, giving this policy an international dimension.

Two of the four organizations targeted by the U.S. are based in Greece: Armed Proletarian Justice and Revolutionary Class Self-Defense. According to fascist US media, these groups have carried out attacks on government buildings in various parts of the country, which clearly were linked to the ongoing revolutionary struggle against the state, capital and imperialism. The most recent attack involved a bombing at the headquarters of Hellenic Train last April. Revolutionary Class Self-Defense reportedly dedicated the attack "to the Palestinian people and their heroic resistance."

One of the other organizations is Antifa Ost, a revolutionary organization linked to attacks in Germany between 2018 and 2023. German prosecutors have already charged seven individuals allegedly connected to its activities. In September 2025, the Hungarian state designated the group as a terrorist organization after allegations that nine members attacked Nazi's in Budapest in 2023 using hammers, clubs, and pepper spray.

Another central group is the Informal Anarchist Federation, a coalition based in Italy that supports armed revolutionary struggle against the state. The group has been linked to dozens of revolutionary actions over the past two decades, including letter bombs sent to government and industrial targets, small explosive devices, and shooting incidents, including the injury of a nuclear engineering employee in 2012.

This is not the first-time anarchist organizations have faced designation. The Conspiracy Cells of Fire and Revolutionary Struggle have both faced the same designation from the US regime. But the expansion of this process, as the US is launching internal fascist repression, makes this incredibly significant.

16 Nov - A Basket of Thoughts

Italy: Statement from anarchist prisoner Massimo Passamani in solidarity with hunger strike

MORE:

via *Abolition Media*

In the twilight zone of sorts, I find myself in- neither free nor fully imprisoned – I have decided to give up my daily work release from prison for the next week, as a gesture of solidarity with the Palestine Action comrades on hunger strike in British prisons, a strike my friend and brother Stecco has also joined. I know that my staying in prison instead of going to work will not bother the prison administration in the least. But my message is not addressed to prison management – whom I have nothing to say to and nothing to ask of but to those who are fighting against the genocide of the Palestinian people, alongside its indomitable resistance.

What I can offer, along with this small gesture, is a basket of thoughts, a handful of words with which to express what is in my heart.

The strength that comes to me from British prisons which, in turn, reflects the tenacity of that resistance which Zionist prisons and administrative detention centers are unable to bow, despite the isolation, the torture, and the rapes has not only the form of a commonality of ethics and ideals, but also the intensity of the emotions I feel in reading the hunger strike statements. I am convinced because I feel it in every fiber of my soul – that the worldwide stirring against the genocide in Gaza and against the global system that makes it possible is a new start, a beginning. In addition to what has happened in the streets, in the ports, in the universities; in addition to the sabotages done by day and by night, the protests that link prisoners across cell bars, countries, and continents are also an important sign of this. First of all, because the relationship

being created between “inside” and “outside” is one of reciprocity and circularity, and not just one of support from “outside” to “inside”. The fact that the shutdown of all Elbit Systems establishments in the UK is one of Prisoners for Palestine’s demands shows the will not to separate one’s own fate from the liberation of Palestine, a goal that requires nothing less than the global subversion of the relations of power and exploitation, of which Zionist settler colonialism is an essential node.

The algorithmic genocide of the Palestinian people is the most heinous expression of a scientific- military-industrial system at war with the oppressed, with immigrants, with women, with those who are different, with children, with all life, and, at this point, with humans as such.

If, as Mohammed El-Kurd wrote, there are “seeds that sprout in hell”, the revolt against the hell of Gaza is sprouting an International of humankind.

The fact that State terrorists cry “terrorism” in the face of attempts to at least partially sabotage their genocidal violence means that they are starting to feel afraid. And so they should. Because burning hearts, unlike algorithms, are not predictable. And they are not predictable because they do not subordinate their seeking for freedom and justice to cost-benefit analyses. As a tree does not need to see all of the forest to know the great oak has been felled because it senses it through the close-knit network of its roots – so do those humans who refuse to become machines feel the suffering and the joy of other humans they will never meet. Solidarity between unknown sisters and brothers, whose deeds and words inflame us, is the moral leavening of every Intifada, the most precious gift in the basket.

Strength and courage to Palestinian prisoners. Strength and courage to prisoners for Palestine. Solidarity with Anan, Ali and Mansour. Side by side with my friend and comrade Stecco.

17 Nov - Prairieland Defendants Update

Majority of Defendants Expected to Enter ‘Not Guilty’ Pleas December 3, Refusing Early Plea Offer of Up To 15 Years in Prison

MORE:

Twelve people were federally charged late last week in connection with the immigrant solidarity demonstration at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center on July 4, 2025. The new indictment and charges, including rioting, attempted murder, and material support for terrorism, came as a majority of defendants are expected to plead not guilty on December 3. Notably, federal prosecutors are offering early plea deals with recommended sentences of up to 15 years in prison.

A number of defendants could plead guilty in the coming days as a result of pressure by the federal government. The terms of the plea agreements have not been made public, but some defendants are refusing to cooperate against their codefendants. Historically, in politically motivated cases, defendants who take federal plea deals that involve cooperating with the government against their codefendants have not necessarily received more lenient sentences, and may not lessen the potential legal harm stemming from their corresponding State cases.

“The prosecution is grasping at straws,” said National Lawyers Guild member Kris Hermes. “Plea deals offered this early show the government is desperate for a quick conviction that fits their nonsense ‘Antifa’ narrative. This case is a shoddy attempt to terrorize the movement in solidarity with immigrants, but it’s not going to work.”

The defendants who were federally charged last week were added to the case of Autumn Hill and Zachary Evetts, who were federally indicted last month. US District Court Judge Mark Pittman granted the government’s motion earlier in November to designate the Prairieland case as “complex”, thereby delaying the trials of Hill and Evetts, which were scheduled to start later this month. Another defendant, Daniel Sanchez-Estrada was previously indicted separately and has now been added to this case, and his trial has

been delayed from early December, as originally scheduled. It's now unclear when Hill, Evetts, Sanchez-Estrada, and the other defendants will go to trial.

The Prairieland case has been hailed by the Trump administration as the first legal case against Antifa. FBI director Kash Patel called the defendants "Antifa-aligned anarchist violent extremists," sharing *Fox News* coverage of the case on X. On September 25, the White House released the National Security Presidential Memorandum-7 (NSPM-7), which ordered all federal law enforcement agencies to prioritize combating "Antifa" as a domestic terrorism threat.

The latest indictments come just weeks after criminal charges were filed against Johnson County Sheriff Adam King, whose office is working with the federal government to prosecute the Prairieland defendants. Supporters of the defendants call into question the credibility and integrity of King and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. "I'm just worried about the Johnson County Sheriff's Office respecting defendants' rights and following the law," said Irina Popova, a member of the DFW Support Committee. King is facing four felony charges, including aggravated perjury, corrupt influence, and abuse of official capacity, casting doubt about the veracity of the Prairieland case.

The new charges have been devastating for not only the defendants but also their families and loved ones. "It was really heartbreaking to see my sister is facing eleven of the twelve total charges. We all want her to come home," said Diana Rueda-Muñoz, sister of Maricela Rueda. "But she's strong, and we stand with her as she fights these outrageous charges."

In addition to the federal charges, a total of fifteen defendants were also indicted last month on state charges, including aggravated assault, engaging in organized criminal activity, and hindering the prosecution of terrorism. The concurrent state and federal charges are forcing some defendants to defend themselves in two separate but related cases, with testimony and evidence from one potentially impacting and prejudicing the other.

The various cases stem from a noise demonstration in solidarity with ICE detainees at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas, on July 4, 2025. Toward the end of the demonstration, an officer with the Alvarado Police Department arrived and allegedly quickly became involved in an exchange of gunfire with someone else on the scene. The officer sustained minor injuries, and was released from the hospital shortly afterwards. Ten people were arrested at the scene or shortly after, and a manhunt ensued in the subsequent days for another defendant. Eight more defendants were arrested in the days and weeks following the protest.

November 19th - Interview with Activist Supporting Prairieland Anti-ICE Political Prisoners

1. Tell us about the latest arrests in connection to the Prairieland case and the "Antifa" charges.

What is the significance of these charges?

The Prairieland Case has become a sprawling and dangerous example of the new face of repression. The case stems from a noise demonstration on July 4th outside the Prairieland ICE Detention Center, which is in a small town south of Fort Worth. At that demo there was allegedly an exchange of gunfire between a police officer and one person at the scene in which the officer was injured. Now 18 people are facing life-altering charges and the highest levels of the Trump administration are using this case as an example of "ANTIFA" terrorism. Importantly, the federal case began moving three months after the arrests immediately following the now infamous NPSM-7 declaration.

2. What do you know about the conditions and treatment of the prisoners?

It's clear that the state is attempting to break defendants' will to fight by putting them through grueling pre-trial detention. For the first three months while in Johnson County Detention Center (the jail for the county where the arrests occurred), defendants were held in isolation, denied adequate medical care, subject to invasive strip searches at all hours (including at 2am), and held in unsanitary conditions. One defendant was even put in a cell with feces smeared on the wall, given cleaning supplies and told to clean it up.

Since October, defendants have been taken into federal custody and many of them were moved, including to a jail over two hours away, making visits from family extremely difficult. Defendants have little chance of being released before trial because of exorbitant bonds, most \$10 million and some as high as \$15 million. Some defendants have petitioned for these to be reduced, but for one who succeeded at this it was only reduced to \$1.5 million.

3. Why is this case so important to support, particularly in relation to free speech, association, and assembly?

The state is only claiming one person fired a weapon, but have created an elaborate narrative of an underground terroristic “cell” of “ANTIFA” planning an ambush. They have presented no direct evidence of this claim and instead are presenting political speech and beliefs as evidence. As a result, things like some defendants running a print shop to print radical literature, or private signal messages discussing the limitations of protest marshals are being presented in open court as evidence of criminality. We should assume this approach is not isolated to this case, but will be extended and patterned across the country as more people take brave acts to defy ICE and Trump.

4. There seems to be a conspicuous absence of broad support for the Prairieland defendants from certain groups, why do you think this is? What would you say to people who are squeamish about denouncing the repression against the defendants due to accusations of violence?

I think the underlying reason is fear. As the stakes and intensity of state repression have increased, people have to make choices, and many so far have decided to try and avoid being caught in the cross hairs. This case in particular has been controversial because it does appear likely that a police officer was injured by gunfire (though he only spent a few hours in the hospital and is reportedly now back at work), and a number firearms were found in searches of people’s cars and homes (which is protected by the Second Amendment). Moreover, given that all the defendants that were allegedly present on July 4th are still in custody it has been extremely difficult to get compelling counter-narratives of the events out publicly.

However, there has been a shift in the mood of sympathy in the last few months as popular resistance has grown and the mendacious and unreliable nature of the Trump DOJ has become mainstream knowledge. We have seen more skepticism of the official narrative and more understanding of this case as a key precedent for anti-ICE protesting and other forms of dissent. This new momentum would not have been possible without the staunch support from organizations like the National Lawyers Guild, which has been championing our cause from early on.

5. What can people do to support the Prairieland prisoners?

There are a number of ways folks can support the defendants. At this point we still have a big need for fundraising to help pay for lawyers. The State of Texas seems intent on continuing to prosecute the cases even though the federal case is moving forward. That means we need two sets of lawyers for most of the defendants. Private attorneys have ranged from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Not to mention the ongoing needs of defendants’ loved ones to help pay mortgages, car payments, and support children so that the defendants have lives to come home to. We have an online fundraiser and we encourage everyone who’s able to contribute: givesendgo.com/supportdfwprotestors

The second way folks can help is by writing to the defendants. This will be a long fight and we need to do everything we can to help give folks the strength they’ll need to win. Hearing from supporters far and wide is a huge help with that. Since these folks are pre-trial and the case is extremely political, we ask people to be careful with what they write, but talking about all the beautiful things in the world goes a long way. To find out how to write the defendants and hear more about them please see dfwdefendants.wordpress.com

Finally, we ask people just to help get the word out. So far, this case has not gotten the level of attention we think it deserves. Talking to people about how unbelievable the official narrative is and how the government is going after people for their political beliefs will help not only grow support for the defendants but also deepen the resistance to the authoritarian turn in American politics.

We must use organizing against state repression as a way to grow and strengthen the broader movement. That applies to this case as much as any other. We encourage people to use this support to build solidarity and spread the spirit of resistance. Hold a letter writing, put on a benefit concert, or make stickers and post them up around town. The defendants in this case are believers in freedom and resistance to ICE's kidnappings off the street. We must use every opportunity we can to honor that cause and build a movement for the kind of world we want to live in!

19 Nov - Action Alert for Political Prisoner Xinachtli

For weeks, Xinachtli has been struggling with a worsening medical condition, and his health is deteriorating fast.

MORE:

He is having difficulty walking, standing, and using the bathroom, and he has already suffered two falls, cracking his head on the floor in his second fall.

He is currently in the McConnell Unit's medical department without a diagnosis, without access to his medical records, and without a phone cord to contact people outside. At 73 years old, after more than 23 years in solitary confinement, this is elder abuse, medical torture, and neglect.

We need public pressure now.

Please call the McConnell Unit's medical department, Regional Director, and Senior Warden to demand that Xinachtli has his communication restored, receives the medical attention he urgently needs, and is transferred to a medical or geriatric facility.

Sign up for a 15-minute calling slot for the rest of the week: bit.ly/xphoneblast

21 Nov - The FBI spied on a Signal group chat of immigration activists

Agency accessed private conversations of New York 'courtwatch' group that was observing public hearings

MORE:

by Sam Levin (*The Guardian*)

The FBI spied on a private Signal group chat of immigrants' rights activists who were organizing "courtwatch" efforts in New York City this spring, records shared with the *Guardian* indicate.

The FBI, the documents show, gained access to conversations in a "courtwatch" Signal group that helps coordinate volunteer activists who monitor public proceedings at three New York federal immigration courts. The US government has been accused of violating immigrants' due process rights at those courts.

A "joint situational information report" from the FBI and the New York police department (NYPD), dated 28 August 2025, quoted from a chat on Signal, the encrypted messaging app, and also characterized the court watchers as "anarchist violent extremist actors". The two-page report was distributed to other law enforcement agencies across the US.

The records were obtained by Property of the People, a government transparency non-profit, through public records requests.

Activist groups have expanded efforts to observe and document courthouse activities in recent months as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has increasingly been detaining immigrants who have shown up to court for routine hearings. An ICE directive issued the day after Donald Trump took office in January established that agents could arrest immigrants at court; the practice had been restricted under the Biden administration due to concerns that court arrests would interfere with "the fair administration of justice".

In immigration courts across the country this year, the US government has repeatedly dismissed immigrants' cases at their hearings, enabling federal agents to then arrest the immigrants in courthouse hallways, the *Guardian* previously reported. A recent Associated Press investigation suggested that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has set up "deportation traps" at the courts. A federal officer was filmed pushing a woman to the floor at a New York City courthouse in September, prompting a rare rebuke from the DHS.

The FBI's report from August, prepared by its New York division, does not make clear how the bureau accessed the Signal group. The Signal platform, widely used by activists, is known for its end-to-end encryption; typically, the only way law enforcement can access messages is if they are directly included in the chat, are sent copies from a participant or have access to a member's unlocked phone.

The FBI said the information came from a "sensitive source with excellent access" and introduced the report as a warning about "extremist actors targeting law enforcement officers and federal facilities".

In "late May", an individual "participated in a debrief session held via a Signal call within the 'courtwatch' Signal groupchat", the FBI wrote, without identifying the individual or the specific group or organizations involved. That person "discussed how to improve future activities near federal facilities in New York City, including 26 Federal Plaza, 201 Varick Street and 290 Broadway", the report continued, listing the addresses of three immigration courts in Manhattan.

"Collecting media of activities was 'critical information'; media included photos and videos of law enforcement officers including their badges, faces, names, license plates, law enforcement vehicles, and the interior of federal facilities," the FBI wrote, summarizing the conversations.

Discussions in the chat included "instructions on where to go and what to say in order to gain access to federal courtrooms", with the FBI noting that members of the group were told which floors to visit and to tell officials they were there to observe, with statements like: "I'm due at a 9:30 hearing."

The FBI added: "'Courtwatch' is a private/invite only, encrypted Signal application group chat created by the identified [individual]. In private encrypted online chats, the identified [individual] is known to instruct protest participants to use violence against [law enforcement]."

The FBI declined to comment in response to a detailed list of questions. The DHS also declined to comment, referring questions to the FBI. ICE did not respond to requests for comment.

The memo did not provide any further details about the individual or their alleged past calls for violence and offered no specifics or evidence to explain why the FBI characterized them as "anarchist violent extremists". The courtwatch efforts have been nonviolent, and the FBI did not respond to an inquiry seeking specific examples of violence and did not answer questions about whether law enforcement had ongoing access to the private group.

An NYPD spokesperson said in an email: "This is not an NYPD document. It references a broader counterterrorism investigation into a range of possible criminal activities, including weapons training, violence against law enforcement, property damage and destruction, and discussions about bomb-making. This investigation has been reviewed by an external civilian representative exercising oversight pursuant to court order."

The FBI's report does not include references to "bomb-making" or any of the other specific claims of criminal activity, and the NYPD declined to comment further.

Hearings at immigration court, which is run by the Department of Justice (DoJ), are open to the public and observers do not have to inform the courts in advance of their attendance.

It's unclear whether specific groups were targeted by the Signal surveillance. Volunteers with a range of immigrants' rights organizations and grassroots groups have been involved in New York immigration court watching, which has become a common practice in cities across the country as DHS arrests have escalated.

Brad Lander, New York City's comptroller, was arrested by ICE in June inside an immigration courthouse while accompanying an immigrant New Yorker. The former mayoral candidate, who has regularly participated in court watching, condemned the FBI's report in a statement, saying the "FBI surveillance tactic is ripped straight out of the J Edgar Hoover playbook", referring to the longtime former FBI director known for his spying and attacks on activists.

"Observing immigration court hearings is a legal and non-violent act, unlike the ICE abductions we have witnessed regularly for months outside of the courtrooms," Lander said. "The mission of courtwatch is to provide transparency and ensure people are not disappeared without due process – surveillance and intimidation by Trump's corrupted Justice Department won't stop us from showing up to protect our neighbors and the rule of law."

"Basic civic participation is not a terrorist threat," added Dr Ryan Shapiro, executive director of Property of the People, in a statement. "The FBI treating it like one is yet another example of the Trump regime's profound contempt for even the most rudimentary of democratic freedoms."

Natalie Baldassarre, a DoJ spokesperson, did not respond to questions about the FBI surveillance, but said in a statement: "After four years of the Biden administration forcing immigration courts to implement a de facto amnesty for hundreds of thousands of aliens, this Department of Justice is restoring integrity to our courts and will continue to enforce federal immigration law to protect national security and public safety."

Spencer Reynolds, a civil liberties advocate and former senior intelligence counsel with the DHS, said the FBI report was part of a pattern of the US government criminalizing free speech activities. He noted Tom Homan, the White House border czar, stating earlier this year that "know your rights" trainings could be considered impeding law enforcement; the DHS arresting people filming immigration agents; and Trump signing an executive order designating "antifa", the decentralized antifascist movement, a "domestic terrorist organization", raising fears of a broad crackdown on leftist activism.

"The US government is turning these powerful national security agencies towards critics and people who are standing up for the rights of immigrants, and while it's so shocking to see something like this, it's not surprising," said Reynolds, who reviewed the FBI document for the *Guardian*. "These activities, and public access to our courts, are lawful and protected by our rights in the US constitution, yet routinely we're seeing federal officials portray efforts to obtain basic accountability as threats."

FBI surveillance of this nature is not subject to significant oversight and there are limited guardrails to prevent abuses of people's rights, Reynolds added.

Reynolds likened the FBI surveillance to the bureau's past efforts to infiltrate and disrupt the civil rights movement in the 1960s and spy on Muslim communities after 9/11.

Undercover operations, he noted, can lead to conflicts among activists and increasing distrust: "There is a significant risk of chilling and undermining these sorts of private discussion environments."

23 Nov - Feds Want To Make It Illegal To Own Anarchist Zines

Daniel Sanchez is facing federal charges for what advocates say is a clear attack on the First Amendment.

MORE:

by Seth Stern (*The Intercept*)

Federal prosecutors have filed a new indictment in response to a July 4 noise demonstration outside the Prairieland ICE detention facility in Alvarado, Texas, during which a police officer was shot.

There are numerous problems with the indictment, but perhaps the most glaring is its inclusion of charges against a Dallas artist who wasn't even at the protest. Daniel "Des" Sanchez is accused of transporting a box that contained "Antifa materials" after the incident, supposedly to conceal evidence against his wife, Maricela Rueda, who was there.

But the boxed materials aren't Molotov cocktails, pipe bombs, or whatever MAGA officials claim "Antifa" uses to wage its imaginary war on America. As prosecutors laid out in the July criminal complaint that led to the indictment, they were zines and pamphlets. Some contain controversial ideas — one was titled "Insurrectionary Anarchy" — but they're fully constitutionally protected free speech. The case demonstrates the administration's intensifying efforts to criminalize left-wing activists after Donald Trump announced in September that he was designating "Antifa" as a "major terrorist organization" — a legal designation that doesn't exist for domestic groups — following the killing of Charlie Kirk.

Sanchez was first indicted in October on charges of "corruptly concealing a document or record" as a standalone case, but the new indictment merges his charges with those against the other defendants, likely in hopes of burying the First Amendment problems with the case against him under prosecutors' claims about the alleged shooting.

It's an escalation of a familiar tactic. In 2023, Georgia prosecutors listed "zine" distribution as part of the conspiracy charges against 61 Stop Cop City protesters in a sprawling RICO indictment that didn't bother to explain how each individual defendant was involved in any actual crime. I wrote back then about my concern that this wasn't just sloppy overreach, but also a blueprint for censorship. Those fears have now been validated by Sanchez's prosecution solely for possessing similar literature.

There have been other warnings that cops and prosecutors think they've found a constitutional loophole — if you can't punish reporting it, punish transporting it. Los Angeles journalist Maya Lau is suing the LA County Sheriff's Department for secretly investigating her for conspiracy, theft of government property, unlawful access of a computer, burglary, and receiving stolen property. According to her attorneys, her only offense was reporting on a list of deputies with histories of misconduct for the *Los Angeles Times*.

It's also reminiscent of the Biden administration's case against right-wing outlet Project Veritas for possessing and transporting Ashley Biden's diary, which the organization bought from a Florida woman later convicted of stealing and selling it. The Constitution protects the right to publish materials stolen by others — a right that would be meaningless if they couldn't possess the materials in the first place.

Despite the collapses of the Cop City prosecution and the Lau investigation — and its own dismissal of the *Project Veritas* case — the Trump administration has followed those dangerous examples, characterizing lawful activism and ideologies as terrorist conspiracies (a strategy Trump allies also floated during this first term) to seize the power to prosecute pamphlet possession anytime they use the magic word "Antifa."

That's a chilling combination for any journalist, activist, or individual who criticizes Trump. National security reporters have long dealt with the specter of prosecution under the archaic Espionage Act for merely obtaining government secrets from sources, particularly after the Biden administration extracted a guilty plea from WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. But the rest of the press — and everyone else, for that matter — understood that merely possessing written materials, no matter what they said, is not a crime.

Guilt by Literature

At what point does a literary collection or newspaper subscription become prosecutorial evidence under the Trump administration's logic? Essentially, whenever it's convenient. The vagueness is a feature, not a bug. When people don't know which political materials might later be deemed evidence of criminality, the safest course is to avoid engaging with controversial ideas altogether.

The slippery slope from anarchist zines to conventional journalism isn't hypothetical, and we're already sliding fast. Journalist Mario Guevara can tell you that from El Salvador, where he was deported in a clear case of retaliation for livestreaming a No Kings protest. So can Tufts doctoral student Rümeyşa Öztürk, as she awaits deportation proceedings for co-writing an opinion piece critical of Israel's wars that the administration considers evidence of support for terrorism.

At least two journalists lawfully in the U.S. — Ya'akub Ira Vijandre and Sami Hamdi — were nabbed by ICE just last month. The case against Vijandre is partially based on his criticism of prosecutorial overreach in the Holy Land Five case and his liking social media posts that quote Quranic verses, raising the question of how far away we are from someone being indicted for transporting a Quran or a news article critical of the war on terror.

Sanchez's case is prosecutorial overreach stacked on more prosecutorial overreach. The National Lawyers Guild criticized prosecutors' tenuous dot-connecting to justify holding 18 defendants responsible for one gunshot wound. Some defendants were also charged with supporting terrorism due to their alleged association with "Antifa." Anarchist zines were cited as evidence against them, too.

Sanchez was charged following a search that ICE proclaimed on social media turned up "literal insurrectionist propaganda" he had allegedly transported from his home to an apartment, noting that "insurrectionary anarchism is regarded as the most serious form of domestic (non-jihadi) terrorist threat." The tweet also said that Sanchez is a green card holder granted legal status through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The indictment claims Sanchez was transporting those materials to conceal them because they incriminated his wife. But how can possession of literature incriminate anyone, let alone someone who isn't even accused of anything but being present when someone else allegedly fired a gun? Zines aren't contraband; it's not illegal to be an anarchist or read about anarchism. I don't know why Sanchez allegedly moved the box of documents, but if it was because he (apparently correctly) feared prosecutors would try to use them against his wife, that's a commentary on prosecutors' lawlessness, not Sanchez's.

Violent rhetoric is subject to punishment only when it constitutes a "true threat" of imminent violence. Even then, the speaker is held responsible, not anyone merely in possession of their words.

Government prosecutors haven't alleged the "Antifa materials" contained any "true threats," or any other category of speech that falls outside the protection of the First Amendment. Nor did they allege that the materials were used to plan the alleged actions of protesters on July 4 (although they did allege that the materials were "anti-government" and "anti-Trump").

Even the aforementioned "Insurrectionary Anarchy: Organizing for Attack" zine, despite its hyperbolic title, reads like a think piece, not a how-to manual. It advocates for tactics like rent strikes and squatting, not shooting police officers. Critically, it has nothing to do with whether Sanchez's wife committed crimes on July 4.

Being guilty of possessing literature is a concept fundamentally incompatible with a free society. We don't need a constitutional right to publish (or possess) only what the government likes, and the "anti-government" literature in Sanchez's box of zines is exactly what the First Amendment protects. With history and leaders like Vladimir Putin and Viktor Orbán as a guide, we also know it's highly unlikely that Trump's censorship crusade will stop with a few radical pamphlets.

The Framers Loved Zines

There's an irony in a supposedly conservative administration treating anti-government pamphlets as evidence of criminality. Many of the publications the Constitution's framers had in mind when they

authored the First Amendment's press freedom clause bore far more resemblance to Sanchez's box of zines than to the output of today's mainstream news media.

Revolutionary-era America was awash in highly opinionated, politically radical literature. Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" was designed to inspire revolution against the established government. Newspapers like the *Boston Gazette* printed inflammatory writings by Samuel Adams and others urging the colonies to prepare for war after the Coercive Acts. The Declaration of Independence itself recognized the right of the people to rise up. It did not assume the revolution of the time would be the last one.

One might call it "literal insurrectionist propaganda" — and some of it was probably transported in boxes.

The framers enshrined press freedom not because they imagined today's professionally trained journalists maintaining careful neutrality. They protected it because they understood firsthand the need for journalists and writers who believed their government had become tyrannical to espouse revolution.

For all their many faults, the framers were confident enough in their ideas that they were willing to let them be tested. If the government's conduct didn't call for radical opposition, then radical ideas wouldn't catch on. It sure looks like the current administration doesn't want to make that bet.

29 Nov - Animal Rescue Benefit Show

WHAT: Benefit Concert

WHEN: 6:00pm, Saturday, November 29th

WHERE: Trans-Pecos - 9-15 Wyckoff Avenue, Queens

COST: \$5

MORE:

NYC ABC will be tabling at this benefit for Stray Pride Animal Rescue. It's an all-ages show! Bands include: **Spesia** | *Watchlist* | **Matar** | *Diskordia* | **Keefchamber**

30 Nov - Free Alex Stokes

WHAT: Support Event

WHEN: 4:30pm, Sunday, November 30th

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

A gathering of support for incarcerated comrade Alex Stokes through poetry, music and letter-writing.

On January 6, 2021, Alex, a member of a counterprotest group documenting the "Stop the Steal" rally at the New York State Capitol, was-attacked by armed right-wing extremists. During the clash, he suffered a broken wrist and used a pocket knife to defend himself and others, which resulted in non-fatal injuries.

Alex was later convicted on two assault counts and a weapons charge, receiving two consecutive sentences totaling 20 years. His trial, held nearly two years later, lacked adequate defense, and the jury was not informed of his role as a journalist.