



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for September 25th

11 Sept - Update from Jalil Muntaqim on Parole Hearing

NYC Jericho received a call from Jalil September 11, 2018. He now says that he would like to appear before the parole board in November, not October.

MORE:

When Jalil spoke with Commissioner Alexander on June 12th, she told Jalil that he could request an earlier date than December when he was ready to go to the Board.

On August 2, Jalil requested that ORC Aldano, his counselor, put him on the September list for the Board.

On August 10, Jalil wrote a letter to Tina Stanford requesting that she check to see he was on the list for September.

On Sept 5, Mr. Justiniano, Deputy Supervisor of Programs at Sullivan, informed Jalil he was not on the schedule for September Board hearings.

Jalil spoke with the Warden, Keyser, on Sept. 6, but did not receive any response as to why he was not scheduled for September. Also, Jalil's mother spoke with Ms. Villa, one of Tina Stanford's assistants, on that same day, and she was told there was no reason Ms. Villa could see as to why Jalil was not scheduled.

Jalil spoke with Mr. Justiniano on Sept. 7, and asked him why he was not scheduled to go to the Board. Mr. Justiniano stated three times: "I cannot say." Jalil asked him, "You can't say, or you won't say?" and received the same response. (This would seem to indicate that Mr. Justiniano has orders not to tell Jalil why he was not scheduled.)

Jalil would like to go to the Board in November, not December, and is requesting that he be put on the November calendar.

Once we have more information, we will report immediately.

September 15th - Let's Bring Jalil Muntaqim Home on Parole in 2018!

Since Jalil's parole hearing has been postponed until November 2018 due to a factual error on his COMPAS Risk Assessment Report, there is still time for friends and supporters to write letters for him.

To write a letter in you own words in support of parole for Jalil, address to:
Senior Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator
Sullivan Correctional Facility
325 Riverside Drive
Fallsburg, New York 12733

BUT SEND TO:

Nora Carroll
The Parole Preparation Project
168 Canal Street, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10013

The subject line should be "Anthony Bottom 77-A-4283"

We are making an effort to include letters of support for Jalil that are personalized and from people who are familiar with him and his work. If you want further instructions for how to write a strong, personalized letter of support, please email carroll.nora@gmail.com.

13 Sept - FBI sought electric chair execution of Black Panther leaders in Omaha

Instead of gunplay the Omaha FBI office sought to kill two Black Panther leaders with Nebraska's electric chair.

MORE:

by Michael Richardson

On December 4, 1969, in a Federal Bureau of Investigation orchestrated pre-dawn raid in Chicago, Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were shot to death. Fourteen handpicked policemen, armed with twenty-seven firearms including a Thompson submachine and shotguns, converged on Hampton's apartment at 4:45 a.m. Police fired a barrage into the quiet apartment killing the two Panther leaders and wounding all of the other occupants.

Attorney Paul Wolf has commented on a December 8, 1969 raid in Los Angeles. "Four days after a similar raid on a Panther apartment in Chicago, forty men of the Special Weapons and Tactics squad, with more than a hundred regular police as backup, raided the Los Angeles Panther headquarters at 5:30 in the morning. The Panthers chose to defend themselves, and for four hours they fought off police, refusing to surrender until press and public were on the scene. Six of them were wounded. Thirteen were arrested. Miraculously, none of them were killed."

"The similarities between the Chicago and Los Angeles raids are undeniable, with a special local police unit closely linked to the FBI involved in both assaults, spurious warrants seeking "illegal weapons" utilized on both occasions, predawn timing of both raids to catch the Panthers asleep and a reliance on overwhelming police firepower to the exclusion of all other methods. Both raids occurred in the context of an ongoing and highly energetic anti-BPP COINTELPRO, and—as in the Hampton assassination—bullets were fired directly into Pratt's bed. Unlike the Chicago leader, however, Pratt was sleeping on the floor, the result of spinal injuries sustained in Vietnam."

On December 10, 1969, two days after the raid in Los Angeles, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was unhappy with a lack of action in Omaha. Hoover sent a stern memorandum to Paul Young. "While the activities appear to be limited in the Omaha area, it does not necessarily follow that effective counterintelligence measures cannot be taken. As long as there are BPP activities, you should be giving consideration to that type of counterintelligence measure which would best disrupt existing activities. It would appear some type of counterintelligence aimed at disruption of the publication and distribution of their literature is in order. It is also assumed that of the eight to twelve members, one or two must surely be in a position of leadership. You should give consideration to counterintelligence measures directed against these leaders in an effort to weaken or destroy their positions. Bureau has noted you have not submitted any concrete counterintelligence proposals in recent months. Evaluate your approach to this program and insure that it is given the imaginative attention necessary to produce effective results. Handle promptly and submit your proposals to the Bureau for approval."

Young, mindful of the deadly raid in Chicago a week earlier, selected two Omaha leaders, Edward Poindexter and David Rice (later Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa) for COINTELPRO misdeeds. Young planned an ambush in Carter Lake, Iowa after being tipped by United Airlines personnel about a shipment of Black Panther newspapers arriving at Eppley Airport in Omaha. Details were never finalized as Young's agents were unable to obtain the sought cargo information.

Young was able to satisfy Hoover's blood lust for lethal outcomes with a plan to blame the two Panthers. Instead of gunplay to kill, Young's counterintelligence plan would use Nebraska's electric chair to execute the men. The Omaha Two faced death sentences at their controversial 1971 trial for the August 17, 1970 murder of Patrolman Larry Minard.

The electric chair was last previously used in 1959 to execute serial killer Charles Starkweather. It was used three times since the Minard murder trial in 1971. Nebraska abolished the death penalty in 2014 and then restored it in 2016. Nebraska executed its first prisoner by lethal injection in August 2018.

Omaha police sent the most critical piece of evidence, a 911 recording of a killer's voice, to the FBI Laboratory for analysis to identify the anonymous caller who lured police to a bomb-rigged vacant house. However, the search for Minard's killers was not a search for truth. Hoover ordered results of the laboratory testing squelched with no written report. The jury never heard the voice on the 911 recording, a voice that did not fit with the FBI-orchestrated prosecution scenario.

Although it took three days of deliberation to reach a verdict, the jury convicted Poindexter and Rice; however, the jury spared their lives and ruled out execution. Rice, who became Mondo in prison, died at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in March 2016. Poindexter remains imprisoned at the maximum-security prison where he continues to proclaim his innocence.

14 Sept - Solidarity with the Newnan Defendants!

Stand with antifascist defendants in Newnan, Georgia, targeted by the police during anti-Nazi demonstrations in April of this year.

MORE:

On April 21st, 2018, the National Socialist Movement held a white power rally in Newnan, Georgia (approximately 40 miles southwest of Atlanta). Over 700 officers from 42 different agencies mobilized in Newnan to protect the white supremacist gathering and to crack down on counter-protesters. As anti-racists gathered for their protest, militarized police moved in, brutalizing protesters, arresting people seemingly at random, and at one point aiming a loaded rifle at the crowd. Although Georgia's mask law – originally an anti-Klan measure – was used a pretext for the police assault, both masked and unmasked protesters were arrested.

In the aftermath of April 21, Deputy Chief Mark Cooper of the Newnan Police Department stressed the law-abiding nature of the neo-Nazis hosted by the city. In contrast, Coweta Sheriff Mike Yeager portrayed anti-racists as a threat: "They came here to antagonize, take control of our community and incite fear." (Trump has since nominated Yeager for the position of US Marshal for the Northern District of Georgia.)

It was later exposed that the City of Newnan and the Coweta County Sheriff's Office treated a fantasy about an "antifa" rampage in Newnan authored by a far-Right militia supporter as intelligence on anti-racist planning and intentions for April 21st.

Since Newnan, there has been a clear trend of police across the nation acting in tandem with the far-Right to suppress anti-racist protest. In Portland, Oregon, police almost murdered a protester on August 4, when they fired a flash-bang grenade at the head one of the hundreds of anti-fascist protesters mobilizing against the far-Right "Patriot Prayer" organization. In Berkeley, California, police published names and photos of arrested anti-racists, facilitating harassment by the far-Right. In Chapel Hill, North Carolina, police have

repeatedly assaulted and arrested anti-racist protesters while helping racist neo-Confederates, ever since the fall of the Silent Sam monument in late August.

Operating in the background, fusion centers under the Department of Homeland Security continue to treat anti-racists rather than murderous white supremacists as their primary concern. These centers have also treated far-Right conspiracy theories and scare stories about “ANTIFA” as credible threats.

It is urgent and essential that we show real solidarity with the victims of this worrying trend. State violence and repression against anti-fascists are intended to break our movements, by spreading fear and by isolating people as they face trial. By standing shoulder to shoulder with those facing repression, we demonstrate that our movements will not be deterred.

In Newnan, twelve anti-racists were arrested on April 21st, but two were quickly released once police could not charge them with anything. Of the ten people who were charged, four have had their charges dismissed or taken plea deals. Two defendants still face felony charges. Funds are still needed, especially as several defendants are still looking for lawyers.

To help with fundraising, please donate and spread this appeal:
actionnetwork.org/fundraising/newnan-anti-nazi-protest-arrestees-still-need-our-support

In addition, we are asking for public displays of solidarity with the Newnan defendants. Consider hosting a fundraising event, dropping a banner or taking a squad pic. Use the tag #NewnanStrong on social media to circulate news of your efforts, and to let the defendants know you stand with them.

14 Sept - Pennsylvania to end prison book donations, forcing inmates onto pricey eBook platform

Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections is planning to ban free book donations to inmates by mail, claiming that this is a "primary avenue for drugs" to enter prisons.

MORE:

by Rob Beschizza (*BoingBoing*)

But the move coincides with a renewed push to get prisoners buying into a pricey prison eBook system that offers low-end tablets for \$150 and eBooks no cheaper than \$3 a read.

"Effective immediately, the DOC will begin to transition to ebooks coupled with bolstered DOC library system featuring centralized purchasing and ordering process," the DOC announced at its website. "No books or publications will be shipped directly to an inmate. ... [we] will no longer accept books donated directly to individual inmates."

Presented as evidence by the DOC was a letter from a prisoner it said "describes how to smuggle drugs through a popular book donation program." As the Prisoners Lit Project and others pointed out, though, the letter didn't say anything at all about drugs: "the poor guy just wanted a dictionary!"

The project describes itself as an all-volunteer grassroots group that sends free books to prisoners in the United States. It sends 30-40 packages a week to prisoners—no drugs included—and plans to fight what it sees as an "unfair and shortsighted change" that will effectively end the program.

"Banning books from 'books to prisoners' organizations is inhumane," it wrote.

Another similar organization, Book' Em, said it mails hundreds of book packages to prisoners and would push back against the policy.

A third, Books to Prisoners, said that Pennsylvania prisons' libraries are underfunded and often inaccessible and challenged the DOC's claims otherwise. The Amistad Law Project described the new policy as "horrible" and "dehumanizing."

The tablet devices hawked by the DOC are bulky and low-end, with tiny low-definition color displays not intended for reading at length, rudimentary hardware and translucent materials to prevent them being used to hide contraband. They cost \$147 plus tax, about three times the price of the only extant consumer device, the \$50 Amazon Fire, with similar specifications. There is no repair service: any problems with the device and you have to buy a new one.

Then prisoners must pay a minimum of \$3 each per eBook from the same state-contracted vendor, which offers a list of only 8,500 titles.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Samantha Melamed writes that other states are embarking on similar plans, and they're likely to meet stiff court challenges:

Critics see the DOC rules as part of the same "war on books" — and they are hoping to achieve the same reversal here. To that end, they've already set up online petitions and planned a day of action for Friday to flood state officials and lawmakers with phone calls. Organizations including the Pennsylvania ACLU and the Pittsburgh-based Abolitionist Law Center that have sued the DOC successfully in the past said they are evaluating the situation.

"We're already starting to get a lot of complaints," said the Abolitionist Law Center's Bret Grote. "It was only a few days into this in which it became clear to me that this is almost certainly going to result in years of protracted litigation, and it's going to become a defining moment in the future of prisons in this state."

18 Sept - Political Prisoner Rev. Joy Powell Needs Our Help!

Joy Powell is an anti-police brutality activist from Rochester, New York.

MORE:

She was framed up on false charges and is actively working on legal documents to bring her case to court. In addition to suffering from diabetes, Joy is also hearing impaired and needs to read lips.

The first incident occurred on August 22nd, when Officer Olivio was closing the cell doors. Joy did not hear him announce this, and her hand was stuck when the cell door closed on it. Joy said she would not write him up, since this was apparently an accident.

The second incident occurred on August 30th, once again when C.O. Olivio was closing the cell doors. Since Joy is not in a cell designed for the hearing impaired, she was standing in the doorway and once again did not hear the announcement that the cell doors were being closed. The door was coming right at her, so she put up her right hand to block the impact. The other women were screaming at C.O. Olivio to open the gates, since Joy was stuck in the door. His response was to sit there and laugh.

Now Joy's right arm is broken and in a "soft" cast, since a hard cast is considered a security risk. The prison doctor told her it was good she had put her hand out, otherwise her ribs might have been smashed, which can easily cause punctured lungs.

Joy is asking us to call Commissioner Anthony Annucci's office at 518.457.8134 to demand that C.O. Olivio be removed from his post.

People should also call the Office of the Inspector General at 800.367.4448 and Governor Cuomo at 518.474.8390.

18 Sept - Statement on Police and FBI Harassment of Silent Sam Defendant

The following was submitted to It's Going Down after an FBI agent tried to talk with an anti-confederate statue activist in North Carolina.

MORE:

On Tuesday, September 4th, at 5:37 pm, I was contacted by a Captain of my local police department in Western NC. He expressed that he had received a call from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (agent name not specified), in which they requested he set up a time for them to meet with me.

I expressed that as the FBI had no warrant or subpoena for me, I would not be meeting or cooperating with them, and directed all further inquiries to my attorney.

For context, I am one of the folks arrested in connection with the toppling of Silent Sam on August 20th, 2018. The Captain expressed to me that my name had come up regarding that arrest, but that the FBI agent did not disclose the nature of the questions they wished to ask me.

Several days later, my attorney was able to speak with a FBI agent, who claimed the reason for the attempted meeting was due to my pistol purchase permit. The exact claim of the agent was that when an individual is arrested, and immediately applies for a PPP, it sets off an algorithm of sorts that makes the FBI set up a meeting, to ascertain that the individual was not attempting to purchase the pistol with nefarious intent. As a note of clarification, I did not, in fact, apply for the PPP after my arrest, but the day before. It was in "pending" status on 8/20/18.

While it is easy to speculate that the whole incident is related to silent Sam coming down, we don't have any concrete evidence of that at the moment. It is important to remember that the FBI is less interested in the specifics of any one protest than curbing the movement against white supremacy and state violence that have rapidly been growing and intensifying over the past few years.

Regardless, it is a good time to refresh your knowledge on what to do if you are approached by federal or state agents, or local cops. I reaffirm my commitment to not talking to or working with any authorities, and hope everyone reading this will do the same. For a quick primer on what to do if you are approached by the so called "authorities", check out: Knock on the Front Door: Preparing for Repression <itsgoingdown.org/knock-front-door-preparing-repression>.

20 Sept - 'Treating protest as terrorism': US plans crackdown on Keystone XL activists

Documents suggest an aggressive response to possible protests against the oil pipeline amid fears of another Standing Rock

MORE:

by Will Parrish and Sam Levin (*The Guardian*)

Angeline Cheek is preparing for disaster. The indigenous organizer from the Fort Peck reservation in Montana fears that the proposed Keystone XL pipeline could break and spill, destroy her tribe's water, and desecrate sacred Native American sites.

But environmental catastrophe is not the most immediate threat.

The government has characterized pipeline opponents like her as “extremists” and violent criminals and warned of potential “terrorism”, according to recently released records.

Life on the Keystone XL route: where opponents fear the ‘black snake’

[Read more](#)

The documents suggested that police were organizing to launch an aggressive response to possible Keystone protests, echoing the actions against the Standing Rock movement in North Dakota. There, officers engaged in intense surveillance and faced widespread accusations of excessive force and brutality.

“We have to stay one step ahead at all times,” said Cheek, a Hunkpapa and Oglala Lakota activist and teacher. “History is repeating itself.”

The proposed TransCanada project would carry a daily load of 830,000 barrels of oil over 1,204 miles – from Alberta, Canada to Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, linking to the existing Keystone pipeline and Texas refineries. The path of the project, which was revived by Donald Trump last year, would cross dozens of rivers and streams and run near a number of Native American reservations, sparking legal challenges and a judge’s recent order for a full environmental review.

If the pipeline gets final approvals and construction advances in the coming months, some are anticipating massive demonstrations similar to the fight against the Dakota Access pipeline (Dapl). That conflict galvanized a global movement, but also led to FBI monitoring and the prolonged prosecution of hundreds of activists.

Documents obtained by the ACLU of Montana and reviewed by the Guardian have renewed concerns from civil rights advocates about the government’s treatment of indigenous activists known as water protectors.

Notably, one record revealed that authorities hosted a recent “anti-terrorism” training session in Montana. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency also organized a “field force operations” training to teach “mass-arrest procedures”, “riot-control formations” and other “crowd-control methods”.

A US justice department intelligence specialist told the Guardian the terrorism training was an annual presentation not specific to Keystone. But the ACLU noted that its records request was specifically about the pipeline protests, suggesting that authorities considered the session relevant to Keystone preparation.

The repeated mass arrests at Standing Rock led to a litany of charges, but hundreds were eventually dismissed due to lack of evidence. Police deployed water cannons, teargas grenades, bean bag rounds and a wide array of weapons in North Dakota.

“Many of our residents were in Standing Rock, and they saw the level of violence that could be visited on us,” said Remi Bald Eagle, the intergovernmental affairs coordinator of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, which is located along the Keystone route. “There’s a level of anxiety and fear because we don’t know what’s going to happen.”

The ACLU of Montana, which filed a lawsuit this month against the government seeking Keystone records, earlier obtained a DHS report that said pipeline protesters were engaged in “criminal disruptions and violent incidents”. The report included two past cases of alleged “environmental rights extremists” committing violence.

But the events in question – a 2012 bombing and a 2015 shootout with police – had no clear links to any environmental protests, said Mike German, a former FBI agent and fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice.

“Treating protest as terrorism is highly problematic,” said German, noting that the US government has long labeled activism as “terrorism”, once claiming that filing public records requests was an “extremist” tactic. “It’s an effective way of suppressing protest activity and creating an enormous burden for people who want to go out and express their concerns.”

The “terrorist” and “extremist” labels can be used to justify brutality and a militarized operation, said Andrea Carter, an attorney with the Water Protector Legal Collective, a group that has represented Standing Rock defendants.

“It’s a really egregious tactic,” she said, noting that the labels also lay the groundwork for prosecutors to turn low-level misdemeanor cases into federal felony trials. “A lot of it has to do with public relations.”

The Montana documents have also shone a light on the coordination between governments across state lines, raising questions about how extensively law enforcement was devoting resources to Keystone protests before they had materialized. An email from the Montana fish, wildlife and parks department from earlier this year said state officials had conducted “extensive conversations with North Dakota to learn what worked and what didn’t work” when responding to Dapl demonstrations.

Montana authorities have done further training sessions on harnessing social media and have begun monitoring posts of anti-pipeline activists, a sheriff said at one meeting, according to a local news report.

The records also highlighted the existing relationships between law enforcement and TransCanada. A county sheriff included a TransCanada executive on communications about one law enforcement training. In August 2017, the Montana Petroleum Association, a trade group, also hosted a panel on “environmental activism” in the state, featuring three law enforcement officers alongside TransCanada’s senior security adviser.

Rachel Lederman, a civil rights lawyer representing Standing Rock activists in a civil case, said it was alarming to see that law enforcement from North Dakota was giving advice about future pipeline protests: “They are instant experts on quashing the indigenous insurgency. It’s very, very concerning, because what happened at Standing Rock was just a wholesale violation of civil rights.”

John Barnes, a Montana justice department spokesman, defended the preparation efforts, saying in an email to the Guardian that authorities were committed to protecting “the first amendment rights of everyone while also protecting private property and public safety”. He added: “In North Dakota, bad actors associated with the Dakota Access pipeline protests maliciously targeted public officials and law-enforcement personnel online, and so it is important that people be prepared here.”

Some activists said the law enforcement tactics would not deter them from Keystone opposition efforts – whether in court or on the ground.

“We’ve got a lot against us. We’re the underdog,” said Lance Four Star, the Fort Peck Assiniboine council chairman, who recounted a recent incident of harassment and heckling by a pro-pipeline, pro-Trump group while the tribe was doing a ceremony. “I may never see the results of my efforts in my lifetime, but hopefully our grandchildren will. What we’re protecting now is this water we inherited.”

Peck said she was also concerned about a potential increase in violence against indigenous women, stemming from the “man camps” where oil workers live. But the Montana wildlife department appeared to minimize this concern in one of the records, saying, “Although man-camps bring a certain degree of law enforcement challenges, the primary enforcement focus is protest activity.”

Organizers have discussed a “variety of strategies” to oppose construction, including “prayer camps” similar to Standing Rock, said Cheyenne River Sioux tribal member Joye Braun, who organized against Dapl and has been involved in Keystone efforts.

“Clearly, they’re scared of the power of our movement,” she said, adding that she accepted the reality that she may be under surveillance when she travels the pipeline route to meet activists. “We haven’t gone anywhere, and we’re just building momentum.”

Native Americans know the risks are immense. But the “terrorism” label would not intimidate them, said Leoyla Cowboy, the wife of Little Feather, who was recently sentenced to three years in federal prison for “civil disorder” at Standing Rock.

“As indigenous people, it’s embedded in our DNA. It’s our obligation to stand up.”

4 Oct - Benefit for NYC ABC

WHAT: Benefit Show

WHEN: Door at 8, Music at 8:30 SHARP! (Hard Curfew so please no punk time), Thursday, October 4th

WHERE: The Cobra Club—6 Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237

COST: \$10 suggested donation

MORE:

Come out for a night of heavy music for a cause.

All money raised will go to the NYC Anarchist Black Cross and our continued efforts to support political prisoners and fight for prison abolition.

BANDS:

Mary Todd (Grind-Math-Metal): marytoddshred.bandcamp.com

Necrotic Society (Hardcore Punk): necroticsociety.bandcamp.com

BLACKEST (Metal/Hardcore): blackestmusic.bandcamp.com

Despairwolf (Political Dark Hardcore): despairwolf.bandcamp.com

We will also have a table full of free literature and a few things to sell, like our fresh-from-the-printers t-shirts and the 2019 Certain Days Calendar.