



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for April 28th

13 Apr - Why Was the Prairieland Jury Persuaded to Convict Given the Government's Weak Case?

NOTE: The following mentions nine convicted defendants. NYC ABC only recognizes eight as political prisoners, as the ninth, Meagan Morris, following arrest, sat to be interviewed by the FBI which lead to future arrests of others.

MORE:

by Kris Hermes (*Unicorn Riot*)

In a surprising verdict, nine activists were found guilty last month in the Prairieland ICE Detention Center protest case. The defendants—Savanna Batten, Zachary Evetts, Autumn Hill, Meagan Morris, Maricela Rueda, Daniel “Des” Rolando Sanchez Estrada, Benjamin “Champagne” Song, Elizabeth Soto, and Ines Soto—were convicted of numerous federal charges, including riot, material support for terrorism, possession and conspiracy to use explosives, and conspiracy to conceal documents. Song was found guilty of attempted murder for allegedly shooting an Alvarado police officer.

The government was able to convince 12 jurors that a routine noise demonstration on July 4, 2025, in support of detained immigrants being held at Prairieland, was instead a terrorist plot to ambush police, carried out by a “North Texas Antifa Cell.”

Minor vandalism was turned into rioting. Consumer grade fireworks shot into the air were considered explosives, and simply being present at a protest became material support for terrorism. The transportation of First Amendment-protected political literature was characterized as concealment and menacing activity worthy of 20 years in prison.

Even the alleged shooting of Alvarado Police Lt. Thomas Gross, a focus of the government's case, is draped in mystique. The medical records for Lt. Gross, which would have shed light on his injury, have never been disclosed. Testimony from Lt. Gross on cross-examination revealed that his alleged injury may have been caused by a ricocheted bullet from suppressive shots fired at the ground after Lt. Gross was seen pointing his gun at the backs of departing protesters, just seconds after he arrived on the scene.

In other words, Song could have been trying to de-escalate a tense situation and prevent police from shooting protesters, but the government, and ultimately Judge Pittman, blocked Song from using such a defense at trial.

There has been a storm of press coverage around the verdict and its implications from media outlets across the political spectrum. But very little coverage focuses on how the jury was convinced by the flimsiest of cases.

Even four co-defendants who pled guilty before trial and testified on behalf of the prosecution failed to validate the government's claims that the protest was a planned ambush or that the defendants were “operatives” of a non-existent organization called antifa.

So, what persuaded the jury to convict on so many empty charges?

Part of the answer to that lies in the prejudicial actions repeatedly taken by officials at the highest levels of government, undermining the defendants' ability to get a fair trial.

President Trump and others in his administration have claimed since the arrests that this was the first “antifa” case. In September, President Trump designated antifa a domestic terrorist organization, despite the absence of any statutory framework allowing him to do so, and despite the widespread knowledge that the term “antifa” comes from an antifascist political ideology and is not an organization. Soon after, the White House released National Security Presidential Memorandum-7, which ordered all federal law enforcement agencies to prioritize combating antifa as a domestic terrorist threat.

Part of what likely persuaded the jury were the actions of the judge in what can only be seen as trying to rig the outcome of the trial. Early on, multiple defense lawyers were sanctioned for filing routine pretrial motions, a favorite tactic of Trump-appointed US District Court Judge Mark Pittman.

Weeks before trial, Judge Pittman declared that the trial would be held in a courtroom that could only accommodate a few dozen people and that there would be no livestream broadcast or overflow space made available, despite widespread public interest in the Prairieland case. It was only after significant public pressure that Judge Pittman opened an overflow room in a Dallas federal courthouse nearly an hour away from where the trial was being held in Fort Worth.

Toward the end of jury selection in mid-February, when it appeared that a jury would be empaneled which was critical of the Trump administration and its immigration enforcement practices, Judge Pittman declared a mistrial.

His excuse was a t-shirt meant to commemorate Rev. Jesse Jackson who had died that day, worn under the blazer of a Black defense lawyer. Instead of simply ordering her to change clothing, Judge Pittman declared a mistrial.

Jury selection for the next trial, which started the following week, was drawn from a jury pool almost twice the size, and Judge Pittman asked all the questions of the prospective jurors, preventing the trial lawyers from asking jurors follow-up questions.

Perhaps most notably, the government objected to the defense’s use of a ‘self-defense’ or ‘defense of another’ argument for Song, and Judge Pittman upheld the objection, thereby blocking a key defense strategy.

In addition to the hostile conditions imposed by the court, supporters suspect that there may have been undue influence on one or more jurors to convict. At the end of jury deliberations and in the courtroom during the reading of the verdict, there were some revealing signs worth investigating.

On the day of the verdict, Friday, March 13, shortly after the jury returned from lunch, a “loud uproar” could be heard coming from the jury room at approximately 1:00 p.m., according to Amber Lowrey, the sister of Prairieland defendant Savanna Batten.

Lowrey was sitting on a bench with her mother, and numerous other people were milling around in a relatively quiet hall outside the trial courtroom. Lowrey said everyone in the vicinity could hear the ruckus, and while she couldn’t hear exactly what was being said, she did hear several people yelling. The loud uproar went on for about a minute and a half and was so noteworthy that she recalled commenting with others about it.

The uproar occurred about an hour before the jury reached its verdict, according to Lowrey. As she and her mother entered the courtroom for the reading, Lowrey said the room was “packed with police officers and US Marshals and the atmosphere was much more hostile than it had ever been before.”

Once the jury was seated, Lowrey noticed that two male jurors were visibly crying which, in retrospect, was notable when combined with the fight she heard earlier in the jury room.

And after the shock of the verdict that few expected, Lowrey and her mother walked to their car, completely forgetting about the incident that took place in the jury room earlier that afternoon. As she and her mother sat, stunned, someone who works in the legal profession approached their car.

The person, who chose not to reveal their identity for this story, told them there had been a fight in the jury room and one of the defense lawyers had to alert US Marshals to break up the fight. Lowrey said the person was visibly shaken and crying while conveying this information.

A few days later, Lowrey was contacted by Tamera Hutcherson, a paralegal who had worked on her sister's case. Hutcherson confirmed that a fight had taken place in the jury room.

Coercion of jurors, whether by the court or by other jurors, is a serious issue and could constitute juror misconduct. Coerced verdicts violate a defendant's Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial, and can lead to mistrials, overturned convictions, new trials, or reversals on appeal.

Juror coercion need not be physical and can include pressure through intimidation, harassment, or verbal abuse to conform to the majority view, against a juror's conscience or honest belief. If a juror is found guilty of intimidation, they can face fines and imprisonment.

On Friday, March 27, defense lawyers filed post-verdict motions for judgments of acquittal and a new trial.

In one of the motions for a new trial, Batten's attorney Christopher Tolbert argued that juror misconduct and irregularities during jury deliberations compromised the integrity of the verdict and deprived Batten of a fair trial.

Tolbert commented on the "loud and sustained disturbance emanating from the area of the jury room" observed by several people on the day the verdict was reached.

"Based on information obtained after the verdict," Tolbert stated that there is reason to believe "jurors engaged in a heated confrontation inside the jury room and that certain jurors may have been subjected to intimidation or coercion during deliberations."

Tolbert argued that because there is credible evidence the jury's deliberative process was disrupted by misconduct and possible coercion, and because such conduct "creates a reasonable probability that the verdict was affected, the Court should grant a new trial in the interest of justice."

At a minimum, Tolbert said the judge should conduct an evidentiary hearing and permit examination of jurors in order to determine the extent and impact of the misconduct. The Fifth Circuit has made clear the trial court has an affirmative duty to investigate and ensure the integrity of the verdict, requiring the involvement of all parties in a properly conducted hearing.

The government filed its response to the motions on April 1, and US District Court Judge Mark Pittman is expected to rule on the post-verdict defense motions in the coming days.

Meanwhile, eighteen Prairieland defendants are still facing trials in State court, with the first trial against Dario Sanchez scheduled for April 20. Sanchez, the only defendant currently released on bond, is charged with hindering the prosecution of terrorism and tampering with and/or fabricating physical evidence for removing someone from private group text chats.

The other remaining Prairieland defendants will continue to fight their charges from inside prison, held on multi-million dollar bonds, further hindering their ability to adequately defend themselves and to counter the government's empty narrative.

April 13th – Dario's Pretrial Hearing: Continuance Granted, Prosecution Admonished for Delays

Key Takeaways

- Continuance granted (approximately 30 days / 4 weeks). Bond conditions suspended during the continuance. The state had not prepared briefs or communicated with defense.
- Judge admonished the prosecution for not being ready and warned that if it happens again, the state will reimburse defense attorney Harrington for time and materials.
- Conflict of interest raised: Both Dario [Sanchez?] and Jeanette Goering appear to be represented by or in communication with attorney Hoffman. The state is offering Dario immunity to testify against Goering. Judge gave parties until May 22 to sort out representation.
- Motion to quash remains pending. Defense filed it months ago with no response from the state. State claims no basis for civil discovery; defense disputes privilege claims. A defense request for a privilege log was denied.
- New trial date: June 22.

Narrative Summary

Motions and arguments

The hearing opened with the prosecution announcing a motion for continuance on the trial setting. Judge Bosworth asked whether the prosecutor had tried to talk to the defense about the issues — the answer was no. The state acknowledged it had been “hammered by the court of appeals” and had not responded to outstanding motions.

After a 15-minute break during which attorneys conferred informally, the hearing resumed. Defense attorney Harrington was called to the bench. The defense argued that the indictment had been filed months ago (ET recorded September; EW recorded December — timing unclear from notes), and a motion to quash had been filed subsequently, with no response whatsoever from the state. The defense argued it was “inappropriate to not file the response in writing” and warned the court that continued delays were putting the defense in a complicated position.

HR noted that the prosecution indicated it was “waiting on 12 terabyte” of data (likely discovery materials), making the original trial setting unrealistic. EW corroborated this, noting Hoffman agreed to the May 22 timeline given insufficient time to review “12 Tbyte info.”

Rulings and decisions

Continuance granted. Judge Bosworth allowed a roughly 4-week continuance and suspended bond conditions for the duration. The state must have briefs filed by May 22.

Prosecution admonished. The judge made clear the defense motions were persuasive and the prosecution’s lack of preparation was improper. Per EW: “I don’t want to [reject] the case on a technicality.” The judge warned that if delays recur, the state will be required to reimburse Harrington for time and materials used to prepare.

Privilege log request denied. The defense requested a privilege log; the prosecution opposed; the request was denied.

Bond suspended on Dario’s motion to quash, with Harrington able to reset the date at his convenience.

Key quotes

Judge Bosworth: “I don’t want to [reject] the case on a technicality.” (ET, EW)

Judge Bosworth: “Can’t have one side surprised at the last minute that a continuance is needed.” (HR)

Judge Bosworth (on conflict-of-interest issue): “You have to give them time to figure this out.” (EW)

Prosecution: “To be honest I don’t know where the extra file is.” (HR)

Prosecution: State has been “hammered by the court of appeals and has not responded.” (HR, EW)

Conflict of interest — dual representation

The prosecution raised a question about who represents whom: both Dario [Sanchez?] and Jeanette Goering appear to have been in contact with attorney Hoffman. The state announced it is prepared to offer Dario immunity to testify against Goering, making the dual representation a potential conflict.

The defense asserted that they “represent both defendants” and that there is no signed waiver between them. The defense cited the requirement for informed written consent from clients. The prosecution referenced Texas Rule 1.06B. Judge Bosworth gave the parties until May 22 to resolve the conflict-of-interest question, with written responses required on whether a conflict exists.

Incidents and atmosphere

- Prosecutors were overheard joking about taking vacation on the original trial days (April 20), the day trial was supposed to start. (HR)
- Prosecutors discussed “extra clerks... surplus clerks” — tone was casual and disorganized. (HR, EW)
- JOCO was described as overloaded with deadlines for appellate cases, particularly death penalty cases. (HR)
- The JOCO prosecutor was described as having been “chewed out” by the judge. (HR)
- Multiple hearings were happening simultaneously — six people incarcerated at JOCO were also having their hearings. Attorneys were “talking over other person’s hearing” at the start. (HR, EW)

14 Apr - Xinachtli Freedom Campaign April Update

Earlier this month, Xinachtli was transferred from Carole Young Unit to Estelle Unit in Huntsville, Texas.

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His condition has worsened since the move. He can no longer walk on his own and has no way to move himself around. He has not received any of his books, letters, or other personal property that should have been transferred with him. He continues to be denied the regular physical therapy, B12 shots, and diet prescribed by UTMB doctors.

Because he is in a high-security area, Xinachtli is also sleeping in a cell where the lights never turn off, and he has not been allowed any recreation time since his transfer. Estelle Unit may know who Xinachtli is, but they don’t know the amount of support he has behind him.

Call the unit and let Xinachtli know that people are watching—and that we are willing to disrupt business as usual until we see a change in his conditions.

Please take just five minutes out of your day to call, and most importantly circulate this among your members and community. Sign up using this link: bit.ly/xphoneblast

15 Apr - Marius Mason coming home soon

Marius has been serving a 22 year long sentence accused of arson at a University GMO research facility, logging infrastructure and a mink farmer’s boats.

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via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

He was locked up in 2008 after his arrest, and later sentenced in 2009. He has been an incredibly resilient activist behind bars, where he transitioned, set up Jan 22: Day of Solidarity with Trans Prisoners, fought for his own legal name change as well as for his ability to be moved to a male prison and has kept supporting workers rights, animal rights and environmental campaigns.

Last week it was announced that in May Marius will be released to a half-way house in Detroit. We don’t know what the conditions will be, but this is huge news and cause for celebration.

For now, if you can afford it, please support Marius by sending some money to his fund:
supportmariusmason.org/support

We will keep you updated with any news on his release, but please if you can, donate so he has a smooth transition to the outside world.

15 Apr - Man disarms U.S. warplane at Shannon Airport

Ireland: Mid-morning on April 11, 47-year-old Daithí O’Corrain entered an unauthorized area of Ireland’s Shannon Airport, climbed up on the wing of a U.S. military plane and began to disarm the aircraft by hitting the wing and fuselage with a hand tool, reportedly a hatchet.

MORE:

via *The Nuclear Resister*

The U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transport plane was parked on a remote taxiway. Airport police officers, gardai (Irish police), the airport’s fire and rescue service and members of the defense forces on duty at the airport quickly responded to the incident, and the airport suspended operations for under 30 minutes.

One source said that the C-130, valued at about \$160 million, suffered “extensive” damage. Because O’Corrain was still up on the wing when they arrived, the first responders had to roll a set of mobile stairs out to the taxiway in order to reach him. He was then arrested and taken into custody.

On April 13, O’Corrain was in Limerick District Court. He is facing three charges: trespassing at a taxiway at Shannon Airport, causing criminal damage to the perimeter fence and causing criminal damage to a U.S. military plane. Judge Patricia Harney denied O’Corrain bail and remanded him to custody to appear before Ennis District Court on April 15.

There have been frequent anti-war protests at Shannon Airport over the years, including multiple recent actions involving unauthorized access to restricted areas. U.S. military planes routinely refuel there, with activists arguing it conflicts with Ireland’s neutrality.

You can write a note of support to:

Daithí O’Corrain
Limerick Prison
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
V94 P8N1
IRELAND

16 Apr - Trial Update on Comrade Komar

Indonesia: After being arrested by the West Java Police in September 2025 and serving a six-month sentence at Kebon Waru Prison in Bandung, Comrade Komar was once again arrested by the Surabaya City Police on March 9, 2026, under charges of incitement.

MORE:

via *Dark Nights*

The new charges stem from different documents related to protests in Surabaya during August-September 2025, as well as involvement with the Black Bloc Zone account on social media.

It is worth noting that during his trial in Bandung, Comrade Komar had already disclosed that his actions did not meet the criteria for criminal offenses.

On Thursday, April 16, 2026, Comrade Komar will face his first hearing at the Surabaya District Court. Let us show solidarity for Komar, and for all anarchist prisoners in Indonesia.

16 Apr - The Cells Inside ‘One of the Most Archaic Prisons in the United States’

In 1917, a group assembled by the New Jersey Legislature to investigate prison conditions found that the buildings at West Compound in the New Jersey State Prison (NJSP) were “wholly unsuited for the present needs either of the inmates or of the officers.”

MORE:

by Shakeil Price (*Prison Journalism Project*)

It recommended replacing it with a new prison “with suitable living conditions and space for work and recreation.”

In 1952, after a riot at NJSP, a group of officials and experts issued a report to the then-governor that condemned the prison, calling it “one of the most archaic in the United States.”

It too recommended building a new prison according to “standards of modern penology” rather than attempting “piecemeal and temporary measures to stave off the ravages of old age.” Historical preservationists even began taking steps in the 1980s to memorialize records—assuming a demolition was imminent.

And just last year, in September, the New Jersey Office of the Corrections Ombudsperson released a report on the conditions of the West Compound at NJSP—widely considered the oldest operating prison in the country.

“The buildings in the West Compound are nearly 200 years old,” the report reads, “and for at least the last 100 years, correctional leaders, policymakers, and subject-matter experts have called for it to be demolished and replaced.”

Its top recommendation: “Prioritizing and funding the demolition and replacement of the West Compound.”

Thomas Koskovich, who has been held at NJSP for nearly 30 years, was not surprised when he learned the prison was marked for demolition over 100 years ago.

“I always felt this place was old,” he said. “I always knew it was decrepit. But the report validated what I’ve known all along.”

Despite a century’s worth of calls for West Compound to be demolished and replaced, there are still more than 600 people incarcerated in a prison that has been deemed “antiquated” and “inhumane.” Rusty pipes, leaky ceilings and poor lighting are a feature, not a bug, of this place.

In an email to a *Prison Journalism Project* editor, Christopher Greeder, a spokesperson for the New Jersey Department of Corrections, said the department “continues to maintain and enhance infrastructure across facilities while pursuing long-term modernization and replacement of aging units.”

“Maintenance issues [in West Compound housing units] are addressed daily, with repairs and upgrades completed on an ongoing basis,” he wrote.

‘Shockingly’ small cells

The wings on the West Compound are intimidating in size. From the entrance, the length of the unit appears never-ending. The tiers stack four stories high with 33 single-occupancy cells on each tier. The décor is a medley of metal pipes and steel bars. Clanging and clinking reverberate throughout the unit. The poor lighting gives an eerie vibe, like you’re in the basement of a dark castle.

The wings may be massive, but the cells are the opposite.

The main components of any prison compound are its cells. They range from 28 square feet, in 7-Wing—about the size of an elevator—to 45 square feet in 1-Right, which is roughly the size of a king-sized mattress or standard bathroom in an old apartment building. Now imagine spending up to 22 hours per day inside one of these, as many people in West Compound are forced to do.

The NJDOC spokesperson did not dispute the amount of time residents are confined to their cell but said West Compound offers “structured daily movement,” including “gym, school, meals, kiosks, showers, religious services, employment, and programming,” as well as “evening incentive recreation and club activities.”

The 4-by-7-foot cells are so small—“shockingly small” is how the report described them—that a person can extend their arms and touch both side walls with the palms of their hands.

These cells aren’t suited for tall people, said Paul Reid, who is 6-foot-4 inches. The bed is too small for him. He sleeps on the floor diagonally so he can stretch his legs all the way out.

“I haven’t had a comfortable night’s sleep in 24 years,” Reid said.

The thin mattress sits atop a metal frame with a wire-mesh platform. It takes up 13 ½ square feet—nearly half of the cell’s floor space.

I currently reside on 6-Wing. The size of these cells are 35 square feet. Imagine being forced to live in your walk-in closet with a bed, sink and toilet all crammed inside of it. Add to that all of your personal belongings—in my case a TV, a radio, two fans, an ice cooler, books, letters, family photos and court transcripts.

To reclaim that extra 13 ½ square feet of floor space, I stand the bed up against the wall. With the bed down in its proper position, the cell is so cramped I have to sidestep to get around, and I have a slim physique.

Rodents, Roaches and Sewage

For a little more wiggle room, I prefer to sleep on the floor, even though this compound is infested with rodents and roaches. I see them when I walk to the shower or to work: big dead roaches. When I was locked up on 1-Right, rats came out every night like clockwork.

I was fortunate to be on the third tier, but I would hear guys on the bottom floor—the “flats,” as we refer to them here—bang on the walls and cell doors to scare away the rodents preying on little mice. On the wing where I’m housed now, guys who live in the corner cells spread Ajax cleaner on the floor outside their entryways to deter intruders.

Greeder said the department has invested “significant resources” in managing the pest problem, including “frequent extermination, trapping, and targeted treatment.” He continued, “A licensed exterminator services the area five days per week, with additional treatments as needed. These sustained efforts have substantially reduced pest-related activity, and sanitation and pest concerns continue to be addressed through established inspection and work-order processes.”

Meanwhile, the majority of units have no windows in the cells to allow fresh air to circulate, no air-conditioning to ward off the summer’s oppressive heat and no running hot water to wash your face in the morning.

“I’m from Mexico,” said Richard -Toledo, who’s been locked up here for 20 years. “And I’m used to underdeveloped establishments, but at least [in Mexico] we got hot water in the cells in our prisons.”

Greeder said hot water is available “through dispensing machines, except one wing which operates as a Restricted Housing Unit.” Though, in my experience, these machines are typically used for tea and coffee, not personal hygiene.

The toilets are a unique system that I have yet to witness anywhere else. The toilet is actually a hole in the wall with a metal circle cut out where you can defecate and urinate. Sitting down, you face toward the front of the barred cell door, leaving you exposed to passersby. A knob on the wall flushes the water. But the waste from all the cells constantly flows beneath the makeshift toilets. Through the hole, you can see and smell the sludge of feces and urine.

“It’s more like a latrine than a toilet,” Jamie Centeno said of the toilets on 6-Wing. “The whole tiers’ shit and piss is gathered in them holes.”

17 Apr - Lines in the Sand

To commemorate Palestinian Prisoners’ Day—April 17, 2026—Casey Goonan’s support crew are sharing Lines in the Sand: Writings on the Gaza Solidarity Encampment & Campus Flood at U.C. Berkeley from an Anarchist Prisoner of War, a collection of writing Casey produced while imprisoned at Santa Rita Jail awaiting trial for actions carried out in solidarity with the Palestinian people enduring and resisting genocide in Gaza.

MORE:

Download e-book at withwhateverweapons.noblogs.org/post/2026/04/17/lines-in-the-sand

As a comrade in many movements—from street uprisings for Black liberation, mass prisoner struggles, and anti-imperialist solidarity in the belly of the beast—Casey’s works (whether in their own name as a guerrilla intellectual or anonymously in uncountable movement contributions) have never been bound by barbed-wire barriers or ephemeral abstractions, always seeking to help us to determine what’s possible here and now, especially through their immense efforts in the zine-to-prisoner distro True Leap Press.

Casey’s intellectual curiosity is limitless, and, while what’s collected here is far from the entirety of what Casey wrote while at Santa Rita, these are the interventions that Casey drafted, edited, edited again, and sent outside to us in a stack of manila envelopes for us to share widely with those who need them. Writing is a task that never ceases for Casey—they are always reading, reflecting, and sitting down with a pen in hand to poetically untangle not just their context of captivity but the wider stakes of global anti-imperialist struggle.

Casey, in their words and in their action, has always sought to intervene directly into the only fight worth intervening in—the struggle for a better world, without walls or cages. Their writings collected here—tactical and strategic assessments of possibilities for action, precise analysis of the (material and discursive) political economy of U.S./Zionist settler-colonialism, imperialism, and genocide, as well as personal reflections on the stakes of taking the leap into action—are an invitation for each of us to continue to rigorously interrogate our own sites and scenes of struggle, to hold open concealed possibilities, to break down the walls that divide us from the “we” we could become, and to take the true leap into action.

This book is the result of inside/outside collaboration from a few comrades to the end, lovingly transcribed from hand-written letters, and presented to you as a revolutionary gift and intervention in the struggle for Palestinian liberation and abolition of the colonial-imperialist prison world. Casey’s wish to release their writing to the world on Palestinian Prisoners’ Day is also a desire to shrink the fabricated distances between our global struggles, which we share with Casey as a serious project for any emancipatory struggle, especially since imprisonment as an institution spreads across the prison world, the prison sky.

It is Casey's hope that you will read, print, and share this book, reflect on it with those with whom you're in struggle, and ultimately enter into a broader conversation about what transpired across university campuses in 2024 in solidarity with Gaza as well as what is possible / necessary to do here and now. As a free-to-download, anti-copyright body of work, this collection is an invitation to expand our material and collective support for Casey and other comrades behind bars and to also shrink the fabricated distances between "inside" and "outside"—our comrades inside have much to contribute. Each chapter of this book is also available as a zine for ease of reading and distribution.

For more information on how to write to Casey or to put money on their books, visit freecaseynow.noblogs.org

20 Mar - In Contempt #6 Is Out

In Contempt, a monthly roundup of political prisoner, prison rebel, and repression news, happenings, announcements, action and analysis, is out, covering Palestinian Prisoners' Day, New Book from Casey Goonan, Marius Will Be Free, Malik "Disappeared," Anarchists of the World on Trial..., & More.

MORE:

You can read In Contempt online or download it reformatted as a zine at incontempt.noblogs.org

21 Apr - 'I've become stronger:' Leqaa Kordia on life after ICE detention

One month ago, Mondoweiss reported on what would be Leqaa Kordia's final hearing to determine bail eligibility while confined in Prairieland Detention Center in North Texas. Now, she has returned to her home in Paterson, N.J., with renewed strength.

MORE:

by Sam Judy (*Mondoweiss*)

Kordia's release was widely celebrated. Notable supporters like Zohran Mamdani lauded her release, as did organizations including the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). Perhaps the best known Columbia protester who had been arrested, Mahmoud Khalil, also met with Kordia, joining her at a press conference at Paterson City Hall alongside his wife and fellow activist Dr. Noor Abdalla.

Kordia had been detained for a year, with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) claiming a student visa expiration as the reason for her arrest. However, throughout litigation, DHS lawyers alleged that Kordia was potentially tied to terrorism through bank transfers – a point that was proven false when her lawyers presented substantial evidence identifying payments as remittances to family members who had no ties to terrorism. DHS also pointed to Kordia's arrest at a protest outside Columbia University during the campus demonstrations of 2024, which DHS alleges were "pro-Hamas" and supportive of terrorism.

After the judge's order to release Kordia was appealed by DHS twice, her third hearing set her bail at \$100,000 and facilitated her subsequent release.

One month after leaving Prairieland, Kordia remains steadfast and determined to shed light on injustice – both in Palestine and in the United States. In an interview with *Mondoweiss*, Kordia speaks about life following her detention, the friends she made in confinement, and her identity as a Palestinian.

Mondoweiss: Leqaa, thank you so much for speaking with us. What have you been up to since you've been released?

Leqaa Kordia: It's been catching up with family, spending time with friends, alongside telling the story. I would like to say telling the story, not advocacy – just simply telling my story and the story of the ladies who were detained with me.

Can you tell me more about the strength you gained from friends you made inside and how your release felt knowing how many have remained inside?

So basically, we were a lot of women in one place, trapped in one place. We ate together, we laughed together, we cried together. If somebody was sick, everybody was around trying to help with the little that we have. With all of this, I spent 24/7 with these women. So they became friends, they became kind of family also. They would inspire me.

When I saw a pregnant lady who was in pain and needed medical care, but still, if you talked to her, she was smiling, trying to tell you a joke or something. Or if you saw an elderly woman who could barely walk, but still she would come to you when you were sick and try to make soup or something hot for you in a facility microwave, just to make you feel better – although she herself could barely walk. They inspired me with their strength. They inspired me with their unity. They're very strong women. They're daughters, they're mothers, they're teachers, they're doctors, they're housekeepers. They are just people who love to dream and love to live.

Are there any particular stories that you go back to in your head, or any moments inside that have really stuck out in your memory now that you're out?

I mean, so many stories. It was a whole year taken away from my life, so it was a lot of stories. But there is this one story of an elderly lady in her late 60s. She went to her regular check-in, and she got arrested. They didn't tell her why. They didn't give her charges or anything for months. Then she was ordered to court. She appealed that.

But the story is that she had two grandchildren who were very attached to her – extremely attached to her – and they're very little. She would cry almost every night, and she would be praying out loud to God: "Oh God, I just want to be dying among my family. I just want to be with my family." She would literally tell me, "If the judge ordered me to stay in my son's house and never leave, I will agree."

There is another story of a refugee. She grew up in America. She came as a refugee to America when she was seven years old. She's a green card holder. Her mother is a US citizen. Her siblings are US citizens. Her husband is a US citizen. One day, she received a message from ICE to come to check in. She had never checked in before because she's a green card holder. She went for a check-in. They arrested her without explanation, without any reason. Since then, she's been in detention now for, I think, six months. She's been transferred to different facilities without explanation. She's been denied bond. We're talking about a refugee, a green card holder, married to a US citizen. This is another story of how much injustice there is in this place.

There was this lady who gave birth to her son. A week later, they arrested her. They deported the baby with one of the family members, but they kept her in custody for about three months, then they deported her. You see how cruel it is. They could have deported them together, for example. Even this, they didn't give her. There are so many stories.

Tell me more about your arrest and where your head was at in the aftermath of that.

First of all, I've never committed any crime. I was very shocked and disappointed to know that the reason for my arrest in 2025 was because I practiced my freedom of speech. It was because I called for the end of the genocide. I called for a ceasefire. I called for peace. That was very disappointing and very shocking.

If you talked to me at the beginning, I would have told you, "No, I will be out in like two weeks or so," because I didn't do anything wrong. I went to a protest against a genocide. This shouldn't be something wrong. Every human should be protesting against a genocide. So I still had hope in the system, government, laws, everything. I was like, "No, I'm gonna be out in a short time." When I appealed my first bond, I was really disappointed.

It was hard. It's really hard to know that the land you always heard about as the land of freedom, the land where everybody can be whoever they want with whomever they want – it was very disappointing for me to be held for simply practicing my freedom of speech.

This all technically started at that protest outside Columbia in April 2024, and it feels like such a full-circle moment. How do you feel you've changed from this experience?

I've become stronger. Don't forget that I'm a Palestinian – it runs in my blood. I would often be thinking of my family and my people in Gaza and Palestine, and their resilience would inspire me. Their strength would lift up my spirit. I would be inspired by them, their resilience, and their stories.

I would often also think of the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli military prisons. There are thousands of Palestinians being held, many of them without trial, many of them without charges, being tortured, abused, denied basic human rights, starved on a daily basis. This would give me the power to continue to tell the story, to tell my story, because I'm one of them. I'm a Palestinian. I can't separate my story from the Palestinian story.

We often compare ICE with the IDF, given that ICE has literally been trained by them. Did you notice similarities between ICE and the IDF's conduct?

Yes. The humiliation, stripping people of their dignity, not calling us by names but calling us by numbers. Or seeing children – like this girl, she was 16 years old. She told me how ICE agents stormed her school and dragged her in front of her classmates. I saw this happen to my classmates in the West Bank.

Israel is one of the only countries that arrests children and puts them in military prisons, without charges, without trials. And ICE is doing the same. They arrest children, they jail them, they kill them. My experience in ICE jails brought back all these bad memories of the West Bank and the checkpoints, the surveillance, the humiliation, the controlling. It's extremely similar.

As a Palestinian, what is the thing that you wish people in the States more widely understood?

As a Palestinian, I have the right to live with dignity, to live with freedom, to live with justice. Calling for the end of genocide shouldn't be a question. It shouldn't be, "Is that right or wrong?" Every human being should be calling for an end to genocide.

Our very existence is being questioned. For my entire life as a Palestinian, I live just to prove or just to try to exist. It's almost like we're begging the people of the world just to see us as human beings. I grew up as a Palestinian being used to my voice being silenced, seeing other Palestinian voices being silenced, hearing about people who advocate for Palestine or call for the Palestinian voice being silenced. So it's not a new thing, unfortunately. It's sad, and it hurts me to say that I'm used to this. I don't want to be used to this. I don't want to be just living and that's it. I want to live with freedom and dignity and justice as a Palestinian.

And what do you think people need to understand about what's still going on in Palestine?

Palestine has been under military occupation, under apartheid, for many years. It didn't just start. What's happening in Palestine is genocide against the Palestinian people, no matter what their religion is, no matter what their color is. It's every Palestinian person. It's ethnic cleansing. It's systematic ethnic cleansing. The

Israelis are systematically cleansing the Palestinian people. We're not just talking about Gaza. We're talking about what's happening in Jerusalem, the lands of '48 [areas within Israel's 1948 borders].

What's happening in Gaza is devastating. Bombs are still dropping, snipers are still shooting, tanks are still rolling, destroying buildings, cars, properties. And people still don't have access to medical care, basic medical care – something like a painkiller, for example. They still don't have easy access to it. Food and water is very, very minimal in Gaza.

Israel says they're allowing food trucks into Gaza. But most of the time, when the Palestinians – when my family – go to take this food, they're shot dead. They're killed by the Israeli military, by a strike, by a sniper. My family, for example – all of them, whoever's left in Gaza – they live in tents. In the winter, they're soaked with water. In the summer, they can barely breathe. You can't breathe in these tents made of plastic and UN-donated flour bags.

So the situation in Gaza is very devastating, and we could take hours to talk about it. But in general, what's happening in Palestine is not only about Gaza, not only about the West Bank, not only about Jerusalem – it's about the entirety of Palestine. And don't forget also the Palestinians in the diaspora. There are more than 5 million Palestinians who are refugees and denied the right to return to Palestine. Often, when we talk about Palestinian rights, some people might say, "Oh, just stop killing them, and that's it." And we forget about the more than 5 million Palestinian refugees outside of Palestine who are denied their basic right to return to their homeland.

What's your favorite thing about Palestine? What sticks out in your memory?

Everything is beautiful about Palestine. The land, the trees, the sea, the soil. Everything is beautiful about Palestine. Everything speaks in a poetic way. I'm about to cry. I can't tell you what's my favorite thing about Palestine. Palestine is a piece of heaven on earth.

Have you stayed in contact with your friends that are still inside? How are they doing?

Yes, I am still in touch with the ladies inside. The situation is still horrible. The conditions seem like they're getting worse every time. We're trying to talk more about the conditions so they can improve them and do something better, but it seems like nobody's caring. It gets worse and worse and worse.

For example, I'll tell you the story of an Iranian lady who came to the US as a UN refugee. She was paying her taxes. She was going to her regular check-ins, and one day she got arrested by ICE. She suffers from a rare sickness. She needs special medical care. She needs proper food – she needs to be careful about what she's eating, what she's drinking, all that. And in ICE jails, the food is not edible. The water has things swimming in it. They don't give you fruits or vegetables or anything like that.

So what happened to this lady is that she's not getting even the basic medical care. Now she's literally half paralyzed – the left side of her body became paralyzed, completely paralyzed. I asked, "What medication are they giving you?" She said, "Nothing." "What food are they giving you? Are they giving you fruits, at least, or vegetables?" She said, "No." So this is one of the stories of the ladies that I'm still in contact with.

I would love to hear more about your conversation with Rashida Tlaib while inside. Tell me about that.

Congresswoman Tlaib was very eager to see with her own eyes what's going on. I had the honor to meet her in person. She's an incredible person. She has this dedication to helping people and trying to do anything to improve things, to make the situation better.

What she's said [about ICE detention] is completely true. What we know is that all of these ICE jails are privately owned businesses for different companies, and they're working with the government. They're

profiting from the government, and the government is profiting from them. So yes, her statement is completely correct.

What was the thing about being inside that disheartened you the most, and on the other hand, what was the moment inside that gave you the most hope?

It's interesting, because they're both kind of connected, kind of the same. What really disheartened me the most was being denied my basic religious rights and human rights, and also thinking of my family in Palestine. All I could do when I was outside was go to protests calling for the end of the genocide, and when I was inside the jail, I couldn't even do this. Being denied my religious rights would really, really break my heart and make me sad all the time.

But what lifts my spirit, either in the jail or now, is actually my connection with Allah. This gives me more strength and keeps me going, having this tranquility and this peace inside me – just the mindset that Allah took care of me. I'm not alone. This was very, very important for me.

24 Apr - Statement of anarchist comrade Nikos Romanos

Greece: Please read the latest by Nikos Romanos, written as he prepares for a decision on his pending appeal.

MORE:

via Act for Freedom Now!

I am here after almost 18 months of arbitrary and vindictive detention. I also want to contribute to the restoration of the truth with my statement. In general, I believe that the only reason I am here is my past. And I will explain later why I say this.

First of all, let me repeat here, as I have said from the beginning, that I have nothing to do with this specific case. I have not committed any of the offences attributed to me and I believe that this entire story, this entire path that has led me here, is the result of revenge that has brought me to this objectively unfavorable position.

Before we get to how I ended up here, let me tell you that since my release in 2019 I have had an active social and political life. As for my social life, I will not describe it to you because the witnesses have described it and I do not want to repeat things. I want to say other things that have not been heard.

I would like to talk to you about the difficulties that have to do with the adaptation of a person who is released from prison after 7 years. Difficulties that have to do with the obligations – at least as I perceived them – towards my family environment, which has supported me from the first moment of my arrest until today. Some other formal obligations that I tried to fulfil in many ways. And schematically, what should be captured here as an experience is the image of a person who has just been released from prison.

Prison is the land of frozen time. There is a rudimentary social life. Outside, everyone moves forward, relationships develop, everyone makes their choices, people change, mutate, all the things that happen. And, when it is a long-term confinement, when you come out, you essentially come out of a refrigerator. You try to come face to face with material reality. A reality which has changed since the last time you remember it, possibly rapidly. You are called to be able to cope with this, to try to lift weights, something that you had not done in all the previous years. Because, in a way, in the previous years, others lifted the weights for you. So, I want to present them in a way that draws on personal experience. So that it can also be understood by you.

I tried, anyway, to adapt to this reality. To get back in touch with the people I had left behind. For example, high school seniors, some of my friends. I had had very little contact with these people until then, i.e. we would say a “happy new year”, a “happy birthday”. All of this was a difficult and arduous process. I tried to

find a job, and I found a job. I tried to build some social relationships, which created joy and pleasure for me, with my family, my partner and with my other friends. Essentially, I started to make some plans for my life, some projects. This is a schematic description of my social life.

At the same time, I obviously had a political life, a public political life. I participated in cultural and all kinds of other events. I participated in demonstrations, obviously. I participated in demonstrations for issues that raised awareness, for prisoners' rights, in events with the bar association, for criminal codes. We have coexisted with several lawyers in such events, whether they are from the anarchist space or from the left. We have been in such places.

Again, to record this specific experience, I want to say that for me the most important moment in my political life, the most important thing I did from my release until today, was the restoration of the monument of Alexandros Grigoropoulos and the event that was held in connection with it. I believe that, in a way, an attempt was made to restore a monument that was in decay. And to give some meanings, some narratives, some testimonies so that the memory of the people who lost their lives in the way they did could be "conveyed".

So, these are schematically the social and political life I've had from 2019 onwards.

This was violently interrupted with my arrest outside my parents' house, in Papanastasiou Street. Essentially, I experience it as a *déjà vu*, because I have gone through all these stages. It was like a trauma that reopens and repeats itself. Quite a bad experience. Unfortunately, I have had the misfortune to go through these processes many times. After a while, when I understood what was happening, I had exactly in my head what was going to happen. That is, that I would be treated like a prize, there would be the channels, and that would be the framework. I would be sold as a product of political marketing. All these things, which unfortunately you cannot avoid. I was aware that they would happen from the moment I understood what was being attributed to me, because at first I did not understand.

And the most important thing about this is that I actually experienced, and I'm here with all that has happened, for a choice that I didn't make. On the contrary, in the past, for the choices I had made, I always took responsibility. I defended them. And I didn't just defend them to a friend. I defended them publicly, I defended them in courtrooms like this one. I stood before my real judges and explained in detail what the history is, what the social context is within which I made certain choices. Choices that are a part of my existence, no one denies that.

As well as that, I have been in courts where I have been accused of things I have not done. And these, the truth is, were not a few – if I am asked I can list them for you. With elements that were without criminal significance, where they were part of a broader context of that period. In these courts, the reason I continued and went and said "I have nothing to do with it", was not because I sought better criminal treatment – because my criminal treatment was horrible anyway. I simply sought the restoration of the truth. Everyone will face the consequences of their choices, for what they have done. Not for what they have not done.

So, right now I'm in a Kafkaesque situation, that's how I characterize it. It centers on a tragic incident, where a man, the anarchist Kyriakos Xymitiris, lost his life, his comrade, Marianna Manoura, was seriously injured, and a load of people have had problems in their daily lives. A truly tragic incident.

A tragic incident that has been politically instrumentalized from the very beginning, and I consider my own case to be the icing on the cake of this instrumentalization. This instrumentalization has stages: it started from point zero and reached the final point, within which various incidents developed: media, police, etc. Essentially, what I wonder, and I am expressing it here publicly, is how much discussion can there be about a bag?

I repeat again, concerning things that I have done, I have no problem in taking responsibility for my choices, defending them, exposing them, formulating the context in which they were made and facing the consequences of the law on the part of the state. In this case, however, I did not make any choice, I did not do anything. And I find myself here, essentially, having to prove that I am not an elephant. Within a context that says “there is a bag”. And then a criminalization of the bag begins which says “this bag had 2 fingerprints”. “No, after all, it did not have 2, it had 102 fingerprints”. “Yes, but it was “this way”” or “it was different”. The persecutory – let each one put a characterization – narratives are constantly changing. And I am in a position where I have had an unchanging, fixed view from the beginning: I say that no matter what happens, I cannot know when I came into contact with a bag. If I said that I remember, it would be hypocritical. It would be hypocritical to say, “Yes, I remember this bag.” No matter what questions are asked, I cannot know. No matter how much I think about it, all I can do is speculate. And because you talked about probability theory, probabilities remain probabilities. One can only speculate, only scenarios, only versions. To answer and say when I came into contact with a bag is something that I am unable to do.

Concluding this brief apology of mine – because I believe that I have nothing more to contribute to the case – I want to reiterate that I am not in a position to know the path of the bag. All I can do is make assumptions. I believe that no matter how many assumptions I made, I would not come to a conclusion that I can be certain of. To repeat what I said before, I have nothing to do with the case. I have paid more than enough for the choices I made. At this moment I am being asked to pay for something that I did not do and I believe that this is unfair.

I would consider it more honest – although “honest” is a big word, I would consider it better, if someone were to tell me “you know what, you’re going to jail because we don’t like you, because we don’t like you, because we think you’re a person who should pay for certain things”. I consider that more honest and, in part, it’s also defensible. To know that I’m in jail because I know that certain circles don’t like me. To be in jail and the argument being a bag, from my point of view, is incomprehensible.

24 Apr - Update on the Trials of Bandung Anarchist Prisoners

Indonesia: On April 16, 2026, the verdicts were delivered for five of our comrades at the Bandung District Court.

MORE:

via Act for Freedom Now!

The details are as follows:

- * Albi: sentenced to 6 months in prison for the Bandung unrest in August–September 2026.
- * Pem: sentenced to 9 months in prison for the arson attack on the police post in Gentong, West Java.
- * Herdi: sentenced to 9 months in prison for the arson attack on the police post in Gentong, West Java.
- * Nopal: sentenced to 1 year in prison for the arson attack on the police post in Gentong, West Java.
- * Adit: sentenced to 1 year in prison for the arson attack on the police post in Gentong, West Java.

Also, the first trial of our comrade Dena, also known as Apip or Scoobydoomz, has been postponed and is now scheduled for April 24, 2026.

This trial marks the beginning of proceedings against comrades involved in the arson of Hana Bank during protests against the Indonesian Military Bill in March 2025. Adit, Nopal, and Jalus may face further trials for separate charges.

Note:

Adit and Nopal have already faced two trials on different charges, and the combined sentences they currently face total three years in prison, not including the upcoming verdict for the Hana Bank arson in Bandung.

Gregorius Hugo, also known as Bake or Bex (informant), received only 7 months and 15 days—a sentence that can be considered virtually a free pass due to time already served in police and prosecution custody. This light sentence, despite his key involvement in the Gentong case, confirms his role as an informant/dead fucking snitch and his cooperation with the authorities! We advise international networks to cut ties with him.

24 Apr - Georgia AG brings new indictment against 3 ‘Cop City’ protestors

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr announced Thursday that a Cobb County grand jury indicted three people for their alleged actions during a 2022 Stop Cop City protest outside the Brasfield and Gorrie headquarters in Smyrna.

MORE:

by Matt Scott (ACPC)

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr announced Thursday that a Cobb County grand jury indicted three people for their alleged actions during a 2022 Stop Cop City protest outside the Brasfield and Gorrie headquarters in Smyrna, Georgia.

Hannah Kass, Katie Kloth, and Tyler Norman were each indicted on two felony counts of criminal destruction of property and one felony count of arson. Kloth, Kass and Norman were all part of a sweeping 61-person racketeering indictment against Cop City protesters filed by Carr’s office in August 2023. The alleged actions by the trio during the May 12, 2022, protest were included as underlying acts in the Fulton County racketeering indictment.

“This is the next step in our ongoing efforts to ensure that Antifa members who commit crimes in our state are vigorously prosecuted and held accountable,” Carr said at a press conference held outside his offices.

Brasfield and Gorrie served as the general contractor for the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, more commonly known as “Cop City.” The company became the subject of protests in metro Atlanta and nationwide during the multiyear movement aimed at stopping construction of the training facility.

Xavier T. de Janon, co-director of the People’s Law Collective and defense attorney for several people who have been charged in relation to the training center protests, characterized the indictment as a politically motivated prosecution against the Stop Cop City Movement. That movement largely fell silent after the center opened in April 2025, de Janon said.

Carr said that the trio joined a group of masked individuals at Brasfield and Gorrie’s headquarters on May 12, 2022. The group allegedly attacked the building with their hands and feet, spray-painted the exterior and threw what the indictment described as “incendiary devices,” causing damage to the building and causing a brush fire.

de Janon noted the attorney general’s office brought the charges just before the four-year statute of limitations expired, arguing the timing was influenced by Carr’s political campaign.

Carr is one of the gubernatorial candidates vying for the Republican nomination in Georgia’s May 19, 2026, Republican primary. He has trailed leading candidates in the polls, according to primary polling data from 270toWin, a polling aggregator.

On Dec. 30, 2025, a Fulton County Superior Court judge dismissed the racketeering indictment after determining the attorney general’s office failed to obtain written permission from Gov. Brian Kemp to bring those charges, which is required under Georgia law. The attorney general appealed the dismissal. The Georgia Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear oral arguments in May.

The Cobb County indictment was brought to the grand jury in the March-April term of court, months after the racketeering indictment was dismissed.

“Instead of going through the appeals process, which the attorney general picked to go through, now they’re almost retroactively going to the original underlying case and underlying acts to indict them,” de Janon said.

He also noted that other people had been arrested at the 2022 Brasfield and Gorrie protests and were offered non-cooperation plea deals.

Carr said his office is “running a parallel track” with the Fulton racketeering appeal and new Cobb indictment, and will continue to prosecute both cases.

On the other side, de Janon said, “I hope that the defense attorneys of all the defendants continue fighting these cases, because the reality is that this is an attorney general running for office who, in perhaps the last months of his term, is now escalating these almost forgotten cases from four years ago.”

3 May - Argentina, A Tale Of Two Utopias

WHAT: Reading Group

WHEN: 5:30pm, Sunday, May 3rd

WHERE: Property Is Theft (P.I.T.) (411 South 5th Street, Brooklyn 11211)

Access: Quick ramp setup; bathroom not accessible

COST: FREE

MORE:

Author Tomas Rothaus will be presenting remotely on his book *Argentina, A Tale Of Two Utopias: Anarchism, Soccer, Neoliberalism*.

5 May - WTO/99

WHAT: Film Screening

WHEN: 7:00pm, Tuesday, May 5th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join us for a screening the film *WTO/99* from director Ian Bell, an immersive archival documentary that depicts the four-day clash between the then-emerging World Trade Organization (WTO) and the 40,000+ people who took to the streets of Seattle in 1999 to protest the WTO Conference and the WTO’s impact on human rights, labor, and the future effects of continued globalization. Learn about this crucial bit of social movement history, now more relevant than ever. A conversation with producer Alex Megaro and scholar AK Thompson to follow.

8 May - Mothers’ Day Rallies for Parole Justice

WHAT: Rally

WHEN: 10:45am, Friday, May 8th

WHERE: NYC: Harlem State Office Building; Rochester: Liberty Pole; Yonkers: Yonkers Public Library; Newburgh: 130 Broadway; Buffalo: Freedom Wall; Long Island: Hauppauge State Office Building

COST: FREE

MORE:

Free our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and all loved ones! Rally at the location of your choice. RSVP at bit.ly/freemoms2026