



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for November 29th

14 Nov - Leonard Peltier AIM 'Walk to Justice' to DC Started With a Dream

Over the past two years, leaders within the American Indian Movement (AIM) organized a 1,103-mile walk from "the heart of AIM" in Minneapolis to Washington, D.C. "to seek elder Leonard Peltier's release," according to the main organizer Rachel Thunder.

MORE:

by Akičita Šujka-Wakaŋ Ska (*Unicorn Riot*)

The walk's primary purpose was to raise awareness about the case of Leonard Peltier, who they say was wrongfully convicted in 1977 of killing two FBI agents in a shootout on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Leonard Peltier, who turned 78 on September 12, is known around the world as a political prisoner. Peltier has received worldwide support for his case including from Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Rev. Jesse Jackson. He was even nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, however the U.S. government has repeatedly refused to grant him parole.

The day before the start of the walk, directors and leaders with AIM, along with those in solidarity, rallied on August 31, 2022, to hold ceremony, sing songs, and speak not only on Peltier's case, but on the many injustices Indigenous communities face on turtle island. AIM chapters from across the nation and Canada were represented including Rachel Thunder of Central Texas, Suzanne Smoke of Southern Ontario, Ray Bacasegua Valdez of Northern Nevada, and Lisa Bellinger who is the national co-director of AIM along with Frank Paro.

The last of Leonard's children, Kathy Peltier, was also present. She spoke about the one time she was able to see her father and he was able to see her. She was about two years old and attended his trial.

Central Texas AIM Director Rachel Thunder says that the inspiration to start the 1,103-mile journey started with a dream, where she was transported to Peltier's prison cell:

"You know, we didn't just wake up one day and say, 'Oh, we're going to walk for Leonard Peltier.' There were dreams that were coming to us. The dreams that were coming to me, I would be in Leonard's prison cell with him, locked up with him. Doing that time with him. And he'd be sitting there on his bed with his face in his hands. And he wouldn't say anything. But in each of these dreams, I would say, 'Your people are coming to get you, that aim is coming to get you. Your people haven't forgotten about you. Don't worry. We're coming.'"

A three-year period of political violence on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation began in 1973 with the Wounded Knee occupation. The FBI supplied a group known as the Guardians of The Oglala Nation, created by then-elected tribal chairman Richard Wilson, with intelligence on AIM members and looked away as the group committed crimes.

The "GOON squad" took part in large-scale militarization, harassment, and intimidation of Native American activists with support from the FBI-backed tribal government.

In 1975, traditionalists at Pine Ridge asked AIM leaders to send members to protect against further GOON squad attacks. Among the members who responded was Leonard Peltier.

John Trudell, who served as the chairman of AIM during most of the 1970s, spoke on Leonard Peltier via Portland Oregon Public Access:

“They are not going to let him out; that has never been their intention. The government had an operative, not an informant or a snitch. An operative is someone they put amongst you to direct activities. I think there was a government operative amongst that level of AIM leadership who wasn’t necessarily a part of the AIM leadership, but had access to the AIM leadership.”

Trudell continued, “And the way that it appears to me is that I think that this operative manipulated both sides against each other on the firefight thing, as part of a larger plan. But the plan went wrong and the agents got killed.”

The U.S. Department of Justice suppressed hundreds of thousands of pages of documents that would indicate Peltier’s innocence, including ballistic evidence in the 1975 shootout at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

The U.S. suppressed that evidence, in part, to extradite him from Canada. In 1994 an international effort to obtain Peltier’s release was launched, but the FBI issued a memorandum outline to counter that campaign.

Peltier was denied parole on August 31, 2009. His next available parole hearing is in 2024, when he will be 79 years old. He has been in prison since 1977.

November 19th - Activists say Leonard Peltier is wrongly imprisoned for his role in a deadly protest

by Arlyssa D. Becenti (*Arizona Republic*)

Janene Yazzie raised her hand during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2019, said thank you in Navajo and began to read a statement written by Lenny Foster, a Navajo elder who had been visiting imprisoned activist Leonard Peltier since 1985.

Peltier, an Anishinaabe and Dakota elder who is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, has been incarcerated for 45 years, convicted for aiding and abetting in the murder of two FBI agents in June 1975. He is currently being held at the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Coleman, Florida.

The two agents were shot dead during a confrontation involving members of the American Indian Movement on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota. Peltier was convicted in 1977 and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. He has always denied killing the agents.

Now, nearly 50 years after Peltier was arrested, Indigenous activists are renewing their call for his release. His attorney Kevin Sharp, a former U.S. District judge in Tennessee who is representing Peltier pro bono, has said in multiple interviews with various media outlets that Peltier's constitutional rights have been violated repeatedly, and that the evidence in the case doesn't add up. In prison, Peltier's health is declining.

At the time of Yazzie's address, she was working with the International Indian Treaty Council. She said competing issues had prevented Peltier's case from getting a serious discussion, so she met with Foster to articulate the message.

"Leonard Peltier has been unjustly held in prison long past an acceptable sentencing for the crime he was convicted of, which was aiding and abetting the murder of the two FBI agents, not directly murdering, but aiding and abetting," Yazzie told *The Arizona Republic* during a recent Indigenous People's Day celebration in downtown Phoenix. "The circumstances around the case were textbook for the type of injustices Indigenous people face, especially when they're rebelling against what government actions are taking place in putting our people in danger."

Clemency attempts have repeatedly failed

The call for President Joe Biden to grant 78-year-old Peltier clemency has been renewed in recent years. Near the end of former President Bill Clinton's second term, the possibility Peltier would be granted

clemency was the closest it has ever been. Peltier was denied clemency by President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. But of the 176 Americans whose sentences were commuted by Clinton, Peltier was not one of them in part, activists say, because about 200 FBI agents marched to the White House to oppose clemency.

"There was an open demonstration by the FBI to convince Clinton not to do this" said Yazzie. "But you take into context what was going on politically with the Clintons, like the FBI threatening to be against you, that's a significant threat, the FBI organizing to protest outside the White House to make sure Leonard Peltier doesn't come out."

In the statement Yazzie read, she asked that the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People seek a dialogue with the United States, appropriate human rights organizations and Indigenous peoples to bring about relief and justice for Peltier.

"This case demonstrates how in the U.S., the courts and criminal justice system criminalize dissent for purposes of political repression," she read. "The U.S. government has failed to address the staggering number of constitutional violations in the trial of Leonard Peltier, including the U.S. government mishandling of key ballistics evidence, and threatening of witnesses against Leonard who were coerced into signing statements used to convict him."

In September, over three years after Yazzie read her statement, a Walk to Freedom for Leonard Peltier began in Minneapolis and concluded earlier this month in Washington D.C. Yazzie says the truth of Peltier's case and nearly five decades of imprisonment has always been known among Native activists like her and Nick Tilsen, president and CEO of NDN Collective.

"We have to remember, Leonard Peltier in the 1970s was put in prison after he was illegally extradited from Canada based on lies and planted myths by the FBI," said Tilsen, who is a citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation. "At a time when the federal government and the FBI was engaged in COINTELPRO war to discredit the American Indian Movement." COINTELPRO was a covert FBI operations aimed at political activities.

Activists say Peltier's case was meant to discredit movement

Through the decades notable human rights groups like Amnesty International and human rights activists like Nelson Mandela have all called for Peltier's release. Recently, a 17-page document from an arbitrary detention working group for the U.N. Human Rights Council said the U.S. government should free Peltier. It also said the country should conduct an independent investigation into whether his rights were violated.

"Leonard Peltier has been wrongfully accused and wrongly convicted," said Tilsen. "The longest Indigenous political prisoner currently in the United States is still incarcerated. It's become an intergenerational struggle, because its an example of how the justice system has treated Indigenous people."

Tilsen said the FBI was used as a tool to destroy the Indigenous peoples' rights movement, as well as noting that the tactics used against Peltier were meant to discredit the American Indian Movement.

"I'm from the Pine Ridge Reservation and when the shooting happened, that was a time in which there was over 100 unsolved murders," said Tilsen. "Many of them were women. Most of all those murders went uninvestigated. As they try to stick this murder wrap on Leonard Peltier, they also invisiblize the struggle of that time and all of the other murders that went uninvestigated, which shows you what their intention is. That's why when there is a push for Leonard Peltier's clemency, then there's this big push from the FBI, who use their lobbying, who use taxpayers money, to keep him in jail."

Peltier contracted COVID-19 months ago, which led activists to call for his release. His ailments also include kidney disease, Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, a heart condition, a degenerative joint disease

and constant shortness of breath and dizziness. It was reported in 1986 that a stroke left him virtually blind in one eye. In January 2016, doctors diagnosed him with a life-threatening condition, a large and potentially fatal abdominal aortic aneurysm that could rupture at any time and would result in his death.

In March, the Democratic National Committee's Native American Caucus put out a statement saying Peltier's continued incarceration symbolizes the ongoing racial injustices towards Native Americans.

The statement said Peltier continues to be incarcerated even after James Reynolds, the United States Attorney whose office handled the prosecution and appeal of Peltier's case, admitted the prosecution was unjust and that prosecutors were unable to prove that Peltier had committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"We believe it is important to continue to make the request and seek for Mr. Peltier's release," said Clara Pratt, chair of the DNC Native American Caucus.

She said the latest moves have been led by Ruth Anna Buffalo, who is in the caucus leadership. More recently, the DNC at large called for his release, which is significant, Pratt said.

"In 19 states, Native Americans are more likely to be imprisoned than any other race and ethnicity," the caucus said. "This reality diminishes the Native Americans' faith in the criminal justice system throughout the country and burdens our community with the intergenerational impacts of incarceration resulting from a law enforcement system that fosters racial injustices."

U.N. statement causes a stir

In Yazzie's 2019 statement, she said the U.S. Parole Commission and the FBI have attacked Peltier's honor and reputation, alleging offenses for which he either was never charged or charges of which he was acquitted, and presenting uncorroborated testimony from criminal proceedings that Peltier was not a party to.

After Yazzie read her statement, she said the U.S. representative at the time became defensive and said her statement was "unfair, uncalled for, and unsubstantiated."

Yazzie said the strategy when discussing Peltier focuses on communication, framing and language to get the message across clearly and truthfully, because the challenge is how many have been conditioned for years to view this issue a certain way.

"It caused a big stir," said Yazzie of her statement at the U.N. "Because according to U.N. decorum, that was getting emotional on the grounds, so it did elicit reaction. Every branch of government will always elicit this very strong response on why he can't go free. They say it's because he murdered two FBI agents, which has long been disproven."

November 27th - Leonard Peltier Statement to 53rd Annual Day of Mourning

First, I want to say how deeply grateful I am that you would want to hear what I have to say. It is an honor to be with you in spirit; though I am far away. Being my age and having spent these many years in prison plays on your heart to the nth degree. I am here because I wanted to make a difference for our people, and I want to encourage others to do the same

My heart has not changed, and my intentions have not changed. The love and faith I have in our future generations has not changed.

All the world now faces the same challenges that our people foretold regarding climate damage being caused by people who take more than they need, dismissing the teachings of our fathers, and the knowledge of countless generations living upon the earth in harmony.

I may sound a bit dramatic and sensitive but after all these years and the 78 journeys around the sun, I often feel and think that I should speak my mind and heart to whomever I can whenever I can, because at my age, you never know if you are going to live another 20 years or 20 minutes.

Our people have been through a lot, generations have been imprisoned, beaten, murdered, dispossessed of our lands, and they fought so we might live.

We are proud of our ancestors. I have tried to make the best of my time upon the earth, in my given circumstances. To say the least, this has not been an enjoyable life journey, but I am proud to have been given a chance to stand for our people. I encourage you to do the same.

I am not a speaker, but I have spoken; I am not a leader, but I have led. Having said this knowing what I know now, feeling what I've felt, seeing what I've seen and hearing what I have heard, I would do it all over again. For as our ancestors loved a future for us, I love all people who have walked upon this earth. I recognize her as the greatest manifestation of the Creator, and she should be recognized as such.

On this day of mourning I encourage you, with a hopeful heart, to continue to gather and have ceremony in remembrance of all our people, especially those who have given their lives so that we might live.

Each of you has within you the potential to make a difference in the world. Each one of you has the opportunity and ability to do one act of kindness to someone in need and one act to make the earth a better place for all life. I, with the help of others, have started a Food Forest Movement. We encourage all people throughout the earth to plant at least one fruit-bearing tree; so, that the animals and all creatures of the earth will have healthier food, better air and cleaner water.

Forgive me if I have said too much or too little. Time in this place is often irrelevant to the task at hand. May the Creator bless you, your families and all our peoples of like mind.

November 28th - Leonard Peltier Supporters Walk Over 1,000 Miles To Demand Freedom For Native American Activist

by Sam Bishop (*Shadowproof*)

Hundreds of supporters of incarcerated Native American rights activist Leonard Peltier rallied at the nation's capital on Sunday to demand President Joe Biden grant clemency to the long-held prisoner.

"He's 78-years-old, he has type 2 diabetes and an abdominal aortic aneurysm that's fatal if it ruptures. He had a stroke where he lost 80 percent of the vision in one of his eyes," Rachel Thunder, one of the organizers for the rally, told *Shadowproof*. "He should be spending the remainder of his life with his family, not locked up in a cage."

Thunder was one of many Peltier supporters who walked across the country to raise awareness of his incarceration as part of a national 'Walk To Justice' that began earlier this year. The march started on September 1 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and took nearly three months to complete. Participants covered over 1,100 miles before arriving at their final destination of Washington, D.C on November 13.

This public spectacle by Peltier's supporters is just the latest development in an half century-long international campaign advocating for his release. Nelson Mandela, The Dalai Lama, Pope Francis, Desmond Tutu, and Mother Teresa are among the figures who have petitioned for Peltier's freedom throughout his 47 years of imprisonment.

The high-profile prisoner was originally convicted in 1977 for the murder of two FBI agents after a shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Peltier was, at the time, a member of the American Indian Movement. The organization was formed in 1968 as a Native American civil rights group and subsequently became famous for their high-profile political protests in the 1970s, such as their occupations of Alcatraz Island in 1969 and the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters in 1971.

Peltier was invited to the Pine Ridge Reservation by locals who claimed that a corrupt tribal official named Dick Wilson and his cronies were responsible for the unsolved deaths of several dozen political opponents. Wilson had allegedly operated a private militia, known as the Guardians of the Oglala Nation (GOONs), to terrorize anyone on the reservation critical of his administration.

Wilson was unpopular among many in the tribe after becoming chairman in 1972. Soon after, his most vocal critics found themselves targeted with violence. Those who spoke out against Wilson found their homes shot up in drive-by shootings or set on fire in the dead of night. This string of violent incidents left over 60 dead with all of the killings labeled as unsolved. Finally, when a team of white lawyers came to the reservation to investigate the attacks, their plane was riddled with bullets and they were ambushed and beaten by Wilson and his men.

Peltier was hoping to counter the violence and oust Wilson by organizing local residents on the reservation. On June 26, 1975 while driving to the home where he and other AIM activists had been staying, he found himself pursued by two unmarked cars. The cars belonged to FBI Special Agents Ronald Williams and Jack Coler, who began following Peltier while attempting to locate a man named Jimmy Eagle who had allegedly stolen a pair of boots.

Despite Peltier having no connection to Eagle, the agents followed him from the main road of town onto private property until he stopped in the middle of his driveway and exited his car to confront them.

Peltier alleges the agents began shooting at him the moment they saw he was armed, and never identified themselves as law enforcement. Peltier returned fire and two AIM members, Robert Robideau and Darrelle Butler, rushed from the home and opened fire on the agents from the ridge top, mortally wounding them.

Both Robideau and Butler were acquitted of murder after arguing they had acted in self-defense. Peltier, whose gunfire had never actually struck the agents, was tried separately. Once the trial began, a number of witnesses came forward to testify against him. Their testimonies made up the bulk of the prosecution's case, alleging Peltier had confessed to the murders while others who testified claimed to have witnessed the murders themselves.

Peltier's supporters point out that witness testimony contradicts the ballistic evidence, and that a number of witnesses who testified against Peltier have since recanted their statements. Today, most of those who originally testified for the prosecution now publicly say that they were coerced by the FBI, and in some cases had never actually met Peltier or even knew who he was before testifying against him. One witness even admitted during trial that she was paid \$42,000 by the FBI in exchange for her cooperation on the case.

"I looked at this [case] as a member of the federal judiciary and what happened was clear to me," Kevin Sharp—a former federal judge that came to lead Peltier's legal team—told the crowd.

"The constitutional violations that occurred to convict this man were clear to me. The violations were so open and obvious but, wasn't clear to me was the why," he said. "I've spent the last few years slowly uncovering that."

Former U.S. Attorney James Reynolds, whose office originally prosecuted Peltier, also spoke at the rally, sharing similar statements while calling for the activist's sentence to be commuted.

“Years ago, I wrote a letter to President Obama, joining Leonard in asking for clemency, and I did that because I thought it was my duty in the name of justice—because justice in this case is clemency for Leonard.” Reynolds explained during the rally.

Climate lawyer Steve Donziger, who last year was sentenced to 6 months in prison for contempt of court in a case which, like Peltier’s, has earned him the title of political prisoner, also spoke in favor of clemency.

“What’s happening to Leonard in my view, yes it’s persecution, yes it’s oppression but it’s also really really weak.” Donziger told the crowd. “When a person has a message that’s so threatening to these entrenched interests of power, they will mobilize the judicial system and other levers of governmental power to try and silence that person, and weaponize that person to scare everyone else who will do work on that kind of level.”

While many advocates called for Peltier’s release on the grounds of his innocence, members of his family are demanding his freedom for more personal reasons.

“I’ve only known my father through stories,” Kathy Peltier said of her father. “Everyone would tell me what a funny guy he was. I never saw that. The only time I ever saw him he was always serious and it was when I was visiting him in jail.”

President Joe Biden’s administration is the fifth to face pressure from Peltier supporters petitioning for his release. During previous clemency talks during the Clinton Administration, 500 FBI Agents picketed the White House in an unprecedented protest by federal law enforcement to demand that Peltier stay in jail. His supporters hope they can mount more pressure on the administration than their opponents this time around.

Organizers say they will stay in Washington, D.C to meet with government officials over the next few days regarding the possibility of President Biden granting clemency on compassionate grounds. So far, 11 members of Congress have signed an open letter to the administration asking for Peltier to be released.

14 Nov - Toby Shone Declaration of Solidarity with Alfredo Cospito

What follows is Toby Shone's declaration of solidarity with Alfredo Cospito (in hunger strike in Italy) from G4S Parc Prison in Wales.

MORE:

“By observing the force of the rainfall, one can know the size of the dragon, and by observing the flourishing of the blossoms, one can know the depths of the pond.” --Traditional saying

News has reached me of the isolation torture inflicted on Alfredo Cospito who has been hit with the 41bis regime of the Italian State and placed into the hell of the White Cells.

My heart aches to hear of the conditions he is suffering and I am in solidarity with his indefinite hunger strike.

After listening to the advice of my comrades due to my health status, I will refuse to eat every Wednesday and Sunday as my participation in the campaign. If I choose to extend my strike I will do so. Also, since the G4S corporation is attempting to force me to provide slave labour for the workshops of despicable capitalists who contract such exploitative services at the expense of their workers, I refuse to comply. I dedicate these efforts, however small, to our dear Alfredo.

An embrace to everyone, inside and outside...

With the deer, the boar, the owl, and the jaguar...

14 Nov - Zeldin Threat Passed, Criminal Justice Reformers Ready to Push Hochul

Activists and experts say the newly elected first female governor of New York State has plenty of promises to deliver on when it comes to prisoner's rights and clemency.

MORE:

by Reuven Blau (*THE CITY*)

After months of largely staying quiet during the unexpectedly competitive governor's race, not wanting to give fuel to her right-wing opponent, criminal justice reformers are now looking to push Gov. Kathy Hochul on a series of issues.

Those include plans to press Hochul to support stalled legislation to ease parole release restrictions for elderly people behind bars based on individualized assessments and to streamline the sealing of criminal records that frequently make it difficult for individuals to move on with their lives, advocates and policy experts told *THE CITY*.

They also want the newly elected governor to keep her word on drastically overhauling the prisoner clemency process — and to start enforcing a legislative ban on solitary confinement that has been routinely ignored by the state's Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

"We want to promote healing and justice and investing in our communities," said Roslyn Smith, the Brooklyn community leader of Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP).

Smith and others note that the push for elder parole is a matter of life and death for some people behind bars who aren't eligible for early release for decades under the current system.

The criminal justice reform wish list comes after Rep. Lee Zeldin, the Republican candidate for governor, spent months on the campaign trail slamming Hochul for perceived spikes in crime — and what he argued was her inability to address it.

Reformers and some political observers described those ultimately unsuccessful political attacks as "fear mongering" that should not be used to dictate her policy decisions over the next four years.

"I think her being re-elected is a sign that these are things that society wants, in the broadest sense," said political strategist Patrick Jenkins, a lobbyist who has worked for and with several local and state elected officials.

Hochul and her press team did not respond to an email seeking comment. She rarely, if ever, talked about specific pending criminal justice reform legislation on the campaign trail.

Talking to reporters at the annual Somos conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Hochul said she'd have "conversations" with legislative leaders "about the overall, comprehensive, strategy to deal with public safety."

"We will continue our efforts on guns... the courts," she said. "And I think this is the untold story here is we had two solid years of no jury trials."

'I left So Many People Behind'

For Smith, 60, the issue of elderly parole is personal.

She spent 39 years in prison for a murder conviction and was released four years ago after Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez quietly moved to reduce her sentence.

“I’m taking on doing this work because I left so many people behind languishing in prison, dying in prison,” she said.

The Elder Parole measure would automatically grant parole hearings to all prisoners who have served 15 years or more when they turn 55. Criminal justice reformers point out that if passed, it would still not result in an automatic release of everyone eligible.

The incarcerated people would need to be approved by a parole board, which is unlikely to release people convicted of multiple killings or other high-profile crimes — or if the person shows no signs of remorse and rehabilitation.

The legislation was first introduced in 2018. Last year, Republicans were joined in their opposition to elder parole by some moderate Democrats, whose party controlled both houses of the state Legislature with veto-proof super majorities.

Supporters of the legislation point out that one person in state prison dies every three days on average, records show. They also note that the majority of New Yorkers locked up are people of color.

Prisoner advocates also point to multiple studies that indicate there’s little risk that elderly prisoners will commit new crimes if paroled. About 1.5% of murders annually are committed by people who are 75 years and older.

“People need to be seen for who they are, after 15 to 20 years [in prison], people aged out of criminal activities,” said Smith. “The rhetoric that’s been put out is that everybody who comes home commits more crimes. But it’s not true.”

Not So Patiently Waiting

Mayor Eric Adams — who has repeatedly blamed changes in the bail law as a primary culprit for crime — has not publicly taken a position on the Elder Parole measure and other reform proposals.

A spokesperson for the mayor did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

Other proposals where his office has stayed quiet include the Clean Slate Act to “make record sealing much more accessible by automating the process,” according to the Brennan Center for Justice, which supports the legislation.

It could assist up to 1.4 million people, according to one estimate by the Paper Prisons Initiative of Santa Clara University.

As for clemency, shortly after Hochul first took office — following Andrew Cuomo’s scandal-scarred resignation — she promised to overhaul the system by adding more staff to review applications and to create an advisory panel.

But the panel has never been formed and, aside from nine pardons and one commutation the day of her announcement, nothing has been done.

Some advocates and political observers believe that she has been waiting until after the election.

“From my perspective, an election should have no impact on whether someone merits clemency,” said Steven Zeidman, director of the Criminal Defense Clinic at the CUNY School of Law.

He hailed the added state staff set to review the thousands of pending cases but cautioned that it would make no difference unless Hochul took more aggressive action.

“Is there going to be regular, ongoing, clemency?” he added. “Until that happens that’s a disappointment.”

One issue that doesn’t need a legislative fix is limits on solitary confinement in all lockups throughout the state.

Hochul signed the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act back in March.

That measure bans people from being held in solitary confinement for more than 15 straight days, or 20 out of 60 days. Prison officials are also blocked from using solitary for people with disabilities or mental health issues, according to the new law.

But state prisons have been ignoring the new regulations, with four in 10 people in solitary with listed mental health care needs, according to a report by New York Focus.

Prison Boss Hold Up

Meanwhile, the state Senate has refused to confirm DOCCS’ acting commissioner, Anthony J. Annucci, citing his inability to overhaul the department during his nine-years in leadership roles.

Advocates and criminal justice experts want Hochul to appoint a new, more reform-minded, commissioner. Annucci recently limited the types of packages for prisoners to just a few private firms — as part of a crackdown on contraband. Family and friends are no longer allowed to personally bring items to prisons.

“He’s bringing us back to a pre-Attica period with the oppressive and Draconian rules he’s putting in place,” said Jerome Wright, the co-director of the Halt Solitary campaign. “He needs to be replaced before we have an Attica 2.0 situation on our hands.”

15 Nov - Update from Eric King and Call for Support

Update on anarchist prisoner Eric King with a call for support and a new statement from Eric.

MORE:

Eric has been on some form of commissary restriction or another for the last 4 years. He will never walk another yard again but his restrictions have finally been lifted! We would love to celebrate this and surprise him a bit. Basic small pleasures we often take for granted. Spoil him with sweets. Let him finally load up on enough stamps to respond to everybody. Lots and lots of peanut butter! If you drop a donation here we are going to group them together and send them via Western Union to surprise him”

Eric’s Commissary Blast: tiny.cc/EK_Donate | Eric’s booklist: tiny.cc/EK_Books22

Statement from Eric King

Hello friends, comrades, and government Nosey Nathans! I’ve been in ADX for about two months now and wanted to give a little update and talk over what things are like here.

This prison, more than any, exist to break spirits and disrupt connections to the real world. It was built specifically for that purpose. The isolation here is on a very deep level. There are days that pass where I literally speak to no one and hear no one else. Some folks have decades here; imagine if you can. It’s brutal and sickening. This entire joint is a psychological war zone.

We are given TVs, which is cool, but you can get lost in them. It’s very easy to give up on fitness, mail, reading, and live in the screen. That is 100% what they want, digital social control, screen shackles. I do lots of jogging in place when a show is on, lots of movement. I’ve been in the SHU the last 4 years, most of

that time without radio or books let alone a TV. That time was brutal as shit but it did teach me how to set a routine, and to get by on very little...that's also easy for me to say knowing I'll be out in approximately 10 months, having done one year here...many don't have an outdate, or mail, or books coming. This is their life and those NOT swallowed by desperation are some of the strongest people imaginable.

Every day a big part of my routine is doing daily check-ins with myself, something I learned to do to keep despair at bay. I list all the things I'm thankful for, saying it out loud—usually while hitting lap Then I list all the good things about the current day I'm in—simple things like “the water was nice in the shower today” and massive things like “I got mail from my wife!” then all the good things tomorrow has in store— “[Manchester] United is on” ... “mail may come” ... “it's laundry day” ... “pancakes for breakfast” ...

My reality is that, with such limited communication with my family the days in here can get as dark as I allow them to. No one in here is going to hold my hand and make sure I'm ok ...it's on me. I need to make sure this odd hell doesn't get a hold of me ... lose just a little focus and a whole lot of darkness can sneak in. The only person who can hold you up on a daily basis is yourself, and you must do it.

I'm more fortunate than most. I'm short-timing. I have a fantastic wife, kids, and amazing comrades. I have a legal team fighting for me. I have a deep love of life and thankfully the Bureau hasn't dimmed my light yet. Mail can be super fast one week, then take a month depending on what's going on. So if you've written me, please know that I'll try and respond as quickly as I can

Thank you to everyone sending books, letters, everything. Love and support is always needed and always appreciated. “we. all. we. Got.”

Solidarity to those in ATL, wicked respect and admiration to the women in Iran, RIP to Kathy Boudin and Maroon... and solidarity and respect to our elders and comrades still inside; state and federally. This is a hard fight, a long fight, and a worthy fight.

All love and respect, friends. I'll write again soon, we're almost there...

15 Nov - Support Oso Blanco & the Children's' Art Project

These greeting cards were made by indigenous political prisoner Oso Blanco and the proceeds go to the Children's Art Project (benefiting youth in Chiapas, Mexico).

MORE:

Get it from independent bookstore and our friends at Burning Books and its even better. Order at tiny.cc/OsoBlanco_Cards

Imprisoned by the US government for expropriating from banks to fund the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), Oso Blanco has been using art to continue his mission. These first four designs were all painted by Oso Blanco after he had been captured in 1999. Proceeds from the sale of these greeting cards will benefit children in the autonomous Zapatista zone of Chiapas, Mexico, and on reservations here on Turtle Island. Learn more at schoolsforchiapas.org & freeosoblanco.org

16 Nov - Daniel Hale presented with Sam Adams Award

Last week Daniel Hale was awarded the Sam Adams Award for Integrity in Intelligence.

MORE:

The "Corner-Brightener Candlestick" was presented to Daniel's friend Noor Mir. You can watch the online ceremony at samadamsaward.ch/daniel-hale

As it happens, this week is also the 20th anniversary of the first drone assassination in Yemen. From the beginning, the drone assassination program has been deeply shrouded in secrecy, allowing U.S. officials to hide significant violations of international law, and the American Constitution. In addition to the lives directly impacted by these strikes, the program has significantly eroded respect for international law and thereby puts civilians around the world in danger.

Daniel Hale's revelations threw a beam of light into a very dark corner, allowing journalists to definitively show that the government's official narrative was a lie. It is thanks to the great personal sacrifice of drone whistleblowers like Hale that public understanding has finally begun to catch up to reality.

As the Sam Adams Associates note:

"Mr. Hale was well aware of the cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment to which other courageous officials have been subjected — and that he would likely suffer the same. And yet — in the manner of his famous ancestor Nathan Hale — he put his country first, knowing what awaited him at the hands of those who serve what has become a repressive Perpetual War State wreaking havoc upon much of the world."

18 Nov - Extreme heat responsible for hundreds of deaths in Texas prisons

Texas officials claimed that no prisoners have been killed by heat. A new report shows they're wrong.

MORE:

by Alleen Brown (Salon)

In the dozens of Texas prisons that don't have air conditioning, new research shows that 13 percent of deaths during the six hottest months every year from 2001 through 2019 were likely due to extreme heat. The study, which was published last week in the academic journal JAMA Network Open, is the first epidemiological evidence that the lack of air conditioning in a large proportion of U.S. prisons is substantially increasing the risk of death for those incarcerated. It also suggests that over 250 Texans lost their lives over the past two decades because of the state's failure to mitigate indoor heat.

In Texas, where two-thirds of the state's nearly 100 prisons lack air conditioning, temperatures inside facilities have risen to as high as 149 degrees Fahrenheit. Climate change will only increase the number of dangerously hot days: Historically no Texas county typically saw more than 25 days annually where the heat index rose above 105 degrees F. By midcentury, however, more than a third of counties in the Lone Star State will likely be subject to more than 50 days with heat that high, according to data from the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists.

Nevertheless, Texas lawmakers have repeatedly failed to advance bills that would fund prison air conditioning, and prison officials have suggested that heat deaths are not a problem. At a July hearing before the Texas House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee, Texas Department of Criminal Justice executive director Bryan Collier claimed that there have been zero heat-related deaths since 2012.

"Their numbers are wrong," said Amite Dominick, one of the new report's coauthors and the president and founder of Texas Prisons Community Advocates, an organization that is pushing Texas policymakers to fund prison air conditioning.

"I hope it adds further credence to what we've been saying all along — that these individuals are dying because the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is refusing to put AC in prisons," she added. "Our legislators aren't getting the job done."

The 271 deaths in facilities without air conditioning — an average of 14 per year — occurred on days that were unusually hot for the region, when the heat index rose above the 90th percentile for the location. On such days, the risk of death rose 15 percent. The study also found that each 1-degree increase in temperature over 85 degrees increased risk of death by 0.7 percent.

These deadly effects were not observed in air-conditioned facilities: The researchers, led by Brown University Ph.D. Julianne Skarha, found no correlation between heat and mortality in the latter. This is not surprising, given that heat-related death is uncommon among the general population — accounting for less than half a percent of U.S. deaths.

While Texas jails are required to maintain temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees F, state prisons have no such regulations. "There is life-saving potential if the Texas Department of Criminal Justice applies a similar temperature regulation policy to its prison facilities as it does to its jail facilities," the researchers wrote.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice declined to comment on the report. "The agency takes numerous precautions to lessen the effects of hot temperatures for those incarcerated within our facilities. These efforts work," Communications Director Amanda Hernandez said by email. "In 2022, there have been thirteen inmates who required medical care beyond first aid for heat related injuries and none were fatal."

Skarha chose to focus her research in Texas in part because it has the highest state prison population in the U.S., incarcerating around 118,000 people. However, the JAMA study has implications far beyond the state.

"We know there are many states in the U.S., especially in the South, that don't have AC in the majority of their prisons," Skarha said. "There's no reason to assume that it's not a similar story there."

Heat deaths are difficult to track, and the cause of a heat-induced death isn't always listed as hyperthermia. Researchers have found that heat increases the risk of cardiovascular- and diabetes-related deaths as well as the risk of death for people over age 75. U.S. prison populations are aging, and prisoners are more likely to have both heart conditions and diabetes. People taking psychotropic medications, used to treat a range of mental health issues, are also particularly heat-sensitive and are also over-represented among those incarcerated.

Hernandez, the corrections department communications director, told Grist that prisoners have access to fans and ice water. Additionally, in 2018 a lawsuit forced Texas to implement a system for protecting prisoners in unairconditioned prisons on hot days, including by offering access to cooled respite areas and by moving heat-sensitive individuals to air-conditioned housing. Although the JAMA study period overlaps with the new measures, it provides minimal insights into the effectiveness of that program.

Separate survey results published this summer by Texas A&M University suggest the new measures have fallen short. Close to a third of incarcerated survey participants said they were aware of at least one heat-related death in prison. Many described near-death experiences or a fear that the heat would kill them. That research was also a collaboration between scholars and grassroots organizers with Texas Prisons Community Advocates.

To Dominick, it's long past time for policymakers to act. "This problem has been happening for decades and they want reports and testimonies and articles," said Dominick. "It is hot in Texas and they know it. They are choosing not to get this done quickly."

20 Nov - Give Through The Bars 2022

The closing stretch of 2022 with its holidays and festive gatherings is in sight. No doubt, many of you are eager to gift the new Certain Days calendar to friends and loved ones. However, just because the year is winding down into sweater weather and hot cocoa, does not mean that the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's struggle against repression will be taking a break.

MORE:

On the contrary, we plan for 2023 to be full of solidarity, mutual aid, and freedom for political prisoners and we'd love it if you could help us get a head start on those efforts.

Tax Deductible Donations

The ABCF can now provide tax deduction receipts for donations of over \$500 through our fiscal sponsor, IDAVOX/One People's Project. Check **abcf.net** for all donation options.

To take advantage of the tax deduction, make your check payable to "One People's Project" with "ABCF" in the memo and mail it to: **ABCF-OC, Post Office Box 4341, Santa Ana, California 92702**. Be sure to include a return address (preferably email) where we can send your receipt back to you.

Of course, this isn't the only way to contribute to the work the ABCF does--we can accept contributions of any amount through the normal CashApp, Venmo, PayPal and checks/money orders if no tax deduction is desired. You can also pick up some sweet Pushing Down The Walls and other merch from our Orange County chapter as well as from us in NYC ABC: **nycabc.wordpress.com/merch**

Looking Back and Planning Ahead

Speaking of "the work," here's an incomplete list of what we've been up to since our last year end round up:

- Online and in-person letter-writing events hosted by various chapters.
- ABCF Chapters and comrade organizations all over the US and Canada put together 12 Running Down The Walls 5K events which raised a combined \$21,154.84 for the Warchest Program.
- Regular, reliable disbursements to the 17 current Warchest Program recipients.

Additionally, we've provided mutual aid to comrade organizations internationally as well as individual political prisoner support committees here on Turtle Island. For example:

- \$2000 to Belarus Anarchist Black Cross to support political prisoners there.
- \$1500 to Moscow Anarchist Black Cross to respond to the repression of anti-war organizing against Putin's invasion of Ukraine. We were able to make this transfer before Russia was excluded from SWIFT banking systems.
- \$1000 to the Civil Liberties Defense Center to assist with their eventually successful representation of Eric King. The BOP's bogus, retaliatory charges were designed to bury him decades beyond his original sentence.
- \$4000 to Sundiata Acoli's post-release support fund.
- \$1000 to the housing fundraiser for Herman Bell, a former Black Panther and political prisoner who was incarcerated for 45 years.
- \$1000 to the support committee of Kamau Sadiki to help cover ongoing legal, medical, and visitation costs.

Now that you have some idea of what to expect from us in 2023, please consider making a contribution and inviting your friends to do likewise. As an organization made up entirely of volunteers, our ability to fight for the survival and freedom of imprisoned comrades is dependent on gifts from our community.

20 Nov - Judicial Persecution Corrupts The Case Of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Lucretia Clemons is the latest addition to an odious list of appellate court jurists who craftily construct legal barriers specifically to bludgeon evidence that undermines the corrupted conviction of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the acclaimed writer/activist who millions worldwide consider a 'political prisoner.'

MORE:

by Linn Washington (*This Can't Be Happening*)

The 1982 conviction of Abu-Jamal, for killing a Philadelphia policeman, arose from gross violations of "international standards that govern fair trial procedures..." according to a seminal study on Abu-Jamal's case released in February 2000 by Amnesty International. AI is the prestigious, Noble Prize-winning human rights monitoring organization.

Judge Clemons, an African American, continues the peculiar appellate court practice of whitewashing wrongs that deny Abu-Jamal his constitutional fair trial rights.

As that Amnesty study noted, the "politicization" of Mumia Abu-Jamal's case "may not only have prejudiced his right to a fair trial but may now be undermining his right to fair and impartial treatment in the appeal courts."

Judge Clemons, during an appeal proceeding in October 2022, released a 31-page "Notice of Intent to Dismiss" Abu-Jamal's latest appeal. That appeal is perhaps the last appeal he can file.

Clemons' "Intent" ruling wraps fictions with legalese to justify her rejection of Abu-Jamal's appeal. The reply to Clemons' intended ruling from Abu-Jamal's lawyers reminds her that some of her legal reasoning is "precisely the approach" that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court have both "deemed incorrect."

A unique aspect of Judge Clemons' engagement with Abu-Jamal's appeal is her rejection of extraordinary evidence documenting disturbing wrongdoing during Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial for the murder of Officer Daniel Faulkner.

This extraordinary evidence that Clemons finds "unpersuasive" includes rare documentation of both racist procedures the trial prosecutor used during jury selection and improper inducements prosecutors provided two prime trial witnesses. One item in that extraordinary evidence is a handwritten note from one of those prime witnesses to the trial prosecutor demanding the "money" that witness said the prosecutor promised him.

Fair trial rights, for example, bar prosecutors from purchasing testimony. Fair trial rights also bar prosecutors from racist jury selection practices.

Judge Clemons, consistent with prior appellate practice to block Abu-Jamal appeals, has declared intent to disregard the fundamental fact that fair trial rights require prosecutors to disclose evidence favorable to a defendant.

Philadelphia prosecutors failed to follow that requirement in the Abu-Jamal case by withholding that extraordinary evidence for over 36-years.

Clemons cavalierly whitewashes this outrageous failure by prosecutors. She contends Abu-Jamal was not "prejudiced" either at trial or during subsequent appeals because prosecutors improperly withheld evidence of obvious improprieties against Abu-Jamal.

The fact that prosecutors withheld favorable evidence from defense lawyers for over 13,000-days should be an automatic basis for a new trial – a proverbial no-brainer. However, Judge Clemons intends to reject Abu-Jamal's request for a new trial seeing no legal unfairness in prosecutors withholding that evidence for over 21-million minutes.

Truly unique context of this extraordinary evidence Clemons' stated she is prepared to dismiss is that Philadelphia's current District Attorney personally discovered it. DA Larry Krasner found six boxes of Abu-Jamal case documents stashed in a storage closet while exploring the physical layout of DA's office one month after his November 2018 election.

Krasner's discovery of those six boxes came shortly after the DA's Office told another judge hearing an Abu-Jamal appeal that all material about Abu-Jamal's case had been given to Abu-Jamal's defense team.

While Abu-Jamal's defense argues evidence in those six withheld boxes constitute a "watershed revelation" Judge Clemons deems that evidence irrelevant, essentially old wine in a new bottle that prior appellate rulings rejected.

Consider Judge Clemons' posture on one document in those six boxes. That document is handwritten notes by the trial prosecutor where that prosecutor placed a big 'B' by the names of potential Black jurors and a big 'W' by potential white jurors. Prosecutors employing race as a criterion in jury selection is forbidden by the Pa and U.S. supreme courts. For decades, Philadelphia prosecutors denied any improprieties in Abu-Jamal's jury selection citing a lack of conclusive evidence of any impropriety that the handwritten notes now provide.

Clemons blasted Abu-Jamal's defense for not probing the trial prosecutor on his jury selection rationales during a mid-1990s appeal hearing.

But, as noted in Abu-Jamal's reply to Clemons, defense lawyers could not have questioned the trial prosecutor on those handwritten notes because prosecutors improperly withheld those notes from the defense. Abu-Jamal's reply stated there was no notice before January 2019* that the trial prosecutor in 1982 "took jury notes showing he was tracking jurors by race." (*January 2019 is when the DA's Office released those six boxes of documents to Abu-Jamal's defense team.)

Clemons made an astoundingly absurd assertion in her 'Intent' when she declared that either Abu-Jamal or his trial lawyer could have easily observed "with their own eyes" the prosecutor making those improper racial notations during jury selection. Clemons' assertion ignored the virtual impossibility of someone sitting at the defense table during a trial being able to see exactly what someone wrote on a note pad at the prosecution table located at least five feet away from the defense table.

Judge Clemons – in her 'Intent' – rejected holding an evidentiary hearing where she could hear testimony to determine for herself the veracity of claims by the DA's Office, thus resolving factual disputes.

Clemons, for example, doesn't see a need to hear prosecutors explain their claim that the demand for "money" from their prime trial witness was not payment for his testimony. Prosecutors claim the demand for money in that withheld note related to wages that witness said he lost due to testifying at trial.

Clemons claimed the jury would have still convicted Abu-Jamal even if they knew about that demand for money. Clemons conveniently omits contextual facts like the jury never learned that witness thought the trial prosecutor would get his driver's license restored that was revoked due to a DUI conviction.

Because of rulings by the bigoted, pro-prosecution trial judge, the jury never knew that this witness was on probation for firebombing a school and was driving a cab without a valid driver's license when he claimed he saw Abu-Jamal shoot Faulkner. Driving on a revoked license could have led to the revocation of that driver's probation sending him to prison for that firebombing. Abu-Jamal's lawyers contend the driver tailored his testimony to save himself from possible imprisonment.

Another document contained in those six withheld boxes is a report filed by a police officer that exposed improprieties by police related to that cab driving witness. This police officer filed that report less than ninety minutes after Faulkner's murder. The report stated police commanders told that officer to "ride over to Homicide with a cab driver."

Since that cab driver said he witnessed Faulkner's murder after he parked his cab behind Faulkner's patrol car, police violated their crime scene investigation protocols which forbid removing vehicles relevant to an investigation.

That cab is not shown in any of the official police crime scene photos. And, that cab is not shown in photos taken by a freelance news photographer who arrived at the crime scene ten minutes after Faulkner's fatal shooting and before police crime scene investigators.

No other prosecution witness testified to seeing a cab behind Faulkner's patrol car.

This failure of prosecution witnesses to place a cab behind the patrol car included the only other prosecution eyewitness who claimed that Abu-Jamal killed Faulkner. That witness, a prostitute, claimed she was standing a few feet from where the cab driver testified that he was parked.

If police allowed the cab driver to drive himself to the interview by Homicide detectives, as confirmed in that policeman's report, then police tampered with the crime scene. Tampering with a crime scene is another valid reason for granting Abu-Jamal a new trial.

That cab driver, years after the trial, told defense investigators and reporters that he did not park behind Faulkner's patrol car. This witness said he did not see who shot Faulkner. Those statements to investigators and reporters contradict the cab driver's trial testimony. Those statements constitute additional evidence of the need for a new trial that Judge Clemons and other jurists have dismissed.

Those six withheld boxes also contained alarming evidence of leniency prosecutors extended to their second eyewitness. That prostitute said she witnessed Faulkner's shooting while standing on a corner a few feet from the crime. This prostitute and the trial prosecutor each told the trial jury there were no deals for her testimony. Yet, days after the jury convicted Abu-Jamal, prosecutors dropped a series of criminal charges pending against that prostitute.

Judge Clemons asserts that the jury would have convicted Abu-Jamal even without the eyewitness testimony of the cab driver and the prostitute – the only two witnesses to testify that Abu-Jamal shot Faulkner. However, Abu-Jamal's reply to Clemons' 'Intent' disputes her assertion.

The "cumulative effect of a promise of money to one crucial witness and of leniency to another would have undermined the reliability of the investigation and discredited the government's methods in assembling the case," the reply states.

Abu-Jamal, imprisoned since his December 1981 arrest, has authored/co-authored over a dozen books, created over a thousand commentaries, learned to speak two foreign languages, plus earned college and graduate degrees. Further, Abu-Jamal's claim of innocence has garnered support from several governmental bodies from Europe to Japan.

Amnesty International, in that 2000 study, stated "the interests of justice would be best served by" granting Abu-Jamal a new trial."

Pennsylvania's Code of Judicial Conduct states the judiciary "plays a fundamental role in ensuring the principles of justice and the rule of law."

Judges who have constructed legal barriers to block Abu-Jamal's appeals disregard a Conduct Code warning that "public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by improper conduct..."

25 Nov - Write to Jellytot, Locked Up Accused of Breaching a HS2 Injunction

The fight against HS2 has seen many activists working very hard to stop a high speed train construction that has destroyed and will continue to destroy miles of nature, murdering thousands of animals and decimating the very little habitat that they have in the UK.

MORE:

Jellytot is a HS2 campaigner that was sentenced to 268 days in prison for breaching a HS2 injunction. He is in HMP Dovegate until 3rd Feb 2023 and is welcoming messages (via an email managed by some friends) and donations to his support campaign. More info: bristolabc.org/prisoners

His first letter after going in was full of jokes and positivity. Send him a letter and let him know you're looking forward to his release!

Email him at justiceforjellytot@protonmail.com | Donate: tinyurl.com/Hs2prisoner

4 Dec - Rebuilding Health Autonomy

WHAT: Assembly Discussion

WHEN: 4:00pm, Sunday, December 4th

WHERE: Woodbine - 585 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Silvia Federici, Woodbine, and friends for the first in a series of assembly discussions on the state of health care and reproductive labor in New York.

We hope to gather a range of participants and voices, from health professionals and care workers to unpaid practitioners and home providers. We are interested in the chronic invisibilization, individualization, and institutionalization of this labor, and our ongoing challenges in communalizing care and reproduction within our homes, spaces, and movements. Why, after years of pandemic, and decades of organizing, are our bodies, illnesses, and expectations of a dignified and ethical life so difficult to address and collectivize around?

For this first discussion Silvia Federici will be joined by health workers, teachers, activists, and artists, to begin to lay out the landscape of the situation we find ourselves in. The discussion will be followed by a dinner, from where we will plan out the framework of our subsequent meetings and strategies.

4 Dec - RnB webinar

WHAT: Matt Meyer reports on his European/African peace tours

WHEN: 5:00pm, Sunday, December 4th

WHERE: Zoom; join at tiny.cc/RnB_Webinar <Meeting ID: 873 9876 8136 | Passcode: 727961>

COST: FREE

MORE:

After several intense years of ZERO travel due to COVID-19, anti-imperialist author and organizer Matt Meyer spent the past six months on an intense series of tours in Europe and Africa. With stops throughout Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Francophone and North Africa and Turkey, Matt's latest trip to the world's youngest country - war-torn South Sudan - included a series of Pan African Peace meetings with leaders of every major global peace organization. As Secretary-General of the International Peace Research Association, Matt will report on these trips and what they reveal about movement-building today...including reports on his last stop in Cabo Verde [aka Cape Verde, the island nation off the coast of East Africa] to meet with the leaders of the Amilcar Cabral Foundation, discussing that revolutionary's relevance today.

5 Dec - MACC Facilitation Training

WHAT: Training

WHEN: 7:00pm, Monday, December 5th

WHERE: Details sent when you RSVP at tiny.cc/MACC_Facilitation

COST: FREE

MORE:

This training will teach you how to have good meetings. What do we mean by this?

Many of us have probably been in meetings that are hierarchically run, in which we are simply told what to do by our boss, manager, or even leader of a group. In contrast, good meetings are run horizontally, and everyone feels their opinions are taken into account. Many of us have also been in meetings that seem to go on forever without any clarity around decisions made. Good meetings have an agenda, roles, and result in concrete next steps and actions. At the end of good meetings, those present feel they are valued members of the group and that the group is moving forward.

A facilitator is a guide, which helps a group move through its own decision-making process. Facilitation is the glue that holds good meetings together, and is essential for horizontal and democratic organization.

8 Dec - Woodbine Book Launch

WHAT: Launch Party

WHEN: 7:30pm, Thursday, December 8th

WHERE: Sundown - 68-38 Forest Avenue, Queens

COST: FREE, but donate \$10 or more and get a copy of the journal

MORE:

NOTE: Woodbine hosts a LOT of events. Stay caught up at woodbine.nyc

Woodbine is releasing a printed journal, The Reservoir, this December, published by Autonomedia. The Reservoir features new and previously unavailable texts by Silvia Federici, Fred Moten, Franco "Bifo" Berardi, Ben Morea, and P.M., as well as fiction, poetry, interviews, photography, essays, illustrations, and archival material from more than 20 contributors, with design by Kevin McCaughey. Get your copy at autonomedia.org/product/reservoir

We're throwing a launch party featuring the bands CS Cleaners and Thee Reps, alongside DJ's dominique, Elzee, and Slimey.

From the introduction: "What does it mean to build a life in common at the end of the world? The crises in which we find ourselves living – constant, and newly surprising – require us to be present for each other in all kinds of ways. And yet the system in which we live wants to keep us distracted, plugged-in, doom-scrolling, and separate. Woodbine, a physical space in Ridgewood, Queens from which this publication was born, was founded, in part, as a means to create that presence..."

11 Dec - Send Love Through the Walls '22

WHAT: Holiday Card Party

WHEN: 1:00-4:00pm, Sunday, December 11th

WHERE: Woodbine - 585 Woodward Avenue, Queens

COST: FREE (Donations to cover the cost of stamps greatly appreciated)

MORE:

In what many prisoners have told us is their favorite event of the year, Resistance in Brooklyn and NYC Anarchist Black Cross again join forces to bring you the annual holiday card-writing party for U.S. held political prisoners, prisoners of war, and prisoners of conscience. This event is always a lot of fun, the food outstanding, the camaraderie lively, and the handmade cards flat out amazing. This year will be no different, and will be organized both in person and virtually. So, plan to tell your friends and bring your creativity. We'll have updates on the pp/pow campaigns as well as crayons, colored pencils, paper and envelopes.

We do ask that folks be vaccinated and will be using the honor system.

This is a hybrid event and will have a zoom component for folks unable to make it in person. For the Zoom meeting information, contact Resistance in Brooklyn: **resistanceinbrooklyn.ows@gmail.com**

For folks writing at home, here are some guidelines to follow to ensure your holiday card gets to the person you are writing:

GUIDELINES:

We recommend using the following guidelines to ensure your holiday card will get through the walls. The best bet for getting a handmade card through the walls is to either: print a design on plain computer paper or create a design on plain computer paper using blue or black pen only. Things have gotten very draconian and many facilities won't even allow crayon or colored pencil anymore. Card stock or greeting cards are not allowed in most facilities. You cannot use paint of any kind. You cannot enclose glitter or write with glittery gel pens or puff paint pens or stickers.

If you DO use some colorful artsy craftsy things to make a card on cardstock, simply photocopy it onto computer paper and send in the copy only.

You cannot include articles or anything else torn out of a newspaper or magazine. However, you can print that same article from the internet or photocopy it.

ON THE ENVELOPE:

Return address labels are no longer permitted in most facilities, nor stickers of any kind (aside from stamps). Write your 'to' and 'from' address neatly in blue or black pen.

For more information, contact:

Resistance in Brooklyn– **resistanceinbrooklyn.ows@gmail.com**

NYC Anarchist Black Cross– **nycabc@riseup.net**