



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for October 29th

14 Oct - The Case of the Florida Four

"It's hard to say which is worse" Federal Judge Equates Pro-Choice Graffiti to Arson of an Abortion Clinic During Sentencing of Pro-Choice Activists.

MORE:

Community activists successfully negotiate a plea bargain that drops FACE Act charges, blocking federal precedent defining "fake clinics" as reproductive healthcare facilities. These so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" are known for coercive and pseudoscientific advice disguised as medical advice.

These three defendants refused any plea agreement that would result in this dangerous precedent. However, the Biden-Harris administration forced the three to plead to felony Conspiracy and then demanded prison time from the judge. Caleb Freestone was sentenced to a year in prison, Amber Smith-Stewart and Annarella Rivera were each sentenced to 30 days.

In the fall of Dobbs, our worst fears have been realized. Democrats have thrice had the opportunity to enshrine the right to an abortion into federal law yet instead chose to repress four beloved community activists.

"I've supported and raised two children by working in my chosen field of ob/gyn healthcare. When not working, I've spent countless hours escorting patients to and from clinical appointments for their safety and the safety of our workers. Simply put, women's health and the ability to choose their own path is my passion and calling. I never thought that the act of spray-painting a fake 'clinic' would result in the FBI violently raiding my house or that I would become a pawn in the fight for a person's right to bodily autonomy-something an overwhelming majority of citizens in the United States believe in."

– Annarella Rivera, codefendant sentenced to 30 days in prison

Contribute to their commissary and follow for more ways to support over the next year linktr.ee/sfl_arc

15 Oct - Preliminary hearing for the Sibilla operation

Italy: The preliminary hearing of October 10th in the so-called Sibilla repressive operation, which involves twelve anarchists, including Alfredo Cospito, who is detained under 41 bis prison regime in Bancali prison (Sassari) and connected through videoconference (obligatory under 41 bis), ended with a postponement due to lack of notification.

MORE:

translation via *La Namesi*

Initially scheduled to take place at the court in via XIV Settembre, the building that serves as the court of preliminary investigation (this is usually where interrogations of guarantees, re-examinations and preliminary hearings are held), it was only when they entered the courtroom that the tireless officials of the administration of justice realized that there were no suitable rooms in that building for hearings using videoconferencing. Therefore, the hearing was hurriedly moved to the central seat of the court of Perugia in piazza Matteotti.

Several accused comrades, including Alfredo himself, asked to be allowed to make spontaneous statements, but were met with firm opposition by chief prosecutor Raffaele Cantone, who replaced the prosecutor in charge of the investigation, Manuela Comodi, after she ran into some legal troubles; all this in a paradoxical situation in which it was the prosecution that asked for a postponement, without the official opening of the hearing and therefore also without being able to make statements.

The comrades who were present (we remember that the preliminary hearing is held behind closed doors) managed to 'greet' Alfredo on camera and even made themselves heard on the microphone for a brief moment, upsetting the judge and prosecutor. Alfredo responded to the greetings by waving and raising his fists cheerfully.

Outside the courtroom, a gathering of some twenty comrades reiterated their solidarity with Alfredo, the defense of the anarchist publications, and the denunciation of the authoritarian turn underway as an expression of the politics of war.

The next appointment is therefore for January 15th in Perugia, at 10 a.m., in piazza Matteotti. Reaffirming our solidarity with Alfredo and our determination to defend the agibility of the anarchist press, we invite the comrades to be present in solidarity on this occasion as well.

17 Oct - Fotis Tziotzis about his vindictive detention in Grevena prison

Greece: Text by the anarchist Fotis Tziotzis about his vindictive detention in the garbage dump of Grevena prison.

MORE:

via Act for Freedom Now!

I think that after 5 months of conscious silence, it's time to say a few words about the general regime of detention that the repression mechanisms are building against me. The issues of Greek prisons are more or less known and not only are there no attempts to solve them, but they are constantly increasing. Prisoners suffer daily from the obvious indifference of the State, which is now clearly being supplemented by vindictiveness towards us.

Speaking about my own journey through prisons, about the vindictiveness and obsession with my person, I do not speak in terms of a victim, I do not speak with any predilection for regret or repentance. I speak as a recalcitrant prisoner, who for so many years does not give up, does not back down, is not touched by their tricks – in simple words, I do not even see them. For all these reasons, 4 months ago, they vengefully shuffled me from Domokos prison to the garbage dump of Grevena prison (a condition that is beginning to become a norm for other prisoners as well), as a first punitive move against the events surrounding the attack with a trapped parcel on the scumbag-president of appeals Thess/niki Anastasia Anthopoulou.

Grevena, from a maximum security prison that it was in the past, began to methodically turn into a place of detention for moral offences. The result of all these tactics is that today only 3 cells "accommodate" prisoners for other crimes, while the overwhelming totality of the prison is full of garbage accused of rape, child rape, trafficking, lechery, etc. From the first day, the prison management assured me of the seemingly punitive nature of my transfer here, intending to send me soon to another prison, with more "normal" surroundings. And while other prisoners are escaping, the ministry is clearly showing its intention to crush me morally and psychologically by stubbornly keeping me here. It might be clear that we have no communication with trash prisoners, it might be clear that they do not step foot near us, but the atmosphere is foul, knowing that a few meters away from you sleep and breathe garbage with sick minds.

To sum up, I request immediate transfer to another prison with a normal environment around me, so that the tone changes. If not, for whatever happens from now on, the only ones responsible are the ministry and KEM. You can neither stop me nor silence me and that is what hurts you most. It hurts you that someone remains intact in his beliefs and does not compromise with you.

Everything continues or rather everything now begins. Because if you don't get it, we will make you understand and you will respect us.

18 Oct - Hundreds of Mink Released, Two People Arrested Nearby

Stahl Mink Farm Targeted Again After Thousands of Captive Mink Released in September 2023

MORE:

Although an anonymous communique has yet to be received, activists appear to have liberated hundreds more captive mink from Stahl Fur Farm in Pennsylvania early this morning, according to local news media. It's been said that the liberation was consistent with actions by the Animal Liberation Front, and that it's believed the suspects arrested in this case were just innocent bystanders arrested by a desperate police force embarrassed by their inability to find those responsible for the previous liberation in 2023.

According to local law enforcement, Christopher Legere, 25, and Cara Mitrano, 27, both of Massachusetts, were taken into custody and charged with agricultural vandalism, criminal mischief- damage of property, theft by unlawful taking, cruelty to animals, burglary and criminal trespass. They were picked up in Ralpho Township about 15 miles away.

October 21st - Support the Two Individuals Arrested After Mink Farm Raid

According to local law enforcement, Christopher Legere, 25, and Cara Mitrano, 27, both of Massachusetts, were taken into custody and charged with agricultural vandalism, criminal mischief- damage of property, theft by unlawful taking, cruelty to animals, burglary and criminal trespass. They were picked up in Ralpho Township about 15 miles away. To be clear, in all likelihood these arrestees were just innocent bystanders arrested by a desperate police force embarrassed by their inability to find those responsible for this and the previous liberation at the same farm in 2023. Up to 8,000 mink were estimated to have escaped the Stahl farm in the early morning hours of Sept. 17, 2023; no arrests have been reported in that incident.

Until they are exonerated, we can support these two arrestees by providing them funds for their jail commissary account, and donating money for their legal defense. Here's how:

To send money for the arrestees' commissary account at the jail, go to **accesscorrections.com/v2/home**. Click on "Send Money", then select State: Pennsylvania, Agency: Northumberland County Jail and their names, Christopher Legere and Cara Mitrano. Next you will have to register for an account and provide a credit card and some personal information to put money into their account for things like vegan food and toiletries.

There will likely be a GoFundMe-type of account soon as well. Stay tuned.

Their legal team is currently being assembled, and we will provide updates as they become available. Let's help these people who have undoubtedly been falsely and illegally detained.

Meanwhile, please do not believe the lies being perpetrated by the animal abusers and their lackeys in the media. Fur farmers and their apologists often say the most ridiculous things to try and mitigate their losses after raids like these. Sample absurdities spouted as fact include:

- Many or most of the escaped animals were run over and killed by cars. In reality, fox and mink farms are located in rural areas with little traffic, the animals are quick and solitary animals, and it beggars belief to imagine them aggregating in the road waiting to be run over by the rare passing vehicle. **FALSE!**
- Many or most freed animals returned to the farm for shelter or food, or because they loved their captors. **Very funny. And FALSE!**
- Captive mink are domesticated. Despite even generations in captivity, it has been shown scientifically that mink remain genetically wild, and studies with radio-collared mink demonstrate clearly the animals are capable of surviving in the wild. No, they won't starve or freeze to death. **Seriously FALSE!**
- Released captives are roaming the neighborhoods killing livestock, fish in koi ponds (you can't make this stuff up, and (gasp) family pets. **FALSE!**
- Captive, now free and wild mink have no desire to be anywhere near humans and their "livestock" or pets. There may be some minimal impact on the local ecosystems temporarily while the animals disperse and learn their way around, but no habitats are decimated or overrun or rendered free of

other small animals. And no, the animals do not kill wantonly and more than they need to survive, as one commentator had the audacity to suggest. **FALSE!**

- Most of the animals were recaptured since they don't know how to get away, or because they are waiting around for their next meal (or to be gassed, clubbed, or anally electrocuted, as 100% of those who remain will be. **Uh, wrong!**

20 Oct - This Might Be the Worst Thing Happening in Texas Right Now

They are called "containment cages." They are smaller than a phone booth and contain no sink or toilet. Most prisoners cannot lie down in them. Incarcerated people in Texas are regularly put into these wire cages when they are transferred between prisons or for mental health care.

MORE:

by Jeremy Busby (*Slate*)

I was standing in a containment cage, a contraption smaller than a telephone booth made of steel and mesh wire. It was standing room only in the cage, with no toilet or sink.

This was a regular part of life for a prisoner in solitary confinement in Texas. Every time I was transferred to a different prison facility, I found myself in one of these containment cages while the prison administration assigned me to a cell. This time, I'd spent the past 23 months in solitary confinement for possession of a contraband cellphone. Prison administrators had approved my release back into the general population, and I had been transferred to the William McConnell Unit in South Texas.

There were two other prisoners standing in the additional containment cages, one six feet to my left and the other six feet to my right. A small-framed young Latino kid named Sam was in the left containment cage, and Mike, a frail, elderly Black man with an unkempt gray beard was to my right. The moment my shackles and handcuffs were removed, Sam began telling me horror stories about McConnell. (I am using pseudonyms to protect the prisoners mentioned.)

Sam explained that he was enrolled in the McConnell Unit's self-harm program because he expressed suicidal ideations. He had attempted suicide multiple times, and each time the prison administrators tossed him into a containment cage. On average, Sam spent four days in a containment cage before being transferred to a mental health facility.

This time, Sam had been in a containment cage for six consecutive days, without a single opportunity to access a toilet. Turning sideways inside his containment cage, Sam pointed at a pile of brown substance on his floor. It was dried feces. When I expressed my disbelief that he had been forced to relieve himself within his cage, Sam informed me that the feces belonged to the prisoners previously in the cage.

I stood in complete shock. Then I gazed quickly toward Mike's containment cage. Eight cereal cartons lined the inside perimeter, each filled with liquid. Before I could ask, Sam answered my question; it was urine. Mike had been there four days after a failed suicide attempt. Instead of urinating on the floor, Mike saved empty cereal cartons from breakfast. The brown bags that lunch and dinner came in doubled as waste containers.

Sam and Mike both were placed on a prison protocol called CDO, or constant and direct observation. Suicidal prisoners were placed in this protocol until they were cleared by the prison's mental health department or transferred to a mental health facility, a process that often took days.

Housing prisoners in containment cages for days is a widespread and unchecked practice in certain Texas prisons. At the other prisons where I had been held, suicidal individuals were placed in empty cells that at least had functioning plumbing and bunks, and space to move around. A guard was stationed outside of their cells to monitor the prisoners' behavior patterns until they were cleared or transferred. Solitary

confinement itself was horrific, but these containment cages were catastrophic. Even if the floors had not been littered with other prisoners' feces or cartons filled with urine, there was no room to lie down.

As a prisoners' rights advocate and journalist with two decades of bylines dedicated to the Texas prison system, I knew the system was antiquated and inhumane, but this shocked me to my core. These were the most dehumanizing conditions I had experienced within the Texas system. This was 2022, and these living conditions reminded me of conditions experienced by enslaved people in the 1800s. They infringed upon every protection afforded by the U.S. Constitution and on basic human morality.

Psychiatrist Terry Kupers affirmed in an interview that the practice of holding people with any kind of mental health conditions in any form of solitary confinement meets the definition of torture provided by the United Nations. Kupers argued that it violates the Eighth Amendment as well. From a clinical standpoint, Kupers believes placing individuals suffering from a mental health crisis in horrid conditions of isolation is a flagrant human rights' violation.

"What sense does it make to place suicidal prisoners in containment cages if the aim is to help them examine and resolve suicidal inclinations?" Kupers asked me. "The containment cages make prisoners more prone to eventually take their own lives," he said. According to Kupers, the containment cages are worse than a solitary confinement cell, and are antithetical to crisis intervention and suicide prevention.

When I assumed it could get no worse, Sam told me about the "dungeon" located at the back of the administration building. The administration of the McConnell Unit had taken an unused empty utility closet and retrofitted it with seven containment cages, stacked next to one another, to house suicidal prisoners.

In the dungeon, Sam told me, there were daily shouting contests between suicidal prisoners who suffered from schizophrenia, hallucinations, and other mental illnesses. Obscenities and threats were tossed relentlessly between prisoners at unbearable volumes in the tiny, windowless utility closet.

"Those arguments last for days without interruption," Sam said. Oftentimes, verbal disputes turned physical. Feces, urine, and other bodily fluids would fly through the containment cages' mesh wire. The prisoners in the cages in between feuding parties had no escape from these disputes, and no sink to clean themselves afterward. The guard assigned to the unit would sit in the hallway out of harm's way.

Through luck, Sam and Mike narrowly avoided placement in the dungeon as the unit had no capacity. The prison administrators had no option but to house them in the additional containment cages sprinkled throughout the administration building hallway. It was Sam's belief that prisoners suffering from mental illness enrolled in the self-harm program in hopes of finding treatment at a mental health facility. However, prisoners who had previously spent time in one of the containment cages preferred death over being placed back into those dehumanizing living conditions.

The stories I heard from prisoners locked in the containment cages convinced me I needed to see the atrocity known as the dungeon for myself. I met a prisoner who worked in the chapel and was responsible for delivering religious pamphlets to prisoners in solitary confinement. He agreed to escort me through the solitary confinement administration building.

The administration building looked like any other government building. The walls were neatly painted with the state of Texas emblem, with the words "Protecting Our Own" inscribed across the top. American and Texan flags were prominently displayed everywhere. The fresh scent of Pine-Sol penetrated my nose. The floors were polished with a shining coat of wax.

We were greeted by a row of tidy offices with large windows. Civilian clerks sat behind wooden desks, and a security control picket was manned by a single prison guard. A monitor provided security footage of the entire building, next to an arsenal of chemical agents and riot gear.

The guard buzzed us through a solid steel gate to give us entry to the main hallway, with the dungeon located at the end. After we passed a security office, we arrived at two adjoining hallways that veered off to the solitary confinement cell blocks where I was previously held. The closer we got to the dungeon, the more the administration building deteriorated. The polished floors slowly turned into dull tiles. The paint became increasingly bare. An intolerable odor overwhelmed the scent of Pine-Sol.

By the time we reached the end of the main hallway, the building was unrecognizable. Deafening screams bounced off the walls. A guard sat outside the doorway and eyed us with suspicion as we approached him. The entire room, including the ceiling and floor, had been painted royal blue. Dried and fresh feces hung from the mesh wire of each cage. The entire floor was flooded with urine. There were red blood spatters on the walls. An elderly Black man in the first cell gave me the most heartbreaking look of despair.

This practice is not exclusive to the McConnell Unit. At least two other Texas prisons, the Gib Lewis Unit and the John B. Connally Unit, have their own version of the dungeon.

A 2023 complaint to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice made by the Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Prison Reform requested an investigation into the practice at the Gib Lewis Unit. The complaint alleged prisoners at Gib Lewis were being held in containment cages without the ability to lie down fully or access bathrooms. On multiple occasions, prisoners were forced to urinate in bottles and defecate in bags, or on the ground of the cages, with one prisoner claiming he endured this treatment for over a week.

TDCJ has been historically known as one of the most dehumanizing prison systems in the country, especially when it comes to its mental health care and solitary confinement policies. For decades, TDCJ administrators have resisted national trends on limiting the use of solitary confinement, specifically for mentally ill or suicidal individuals.

For example, in 2017 the state of New Jersey passed legislation expressly prohibiting the housing of “vulnerable populations in solitary confinement,” which included prisoners with a history of mental illness or those exhibiting recent conduct like self-mutilation. The same year, Colorado terminated its practice of housing mentally ill prisoners in solitary, and replaced it with de-escalation tactics and psychiatric care. Several other states have followed suit and implemented similar provisions to ensure solitary confinement is not utilized for prisoners with serious mental illnesses.

However, Texas continues to place mentally ill prisoners in solitary confinement. In fact, the programs designed to “treat” mentally ill suicidal prisoners often involve psychologically crippling isolation. During the 23 months I spent in solitary confinement, I witnessed TDCJ staff disregard prisoners’ mental health. Few of us were given regular mental health evaluations. Countless requests for mental health treatment were denied or completely ignored. Mental health providers bullied prisoners placed in CDO asking for care.

It is no surprise that TDCJ has recorded 638 suicides since 2005, according to the Texas Justice Initiative, a watchdog group that monitors deaths in Texas prisons. Out of those 638 confirmed deaths, 85 percent (or 544 of them) were from hanging or strangulation.

In addition, there is a lack of transparency from the prison system regarding the regulations for suicidal prisoners. The Prison Policy Initiative requested the TDCJ provide the official policy regarding the treatment and housing requirements for suicidal prisoners for this story. The prison passed the request on to the Texas Medical Board, which rejected it, citing patient confidentiality. So the official policy is still unknown.

The TDCJ did not respond when contacted for a comment.

But for prisoners like Sam and Mike, and for the haunted souls I encountered in the dungeon, official policies hardly matter. What matters is the suffering they endure—day after day, hour after hour—in cages that would be deemed unfit for any animal, much less for highly vulnerable human beings.

20 Oct - Misconduct Uncovered In Atlanta Cop City Protestor Case

Recent testimony reveals police seized papers in apparent violation of terms of a court-ordered search warrant

MORE:

by Timothy Pratt (*The Guardian*)

Georgia prosecutors and police have repeatedly stretched the law or come under harsh criticism for their handling of a criminal conspiracy case involving protesters against a police-training center colloquially known as “Cop City”, activists and experts say.

The case has been pushed so recklessly that one of the subjects of the prosecution told the *Guardian* that their constitutional rights were being “blatantly violated”, after police took thousands of his personal papers in a Swat-style raid last year.

Experts have told the *Guardian* the case is the largest use of so-called Rico statutes against a protest movement in US history. The law has historically been used to prosecute the Mafia or organized crime, but here it is being brought to bear against an environmental and social justice movement.

The broad-based movement against the training center, now in its fourth year, has drawn national and global headlines, particularly after police shot and killed Manuel Paez Terán, or “Tortugueta”, an environmental protester who was camped in a public park near the Cop City site, last year – the first such incident of its kind in US history.

Opposition to the project has come from a wide range of local and national supporters, with concerns such as unchecked police militarization and the clearing of forests in an era of climate crisis. Atlanta police say the center is needed for “world-class” training.

The revelation about police seizing personal papers in apparent violation of the terms of a court-ordered search warrant come from recent courtroom testimony.

The hearing on 11 October at the Fulton County superior court was one of several in the last few months where Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams considered motions to dismiss all or parts of the state’s Rico indictment against 61 people, handed down by Georgia attorney general, Chris Carr, on 29 August 2023. It was the first to include multiple state witnesses.

Adams expressed concerns about the most recent evidence of state overreach, an apparent violation of the fourth amendment rights of members of the Atlanta Solidarity Fund, or ASF, a bail fund whose three members live together in a house that Atlanta police and the Georgia bureau of investigation raided in May 2023.

Adams must now decide on a remedy that will not only address the state’s apparent misconduct, but also “deter future conduct”, as she put it.

The case’s trial will not begin until next year, but defense attorneys have filed dozens of motions based on alleged prosecutorial misconduct and other issues with the case – including several involving the ASF.

The most dramatic moment in the all-day hearing occurred when Don Samuel, attorney for the ASF, wheeled 10 file boxes overflowing with papers into the courtroom. Someone had written the Atlanta address of the defendants’ house in black marker on the sides of the boxes.

Samuel picked out and held up such items as diaries, letters to a therapist, mammogram results and grade school report cards – more than 14 in total. With each one, the attorney asked Michael Carter, an agent with the Georgia bureau of investigation, on the witness stand: “Was this legitimate to seize as evidence of charity fraud?” – the state’s main charge against the bail fund in alleging its participation in a criminal conspiracy.

“No,” the detective repeatedly answered.

“There was no attention paid to what the warrant said,” Samuel asserted. “You treated it as a key to get in the front door and then do whatever you want [...] You seized everything and then came up with a theory afterward.” Samuel’s motion argued that all evidence gathered during the raid should be excluded from the case.

Adams seemed to agree with Samuel’s concern. “It does seem to me that some items were seized outside the scope of the warrant,” she said, addressing John Fowler, the deputy attorney general. “How can we deter future conduct? ... How can we put guardrails for law enforcement?”

The ASF claims the state has subjected it to additional misconduct, including in a motion Samuel filed in June detailing how Fowler shared with police investigators and defense attorneys’ emails from two of the fund’s members that contained privileged attorney-client communication. The state obtained the emails through a Google search warrant. The *Guardian* confirmed the motion’s allegations independently.

Samuel petitioned the court in that motion to exclude both the attorney general and the police from continuing to prosecute the case. Adams denied the motion on 30 August, but wrote in her order that she was “extremely troubled by the State’s gross negligence when handling and disclosing potentially privileged communications” and that she may decide in the future to exclude all the emails obtained from trial.

“[T]he State is strongly admonished that future misconduct will result in additional sanctions,” she concluded.

The most recent hearing also made clear that the state had blown all deadlines to share its multiple terabytes of evidence with defense, as attorneys representing two additional defendants had not received video and audio of their clients until days before.

Chris Carraway, attorney for defendant Sonali Gupta, told the *Guardian* he received 25 gigabytes of evidence concerning his client on the Wednesday before the hearing – despite the court ordering Fowler to turn over all evidence by 17 May.

“We’re continuing to see evidence that the prosecution ... is not up to the task they set for themselves,” said Marlon Kautz, a member of the bail fund. “They’re unable to meet the burden of responsibilities of handling evidence, and just kind of fumbling.”

At the same time, he said, the state’s case has a real-world impact, including on him and his housemates. The state holding onto their personal papers for more than a year is “beyond inconvenient. It’s incredibly violating,” he said.

“They’re just pushing it [the case] along for as long as possible, to cause as much harm as possible to the 61 defendants, and to the movement in general,” he added.

As for the Swat-style raid last May, he said: “It seems clear the police who conducted the raid were not trying to respect the constitutional rights we had – they’re not only willing to violate our fourth amendment rights, but didn’t even seem aware [in court] that we had those rights.”

Kautz hopes the case can “make an example of instances where rights are blatantly violated ... [and] can establish precedence for how political prosecutions are handled in the future”.

21 Oct - All Four Susaron Prisoners Sentenced to Prison or TAG

Chile: The Susaron case is the name given by the Chilean press to the arrest of 4 comrades accused of having set fire to trucks, the meat packing plant and the sales room of the Susaron butcher's shop. This company is nationally known for producing important imports and exports of pork, beef and chicken.

MORE:

via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

On September 18, 2022, the comrades entered the main branch of Susaron and set fire to the trucks that were on the premises. As a result of the spread of the fire, the meat packing plant and the sales room were also burned. Due to an investigation, on November 3, 2022, their homes were raided and the 4 comrades were arrested in different places. The following day they were taken into custody and remanded in custody for the crime of arson, and two of them for possession of ammunition.

The case became a media event, appearing in all the national news programs. Due to the seriousness of the facts, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of the Interior and the company filed a lawsuit. All of them asked for sentences ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment.

At present, all the comrades have been convicted.

The first was Itamar, sentenced in March 2024 to 5 years of intensive probation for the crime of arson. She will have to serve the remainder of her sentence in freedom, discounting the time she served in prison.

On August 5, 2024, Panda was sentenced to 4 and a half years for the crime of arson and possession of ammunition. He will have to serve the remainder of his sentence in prison. He is currently in the Colina I prison.

On October 7, 2024, Tortuga was sentenced to 5 years for the crime of arson and possession of ammunition, but he could serve his sentence under intensive probation. Therefore, he is serving the remainder of his sentence. On October 7, 2024, Ru was sentenced to 5 years for the crime of arson. Having to serve the sentence in prison. He is currently in the Santiago 1 prison, awaiting his transfer to the Colina I prison.

21 Oct - Richard Hunsinger Is Coming Home

George Floyd uprising prisoner Richard Hunsinger will be leaving FCI Forrest City on November 26 – a little over a month from now.

MORE:

Richard will be released to a halfway house and expects to spend about a month there before moving on to supervised release.

Richard is excited to be starting a new chapter and is so grateful for your support during these past few years! If you have been writing to Richard, please pause your correspondence until we can share an updated address with you.

You can donate funds here to help Richard with all the general expenses that come with returning back home: gofundme.com/f/richards-expenses

23 Oct - The Watermelon Scare: Attacks on Palestine Solidarity Activists Aim to Silence Anti-War Movement

On October 15th, the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network was labeled a “terrorist entity” by Canada and subjected to sanctions by the United States.

MORE:

via *It's Going Down*

These designations follow a previous ban in Germany and the labeling of Samidoun as a “terrorist organization” by Israel. The U.S. claims Samidoun is a “sham fundraiser whose efforts have supported terrorism” by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a Marxist-Leninist Palestinian political party also labeled as a “Foreign Terrorist Organization” by the U.S. For its part, Samidoun states it “does not have any material or organizational ties to entities listed on the terrorist lists of the United States, Canada or the European Union.”

Two days later, Republican Senator Marco Rubio sent a letter to the U.S. Attorney General requesting he “immediately open a domestic terrorism investigation” into the popular pro-Palestine website and social media account, *Unity of Fields*, known for posting anonymous reports of direct actions. In a statement, the group said it is “an anti-imperialist propaganda front...we don’t do actions, we only report on them and receive anonymous submissions.”

As the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) recently noted, Rubio also pushed the Attorney General to charge four activists in Florida who were arrested for writing pro-choice graffiti following the fall of *Roe v Wade* for “terrorism.” One activist was sentenced to a year in prison by the Middle District of Florida, the same court that recently awarded only 8 months to a man convicted of literally firebombing a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Likewise, while Rubio is trying to claim that an Instagram account is terrorism, he has of course stayed quiet while his own party works overtime to spread rampant misinformation in the wake of two devastating hurricanes hitting his state and about the upcoming election – to say nothing of members of his own party regularly attending neo-Nazi gatherings and increasing aligning with white nationalists.

One may disagree with Samidoun and *Unity of Fields* on their specific political positions, but the entire movement against the ongoing war and genocide in Gaza should be concerned with the state’s move to target them. In no way can Samidoun be understood as a “sham charity” or “terrorist entity,” nor a media project like *Unity of Fields* as responsible for “domestic terrorism.” Even if one were to accept the legitimacy of power to deploy a subjective term such as “terrorism,” in reality, the extent of Samidoun’s work is posting statements, organizing public educational and political events, and pushing online action campaigns, while *Unity of Fields* maintains a counter-info website and social media accounts.

As a member of Samidoun stated in a recent interview, “They are attacking us on the basis that we were fundraising for other political groups and political parties and they know very well that this is not true. If there was any serious allegation there, many of us would be in prison right now. So, there is not any legal grounds or element for any of this. It’s just a bullshit campaign to attack Samidoun and the work that we are doing.”

Samidoun in particular has done crucial work for years lifting up the cause of Palestinian prisoners held by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, often when few others have been doing so. Their work is critical during a time when Israeli detention of Palestinians has skyrocketed. Over the past year, Israel has detained 11,100 Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and unknown thousands from the Gaza Strip. Palestinian prisoners are held in horrific conditions, routinely tortured, and at least 53 are known to have died in Israeli detention over the past year. The sanctioning and designation of Samidoun is nothing more than an attempt to silence an outspoken, pro-Palestine voice in the midst of a genocide being facilitated by the U.S. and the West. One may not like all that they say, but that is not the point. That they have come for Samidoun and seek to come for *Unity of Fields*, means that they can come for any pro-Palestine organization. As such, these moves must be vociferously denounced and as the National Lawyers Guild

argues, such actions must be understood historically as part and parcel of anti-Palestinian racism and an attempt to stifle the Palestine solidarity movement.

Political repression is baked into the state, as it marshals its forces to disrupt and dismantle autonomous movements from below, often through violent means. In the 1960s, the state carried out COINTELPRO, which utilized often brutal methods including outright assassination, against groups like the Black Panthers and the growing anti-war and liberation movements. Since 9/11, we've also seen the Green Scare attack radical eco-activists, the RNC 8 fight off conspiracy charges following protests at the Republican convention in 2008, the crushing of the Occupy movement, direct targeting of Black liberation organizers, a massive crackdown against demonstrators at Standing Rock, repeat attempts to demonize and attack antifascists during Trump's presidency, the J20 case which attempted to criminalize everything from wearing black at a protest to being a member of the IWW, the mass militarized crackdown of the George Floyd Rebellion, and RICO charges against Stop Cop City protesters and supporters. At the same time, we've seen an explosion of far-Right violence aimed at the public at large, while police continue to murder on average, about three people per day. In short, political repression in the U.S. isn't aimed at keeping people safe, but curtailing their ability to change their material conditions.

Now, as mobilizations in solidarity with Palestine are on the upsurge, and connections continue to be made between U.S. law enforcement and Israeli apartheid, the state again is seeking to crush any challenge to its genocidal practices. As calls for a ceasefire grow louder, the state is becoming more desperate to silence those taking action, as U.S. troops are now on the ground and the war on Gaza threatens to expand into a full-blown regional conflict.

Instead of stopping the billions in military aid and weapons being sent to Israel in the midst of a deepening humanitarian crisis, the U.S. has doubled down on the war effort while pushing through a wave of draconian attacks on speech and protest at home, specifically on campuses where last spring massive student-led occupations erupted.

According to *The New York Times*, just last semester more than 3,100 people were arrested on 73 campuses across the U.S. While the state attempts to frame the Palestine solidarity movement as violent (despite evidence to the contrary), the real violence has emerged from law enforcement and the far-Right. Harkening back to the police-facilitated far-Right street violence against antifascists several years ago, there has also been violence by Zionists, most notably at UCLA, where a far-Right mob attacked the Gaza solidarity encampment for hours as police watched. And the state and its allies in the universities have only ramped up for more repression this fall.

Whether it be through the purchase of drones and less-lethal weaponry, the creation of new policies designed to stifle student expression, firing tenured professors, or deeming Zionists a "protected class," the overall pattern, as summarized by Palestine Legal, is that "these policies have ultimately consolidated administrative and state power while undermining freedom of expression, the right to assembly and protest, academic freedom, and safety for students and faculty on campuses across the country." As this article was being put together, pro-Palestine organizers in Philadelphia at Penn State had their home raided by armed police who made no arrests. This follows the university banning Penn Students Against the Occupation back in April. Combined with statements from Donald Trump that he'll deport radicals and protesting students, or attention seekers like Republican Senator Tom Cotton calling for protesters to be thrown off bridges, there is a perfect storm of hate, fear, ignorance, repression, fascism, and genocide.

This moment has also seen the ongoing weaponization of anti-Semitism. Rather than deal with the very real threat and severity of anti-Semitism in the United States, what can be seen is a continuation of Trump-era policies, where as president he embraced the anti-Semitic far-Right while deploying his administration, notably under the tenure of Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Kenneth Marcus, to crack down on speech critical of Israel in the name of fighting anti-Semitism. Recently, the Heritage Foundation, author of Project 2025, released "Project Esther," which calls for the government to go after anti-Zionists in the name of combating anti-Semitism. The report claims groups such as Jewish Voice for

Peace and Students for Justice in Palestine form an elaborate “ Hamas Support Network ” and should be targeted using counter-terrorism, immigration, and RICO laws. On Palestine, the state, the university “ liberal elite,” and the reactionary far-Right all speak in one voice: Question the genocidal settler-colonial status quo, and we’ll come for you.

It should be lost on no-one that such draconian measures were not leveled against the Alt-Right following the coming to power of Trump in 2017, when white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups began to flood college campuses with anti-Semitic and white supremacist propaganda, organize demonstrations, and attack members of the public and the student body. Instead, university officials mobilized massive amounts of resources and police to protect far-Right trolls from the very communities they sought to subjugate and attack, while a chorus of centrists and bureaucrats bent over backwards to defend fascists from popular opposition.

As part of this context, it is important to keep in mind that at least 411 Palestinian organizations are labeled by Israel as “ unlawful ” or as “ terrorist organizations. ” The U.S. often uncritically adopts such framings. Palestine is, by its existence under settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and genocide, a politicized society. Any political expression by Palestinians is deemed “ terrorism ” by Israel. To act in principled solidarity with the struggle for Palestinian liberation is to be guided by Palestinian visions for liberation, such as those embodied in the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions call of 2005, signed by 170 Palestinian civil society organizations – some of whom are labeled as “ terrorist. ”

According to such logic, groups working in solidarity with those being genocided can be classified as “ terrorist organizations ” by the ones conducting and enabling the genocide. We cannot discard the fact that this move comes at a time when both the Republican and Democratic parties are steadfast advocates of genocide while the vast majority of voters in the U.S. support a ceasefire. The ruling class is hoping to stoke fear and turn the principled stand of Palestine solidarity into the bogeyman of “ terrorism. ” We cannot let such moves scare us or silence us, as is certainly the intent. At the same time, it is prudent to be mindful. When in doubt, contact a friendly lawyer or the folks at the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC), Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), or Palestine Legal.

If their laws make solidarity illegal, then it should be an honor to be a criminal.

October 26th - Penn sent officers to raid a pro-Palestinian activist house off campus. They said it was in connection with a vandalism investigation.

by Max Marin and Susan Snyder (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*)

University of Pennsylvania police officers raided the off-campus home of several Penn community activists last week in connection to an alleged act of vandalism — a move that has deepened scrutiny into the Ivy League institution’s handling of dissent over the war in Gaza.

Around 6 a.m. on Oct. 18, residents said a dozen armed campus officers stormed their West Philadelphia home in tactical gear, corralling the pajama-clad residents at gunpoint. People who live in the house said police brought one resident, whom they did not identify, to the station for questioning and that their “ personal device was seized on suspicion of vandalism. ”

While no one has been charged or arrested, the group described the search as an unprecedented and “ traumatic ” show of force against pro-Palestinian activists on campus.

“ This is a disgusting escalation from the University, and comes after a year of disciplining, arresting, and brutalizing their own students who organize for Palestinian liberation, and they made the deliberately traumatizing and threatening decision to invade our home, ” the house residents said in a joint statement. The group provided written answers to *The Inquirer*, but declined to be individually identified as they have not been charged and feared further reprisal.

Penn police confirmed that officers executed a search warrant on Friday in connection with a vandalism incident, but did not specify details about the case or the underlying vandalism. Penn police defended the action by saying that, in the last four months, the university has experienced about a quarter million dollars in damages from vandalism, including broken glass and graffiti.

“Any legal action taken by the UPPD is based on the violation of laws in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, not the policies of the university,” said Kathleen Shields Anderson, vice president of Penn’s division of public safety.

While Penn did not elaborate on the alleged vandalism, the search warrant nonetheless marks an escalation in the school’s handling of the fallout from the war overseas. It also comes at the time when the university faces pressure to crack down on antisemitic speech as well as activity critical of Israel on campus. Meanwhile, pro-Palestinian student protests over the war continue to roil the campus and administrators over what activists describe as biased and uneven treatment.

Penn police did not provide a copy of the warrant and the record has yet to be filed with the courts as of Thursday, meaning details of the investigation may remain unclear unless or until charges are filed.

A spokesperson for District Attorney Larry Krasner confirmed that the prosecutor’s office approved the search warrant based on an ongoing investigation led by Penn police. If the search leads the university to pursue criminal charges, the district attorney “will carefully review the evidence submitted by the appropriate law enforcement authorities and make a fair and just determination,” said spokesperson Dustin Slaughter. It was not clear where the off-campus house was located nor how many people live there. The group described themselves as “members of the Penn community,” of varying ages.

Last week, Penn police and Philadelphia police officer entered the home, awoke the residents and moved the group into the living room “at gunpoint,” the group said in a statement. The Philadelphia Police Department declined comment and deferred questions to Penn police.

Residents described the early-morning sting as “the most severe act of university repression of pro-Palestine activism since last October” as well as “a staggering show of force unheard of at any other university.” The group said it has consulted with lawyers.

Anderson maintained that throughout the execution of the warrant, officers “took care to explain to all involved what was occurring and to treat them with respect.” As with other campuses, vandalism has been a routine flashpoint at Penn since the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, with messages calling for “Ceasefire” or “Free Gaza” scrawled on campus buildings across the region. Penn has been the site of a concentrated — and controversial — series of defacements, including several incidents within the last month alone, according to the student-run *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

More vandalism occurred this week, including one that said “Kill Zios” and another that said, “KILL YOUR LOCAL ZIO NAZI,” the student newspaper reported Thursday.

In July, doors and windows were damaged at the Pennovation Center, which houses the company Ghost Robotics, which is involved in the production of equipment used by the military and which critics have targeted in the wake of Israel-Hamas war.

But on a large, urbanized campus, few vandalism cases result in exhaustive police investigations, let alone warrant executions.

Yalile Suriel, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota who studies higher education and the militarization of campus police forces, said such departments began conducting search warrants in recent decades, as universities expanded their law enforcement footprint. Many university departments now serve as supplemental extensions of the local police department — but often with less accountability.

“Unlike state institutions, where at least there is a sense of transparency and public record, private institutions and their police operate largely away from public view,” she said.

Suriel said that most high-profile raids that make the news involve narcotics on campus, though she could not recall another case like this focused solely on vandalism. Public outcry over the raid has grown in recent days — with some describing the raid as a gratuitous show of force considering the nature of the alleged crime.

State Rep. Rick Krajewski, who represents parts of West Philadelphia, called it “completely unacceptable and disturbing that a dozen officers armed with tactical gear and assault rifles threatened the safety of unarmed young people who are not only students, but our neighbors.”

October 26th - Hands Off Samidoun: Solidarity with the Palestinian Prisoner Support Network

by Philly ABC

Philly ABC extends our solidarity to Samidoun, the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, in response to the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) falsely-premised sanctions against the organization announced on October 15th. As anarchists and abolitionists attuned to organizing against prisons and policing, we recognize this as the latest attempt to employ the tactic of fabrication to repress powerful social movements. Samidoun affirmed their commitment to remain steadfast in the struggle to free Palestinians from the atrocities of colonization and state-sponsored fascism:

As Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, we reiterate our support for the Palestinian people, the prisoners and the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic resistance, who are confronting the genocide and occupation on a daily basis. ... Our response to this designation is clear: we will keep struggling to stop the genocide, stop imperialist support for Israel, until the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea. ... The repression is a sign of strength for the Palestinian movement and the international solidarity movement. This movement has mobilized the largest demonstrations for Palestine in history, has costed Israeli and Zionist companies billions of dollars in losses, it has united millions of people from across the world, and it has united virtually all social movements in every country for the Palestinian liberation struggle. ... We affirm that we shall remain steadfast and committed to the Palestinian people, until victory, return and liberation.

We concur that this repression is a sign of strength. It’s a clear reaction to the surge of global support for resistance movements and efforts to confront Israel’s blatant fascism, in which both the U.S. and Canadian governments are complicit. It’s the type of flailing they do when shit is getting hot; when solidarity is getting real.

In light of their fascist agenda in Palestine, in response to international calls for solidarity, around 400 of us came together in Philly (and remotely) on the 25th anniversary of #RunningDownTheWalls to support mutual aid in Gaza. Not only does Gaza qualify as the world’s largest open-air prison, but every Palestinian held by the Zionist entity can be considered an anti-colonial political prisoner. It was the biggest crowd in the history of RDTW. A comrade from Samidoun spoke about the importance of amplifying the voices of Palestinian prisoners, to bolster our collective movements for their freedom as well as liberation more broadly. Just as we support Indigenous and Black liberation movements on Turtle Island and recognize captured combatants as prisoners of war, Palestinians have every right to fight for self-determination.

While hundreds of thousands across the globe continue to mobilize to stop the genocide of Palestinians—and continue to take action day after day to confront imperialist complicity in fascism and colonization—our enemies are deploying their bookies to collect on lost profits and find the next leg to break. We know that these sanctions are just one of many attempts, to quell the groundswell rising for the freedom of Palestine and the right to return. We know that these tactics aim to scare us away from supporting resistance movements and freedom fighters, and we know that it never works! It only ignites us. We know that solidarity is a threat, and threat it shall be, because no one is free until all are free.

24 Oct - "Unsurprising Fact"

UK: The following is a text by anarchist prisoners Toby Shone. He is due to be released on November 13th, 2024, having served his full sentence and having been denied a parole hearing due to the machinations of the prison security and the legal struggle surrounding the "secret" Security Intelligence Report on Toby that had been submitted to the Parole Board, and that the Secretary of State had placed a non-disclosure order. This is the subject of Toby's letter, and is the genesis of the latest vindictive move by HMP Garth's "anti-terror bureaucrats" to further punish him during his final days at "His Majesty's pleasure."

MORE:

Some things don't surprise us and for sure the recourse to judicial options I find distasteful but expedient. Anarchism is either illegal or it is not anarchism as our dear comrade Gustavo Rodriguez reminds us. Nevertheless, over the past few months my lawyers were able to obtain a Security Intelligence Report (SIR) produced by the prison's anti-terror bureaucrats. This disclosure occurred in the course of a parole motion, which was denied in any event. The Secretary of State opposed my release and used a non-disclosure application to prevent me from seeing or being able to respond to "evidence" used against me on grounds of "national security". The Parole Board disagreed and granted me access to a scant eight pages of intelligence reports. These cover the time period September 2023 - January 2024 and show an incomplete snapshot of the surveillance and censorship of my correspondence and books, the gathering of information on those that I am in contact with and the intel received about the fireworks solidarity demo at Bristol prison last year when I was detained there. The report revealed the collection of all the names, addresses and personal details of all those who communicate with me. For example, it is noted that one comrade writes that he works as a postman, another comrade "has a daughter in prison", etc. Also listed in the entries are any personal connections and any details related to affiliations to any groups or tendencies. Geographic analysis using Google Maps has been made to view their locations. The Star and Shadow Cinema in Newcastle upon Tyne is designated a "potential meeting point" and BASE in Bristol described as "a heavily graffitied possible squat or commune."

Thus, the level of intelligence and analysis displayed is low and crude but we can anticipate that the data is funneled to the security services and the police state.

The security regime that I am imposed with is directed from outside the prison by a panel* comprising of senior police, Counter Terror Unit, National Security Division, governmental administration and forensic psychology.

We know that the state is afraid and takes step of repression; however, it is rare that we see the evidence and its workings, therefore I am giving this account as my response.

I have nothing to justify.

In this situation I already knew perfectly well before disclosure what the secret "evidence" consisted off – the fact that I maintain my perspective and contacts with the anarchist dependency and with the social movement. The stand that I continue to write "and try to receive" letters and I am sent books and publications with critical content.

I will not apologise one sentence for those things. I send my greetings to Alfredo, Anna, Juan and all the prisoners and those persecuted in Italy.

To Francisco, Monica and all the imprisoned comrades in Chile. To the comrades imprisoned and those in struggle in Greece. To Daniela Klette in Germany, strength. Likewise, to all the comrades detained in every territory, I send a hug and my complicity. A warm hug to Claudio who is now free.

To the application of practical theory. For a black international.