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Updates for September 30th

16 Sept - Nuclear resisters found guilty of trespass at Raytheon

Two nuclear resisters represented themselves at a September 2 bench trial before Judge Robert Forman in Pima County Consolidated Justice Court.

MORE:

John Heid and Elizabeth Murray had been arrested during a prayerful nonviolent resistance action on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at the Raytheon weapons factory in Tucson, Arizona. Together with members of the Pacific Life Community, they gathered outside of Raytheon that day for a prayer vigil to protest the development and production of a new nuclear missile at the plant. They both were charged with misdemeanor trespass after continuing their prayers onto Raytheon's property.

Before the trial began, friends and supporters joined a noon-hour vigil outside the courthouse. They held signs advocating nuclear disarmament, including the one that John and Elizabeth had carried into Raytheon on Ash Wednesday, which read "Raytheon nukes will reduce us to ashes". More than a dozen supporters then joined the pair in the courtroom.

Trial was delayed for about ten minutes, awaiting the arrival of Raytheon's chief of security, one of the prosecution's anticipated witnesses. He never showed up, so the only witness for the prosecution was a deputy sheriff who made the arrest and testified that the pair had in fact trespassed onto Raytheon property. After the prosecution concluded their case, Elizabeth moved to dismiss the charge because no evidence was given by the accuser, Raytheon, and she could not question them in court. The judge said the deputy's testimony was sufficient to support the charge and denied the motion.

John Heid began his testimony with a Mahatma Gandhi quote: "Mute prayer is my most powerful weapon."

He continued, "I am a Quaker, a member of the Religious Society of Friends. We worship in silence. We are most known for our Peace Testimony, our pacifism, our anti-war activism, and our non-conscription efforts. We are no strangers to courts, jails or prisons. March 5 was Ash Wednesday... I participated in the prayer service at the gates of Raytheon and then proceeded to take my prayers further into the facility. Where one prays matters."

Taking the stand in her own defense, Elizabeth Murray secured the court's attention when she began her testimony by identifying herself as a retired career CIA media analyst. She went on to tell Judge Forman, "It's so much easier to do nothing. So much more comfortable. So why did I bother? Why am I standing before you today? Was I hoping to afflict the comfortable, and comfort the afflicted? Yes I was. I don't want to live in a world where death factories are permitted to operate freely in the morning, even as we see their child victims – victims of genocide, shredded to small pieces – on our evening social media feed. My faith and my moral convictions drove me to engage in an act of conscience."

Jack Cohen-Joppa, who was with the Pacific Life Community at Raytheon in March, was called by Elizabeth Murray as their only witness. He spoke about the content and significance of each of seven photos from the scene, submitted to the Court and accepted as evidence over objection from the prosecutor.

Asked first to read the sign the defendants were holding in two of the photos, Elizabeth then asked to Jack to tell the court what those words meant to him. He first name-checked "Raytheon's Nukes" as the Long-Range Stand-Off (LRSO) missile, noted it's projected cost and was elaborating on the analogy to the ashes of Hiroshima when the judge cut him off.

Jack's January 2025 guest opinion about Raytheon's nuclear weapons work published in the Arizona Daily Star was not accepted as evidence despite John having cited it as a motivating factor in his decision to take nonviolent action.

After brief closing statements from both sides, Judge Forman took the case under advisement, promising to review the testimony and deliver a written verdict in the near future.

A week later, letters informing the pair of a guilty verdict and an October sentencing date were put in the mail. Judge Forman wrote that "As understandable as this Court finds Defendant's actions there is no reasonable doubt" that they each "knowingly remained on Raytheon's private property despite being advised that [they were] on private property and multiple request to leave the property and return to public property."

16 Sept - Anarchist prisoner released

Belarus: The regime deported 52 political prisoners in exchange for sanctions relief

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by Nikita Ivansky (*Freedom News*)

Anarchist Nikolai (Mikola) Dziadok was among 52 political prisoners released and deported from Belarus to Lithuania on 11 September, following negotiations between dictator Alexander Lukashenko and US envoy John Colae. In return, the US lifted sanctions on the state airline Belavia and renewed calls to reopen its embassy in Minsk—one of the largest prisoner buyouts since the 2020 uprising.

Dziadok had faced up to 13 years in prison on charges of organizing "Autonomous Action Belarus", labelled a criminal group by the regime. He had previously served five years (2010–2015) before being pardoned as one of the last prisoners of that period. Although his release had been nominally scheduled for April, a new case was opened against him, prolonging his detention, and he was held in torture conditions and near-total isolation.

Like the others freed, Dziadok was taken by bus to the Lithuanian border and expelled. Belarusian KGB officers tore up his passport, as they did for several prisoners that day, deliberately complicating their lives in exile. Most of those deported had no legal status in the EU, though Lithuania has granted them temporary visas.

Anarchists from the Belarusian group Pramen described the deportations as "a new punishment: instead of jail time, they're now facing indefinite exile to EU countries. Lukashenko's regime is trying to get rid of not only the prisoners themselves, but also their families, kids, and loved ones, who'll be forced to leave Belarus after five years of fighting against prison".

Not all accepted the deal. Opposition leader Mikola Statkevich refused to leave Belarus when brought to the "neutral" border zone, reportedly telling KGB agents: "I don't care about your kolkhoz leader"—a jab at Lukashenko's Soviet-era past. After several hours, masked men took him back into Belarus. His fate remains unknown.

Talks of trading political prisoners for sanctions have circulated for months. Liberal opposition circles in exile are even discussing a temporary camp in Lithuania to host further releases. More than 1,300 people remain imprisoned in Belarus today, including 24 anarchists and antifascists.

17 Sept - Arrests and Search Operations Relating to the 2023 Pisa Courthouse Attack

Italy: On the morning of 11 September, a police operation coordinated by the DDAA [District Anti-Mafia and Anti-Terrorism Directorate] in the main city of Tuscany and conducted by the DIGOS [General

Investigations and Special Operations Division] in Pisa and Florence took place in the municipalities of Carrara, Montignoso, Pisa and Sarzana.

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via *Abolition Media*

The operation appears to have been named “Delivery.” According to our information, two anarchist comrades who are subject to a preventive custody order under house arrest (it is not yet known if there are any particular restrictions; updates will follow) were arrested in Pisa and Carrara.

The comrades – who were already searched on 26 March in relation to the same acts – are under investigation for “terrorist acts involving lethal or explosive devices” and other related crimes. This is part of the proceedings concerning the attack on the Pisa courthouse on 21 February 2023. We would also like to point out that the comrades were involved in the 2023 “Scripta Scelera” operation, which was orchestrated by the Genoa DDAA against the internationalist anarchist fortnightly journal “Bezmotivny” (and which was essentially “shipwrecked” during the trial held in Massa against four defendants).

According to the latest information, the other comrades involved in this operation were only searched at home and in their vehicles. This was also in relation to the crime of “subversive association with the purpose of terrorism or subversion of the democratic order.”

“Every day, in every court, hundreds of exploited people are sentenced. By means of sentences, men and women are buried in prisons and their friendships and love relationships are mutilated. By means of explosives, structures will be hit and men of power will be mutilated. For every death at sea, in prison, at work, in the CPRs, not one, but 100 bombs against the masters. Your cameras and guards patrolling the city will never be enough to prevent action from penetrating your buildings”, read the statement of claim by Gruppo di Solidarietà Rivoluzionaria – Consegne a Domicilio [Revolutionary Solidarity Group – Home Deliveries] (joining the FAI-FRI), concerning the action against the court. This action was part of an intense mobilisation against 41 bis prison regime and life imprisonment without parole, and was carried out in solidarity with Alfredo Cospito, who was on hunger strike for over 120 days at the time. “Solidarity with all revolutionary prisoners around the world. Support social struggles with revolutionary struggle”, the text concluded.

UPDATE: The comrades are under house arrest with all restrictions (no communication or visits allowed).

18 Sept - Illustrated Guide Version 18.8 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2025/09/17/guide_18_8

MORE:

We’ve finished the latest version of the NYC ABC “Illustrated Guide to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War” and it’s available for viewing (and download) by visiting the link at the top of this post. This update includes updated mini-bios, photos, and address changes for several prisoners.

18 Sept - More Statements for Running Down the Walls

Though Running Down the Walls 2025 may be in the rearview mirror, we are happy to reprint statements written by some of our imprisoned comrades.

MORE:

ALEX STOKES

Hello, everyone.

Thank you for your support. What you all are doing makes a huge difference for political prisoners and their families. The War Chest has been an invaluable resource during my incarceration! These past three years would have been incredibly difficult without your love. Peace and respect to you. ‘Do not go gentle into that good night...rage, rage against the dying of the light’-poet, Dylan Thomas.

JAKHI MCCRAY

Hi everyone, sending all love from my home to wherever you happen to be. Thank you for the support, fundraisers, and solidarity throughout all of this. I appreciate it more than I can ever speak into words.

This Sunday on September 21, I'm turning 22 (last year I turned 21 in jail, I'm on a roll xD), and I wanted to shout out something important happening that same day. NYC ABC is continuing their annual Running Down The Walls 5K, which raises money for imprisoned comrades and a local organization or group. If you're free that day, please show up and support by running, walking, biking, rolling, or sponsoring someone participating. Support the 13 prisoners that the money will go to, as well as Atlanta 61 Defendant Priscilla Grim.

Atlanta Cop City Judge Farmer's plans to dismiss counts one and three of the RICO is great news, but support for the defendants is still needed as they deal with continued repression and surveillance.

19 Sept - Trump's Idea of the Criminal Left Is a Fiction.

The president describes a cartoonish fantasy of a George Soros-backed criminal network. If only the left were that good at collective defense.

MORE:

by Natasha Lennard (*The Intercept*)

Multibillionaire investor George Soros is not funding a network of militant left-wing activists. That fact has not stopped President Donald Trump from spending the days since Charlie Kirk's killing calling to press charges against the liberal philanthropist under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, or RICO, Act for allegedly bankrolling "violent" leftist protests across the country.

This absurd idea is among an array of repressive proposals, ranging from the illegal to the unconstitutional, that Trump and his acolytes have pulled from a cartoonishly blatant playbook of fascist scapegoating — conspiracies of Jewish dark money and all. The Trump administration will likely fail to bring successful prosecutions against the disparate liberal and leftist individuals and organizations they see as a well-funded criminal network. But we are long past the point of pretending the administration will be bound by law, or tethered to factual reality, when it comes to achieving its broader authoritarian goals.

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Firstly, as has been stated ad nauseam, there is no such organization as "antifa" — an abbreviation of "anti-fascist" — which is a set of practices and militant tactics, deployed by activists for nearly a century. There are groups who come together under the "antifa" banner, but there is zero centralized leadership or membership structure. Secondly, the U.S. has no statutes under which groups are designated domestic terror organizations.

Some might recall Trump's very similar announcement during the 2020 George Floyd uprisings, when he took pains to target left-wing activists and discredit the Black-led movement. At the time, his tweet did not call into being a non-existent domestic terror statute against a non-existent organization.

It should not be overlooked that since Trump's first term, all significant efforts to collectively prosecute social justice movements have failed.

On Trump's 2017 Inauguration Day, over 200 anti-fascist "J20" protesters were mass-arrested and hit with hefty felony riot charges based on no more than presence at the protest; the charges were later dismissed or dropped en masse. Just last week, a judge in Fulton County, Georgia, announced that he was dismissing overreaching RICO charges against 61 participants in the Atlanta-based Stop Cop City movement. The prosecutors' two-year effort to frame the protest movement as a criminal conspiracy collapsed.

Having reported directly on both the J20 and Stop Cop City cases, I saw firsthand the toll a lengthy prosecutorial process can take on defendants, their supporters, and the entire targeted movement. Prosecutions need not lead to convictions to ruin lives and decimate social movement capacities; federal investigations do not need to have factual basis for their targets to be harassed and intimidated; First Amendment-protected speech can still get you fired. Fear spreads, cowardice abounds, and the real risks of state and state-sanctioned persecution hang over targeted communities.

The Atlanta RICO case may have been, as political scientist Joseph Brown told *The Guardian*, "probably the highest-profile failure of using conspiracy charges to indict a protest movement," but even malicious prosecutions drain movement resources, both material and emotional, while directly keeping defendants from movement work.

What these cases nonetheless made clear is that collective persecution must be met with collective defense. None of the J20 or Atlanta defendants collaborated with prosecutors or took deals that entailed throwing other movement participants under the bus. Without compliant targets, the meritless cases fell apart.

We are today in a very different moment than in Trump's first term, when the president first attempted to frame antifa as a catch-all boogeyman. Trump's lawless speech acts are now taken as marching orders by his loyalists in government, law enforcement, and the judiciary.

We have seen the readiness with which institutions will sacrifice their employees and affiliates to appease the president. For failing to sufficiently tow the regime line on canonizing Kirk, ABC pulled comedian Jimmy Kimmel from the air, and the Washington Post fired columnist Karen Attiah. Dozens of workers — including teachers, airline workers, professors, and post office employees — have been fired or placed on leave for online comments deemed wrongspeak about Kirk or his murder. Meanwhile, university administrations nationwide, from Columbia to the University of California, Berkeley, continue to model genuflection and complicity in firing, censoring, and expelling scholars and students for protesting Israel's genocide.

Trump and his followers' paranoid projections about a Soros-funded radical left fostered in the Marxist laboratories of U.S. higher education and represented by the Democratic Party are laughably delusional. The tragedy, though, is that while Trump's chaotic and maximalist crackdown strategy aims to target centrist liberals alongside leftist activists as an imagined whole, there's little promise that establishment liberal figures and organizations will act with the integrity and solidarity it takes to rebuff such attacks. To neglect to do so would be a grave mistake, morally and strategically, when clear lessons of collective defense are there to be learned.

Trump's conspiracy about a networked, well-funded greater left is a fiction; a united front against fascism shouldn't be.

22 Sept - Prairieland Defendants To Be Arraigned in Fort Worth Federal Court

Defendants Remain in Custody on up to \$10 Million Bonds for Unindicted State Charges

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Defendants arrested in connection with the widely-covered July 4th protest at the Prairieland Immigration Detention Center will be arraigned on Monday and Tuesday at the federal courthouse in Fort Worth. The arraignments come after nearly three months without movement by the prosecution and marks an important milestone in one of the most significant protest-related legal cases at a time of rising public dissent against Donald Trump's immigration policies.

Currently, 17 people are facing charges ranging from attempted murder to obstruction of justice following a protest that defendants and supporters are confident was not planned to be violent. The police allege that shots were fired by one person, injuring an officer; this single allegation has expanded to accusations the defendants were involved in a vast conspiracy. "The police are clearly using this as an opportunity to criminalize protest against ICE detentions and deportations," said Stephanie Shiver, wife of defendant Meagan Morris. "Their narrative is ridiculous and unbelievable."

Supporters also found it notable that these arraignments are taking place so long after the arrests. "The defendants have been in legal limbo because the state has no case," continued Shiver. "Nothing in this case has been handled normally, and it really feels like they're spinning a story rather than seeking justice." Defendants have been held in the Johnson County Jail since July on state bonds of up to \$10 million.

The case is significant in a nationwide landscape of increased protest activity against ICE and its immigration raids. Experts believe the outcome of this case should be concerning to those exercising their rights. "Millions of people across the country are joining protests against injustices happening around us," said Xavier T. de Janon, Director of Mass Defense at the National Lawyers Guild. "If the federal government can snatch protestors for months, with no quick recourse, then we are all in danger."

The conditions inside Johnson County Jail are notoriously bad (keranews.org/criminal-justice/2025-09-08/woman-gives-birth-johnson-county-jail). Currently, defendants are being held in solitary confinement with no official reason or justification.

"Medical care and visitation with lawyers have been denied, and strip searches occur multiple times a day," said Amber Lowrey, sister of defendant Savanna Batten. "Defendants have been trapped due to malfunctioning doors, forced to clean up other inmates' feces, and to witness the abuse of other prisoners through neglect and dehumanization." Johnson County and its jail have recently been subject to public scrutiny after the sheriff was arrested on charges of sexual harassment and intimidating a witness, and a prisoner was forced to give birth in her jail cell.

"We got married in November," said Lydia Koza, wife of defendant Autumn Hill. "We're in our early thirties. We were expecting the next several years together to be the prime of our lives. Now we've been separated for nearly three months and expect this process to take several years to resolve. The phone contractor GTL has already charged me \$2,000 for basic access to contact with my wife and my housemate Meagan — and that's just me. All of that money is coming straight out of our household's ability to survive."

Friends and family have formed a committee, known as the DFW Support Committee, to ensure the defendants have the best legal defense possible. They have launched a public fundraiser and called for an international day of solidarity with the defendants on October 3rd (instagram.com/dfwsupportcommittee/p/DOSE1-GDn_C).

Recent news reporting incorrectly claimed the committee was affiliated with the Socialist Rifle Association (SRA) and made unsupported accusations that the July 4th protest was organized by the SRA, a claim that

has not been made by law enforcement. A spokesperson from the committee said, "As friends and family of the defendants, we have sought to bring light to the misuse of the law in Johnson County, and the abuses suffered by the defendants during their arrest and imprisonment. We have no affiliation with any larger organizations."

"We are relieved that the legal process is moving forward, allowing many of the defendants to receive proper legal representation," said Irina Popova, a member of the DFW Support Committee. "We look forward to our loved ones having their day in court. Their rights to assemble and speak are being unjustly trampled."

September 23rd - Dario Sanchez Rearrested

by Penelope Rivera and Toluwani Osibamowo (*KERA*)

A Dallas teacher arrested for his alleged connection after a July 4 shooting outside an Alvarado detention facility was out on bond for the past month — and rearrested Monday with a new charge after law enforcement monitored his internet search history, jail records show.

Dario Sanchez, 32, was first accused of tampering with evidence by deleting texts from Signal and Discord messaging apps related to what happened July 4.

Court records show Sanchez's original bond was set at \$5 million but later reduced to \$150,000. He was indicted Aug. 28 and bailed out the next day, court records show. He told CBS News last week he was wrongfully arrested and had no knowledge of the protest beforehand.

Days later, on Monday, jail records show Sanchez was arrested again on the same charge — this time with a \$1 million bond and an added charge of hindering prosecution of terrorism.

Court records obtained by *KERA News* now claim Sanchez's monitoring software identified "concerning internet history, best characterized as explosive construction internet queries."

Those searches include how to melt and make molds out of plastic, researching radio-controlled transmitters, the use of Nintendo Game Boy batteries as power sources for trigger devices, temperature and pressure sensors, and various small electronic circuit boards, court records allege.

The documents specify one of his searches was, "is the 900 mAh battery from a (Game Boy) capable of being used in a trigger device," and "aluminite (sic) used in explosives."

When Sanchez's bond officer asked about the searches, he allegedly said he was building anime figure molds, and thinking about converting "plastic" model cars into radio-controlled cars and needed a new battery for his Game Boy.

"He's stuck at home trying to find a hobby, something to tinker with," his attorney Frank Sellers told *KERA News*. "And instead of allowing a person to live their lives, Johnson County has thrown him in jail for what George Orwell would call 'thought crime.'"

Court records shared by Sanchez's attorney show part of his bond conditions included installing a GPS and "remote monitoring software" on all his devices within seven days of being released from jail.

Sanchez was to be monitored for "gun violence, anti-government and any violence in general," according to court documents.

"These are the most oppressive bond conditions I've ever seen in my almost 13 years of doing this," his attorney, Frank Sellers said. "And that's what caused his arrest, just one internet search."

His first court hearing is set for Oct. 16.

Sellers said he'll appeal the decision if his bond isn't reinstated.

Court records obtained by *KERA News* claim Sanchez was part of group chats that discussed plans to “conduct an operation” at the Prairieland Detention Center between July 3 and 4.

A criminal complaint filed July 14 claims another man, John Thomas, allegedly went to Sanchez’s home the following day and told him FBI agents has taken his electronic devices, and that’s when court documents say Thomas asked him to remove him from all group chats.

Thomas watched Sanchez do so and “told others about removing him from discord and signal chats,” court records say. It’s not clear who Sanchez told to remove him from other chats.

Thomas was arrested the next day and Sanchez was first arrested July 15, according to jail records, facing a tampering with evidence charge.

Court documents in July allege as many as 12 people dressed in all black were shooting fireworks towards the Prairieland Detention Center July 4 when correctional officers called dispatch.

When Alvarado police arrived, a person in the woods opened fire at the Alvarado officer and correctional officers, hitting the police officer in the neck, according to court records.

Seventeen people have been arrested in connection to the shooting that night. Fourteen of those, who are facing federal charges, had their first court appearances Monday and Tuesday. All 14 were being held at the Johnson County Jail, but 6 people who had their hearings Monday have been moved to Wichita County Jail, records show.

September 24th - Prairieland Defendants Arraigned

Despite the arraignment, in a highly unusual step for such a high-profile case, only one defendant has been indicted so far – Dario Sanchez on state charges. No federal indictments have been released. A number of the defendants will have preliminary hearings to establish the federal government’s right to continue detaining the defendants; these hearings are scheduled for September 30th, beginning at 9:00 am before Magistrate Judge Jeffrey L. Cureton.

The defendants arraigned on Monday were all transported to the Wichita Falls County Jail on Tuesday with no notice to family or supporters. Family members worry about the additional strain caused by such a long distance to travel for visitation.

23 Sept - Casey Goonan sentenced to nearly 20 years

This is a biased, corporate news article, so read it with a critical eye. The takeaway is that Casey Goonan received a Draconian sentence for politically-motivated property destruction.

MORE:

by George Kelly and Michael McLaughlin (*The San Francisco Standard*)

Casey Goonan, a self-anointed “scholar activist” who admitted to carrying out a series of arson attacks as part of a protest movement, was sentenced Tuesday to nearly 20 years for firebombing a police car on the UC Berkeley campus last year.

With hair closely cropped, and dressed in a loose-fitting red shirt and red-and-white striped pants, Goonan, 35, blew a kiss to supporters in the courtroom upon entering.

“After spending over a year incarcerated, I’ve had time to reflect on the reality of my actions and the reality of my bipolar disorder. I understand that I need treatment,” Goonan said to Judge Jeffrey White ahead of

sentencing. “Committing an act like this is outside of my general character as my core belief is against perpetuating harm.”

Calling the acts “callous” and “some of the most serious crimes I’ve ever seen,” White sentenced Goonan to 19 years in prison, followed by 15 years of supervised release. Goonan must also pay \$94,261 in restitution.

“I have no doubt that this defendant knew exactly what he was doing at every moment that he was doing it and intended to create an air of fear and danger in our community,” said White, who was appointed to the bench in 2002 by President George W. Bush.

In January, Goonan pleaded guilty to one federal count of maliciously damaging or destroying property used in or affecting interstate commerce by means of fire or an explosive.

The charge stemmed from a series of firebombings in June 2024 in Oakland and Berkeley that Goonan, who uses they/them pronouns, carried out to protest the treatment of Palestinian supporters by University of California officials and the federal government, their defense attorney said.

Video footage shows Goonan, who has a doctorate in African American studies from Northwestern University, on June 1, 2024, setting a bag containing six Molotov cocktails on fire and placing it under a UC Berkeley police patrol car, causing it to catch fire.

On June 11, Goonan attempted to detonate Molotov cocktails inside a federal court building in Oakland but was thwarted before breaking the building’s windows. Goonan instead ignited the three homemade explosives in a planter near the building.

Goonan admitted to starting other fires on the Cal campus last year on June 1, 13, and 16. The spate of arsons was dubbed “Operation Campus Flood” by Goonan, according to prosecutors. Police arrested Goonan at their parents’ Pleasant Hill house on June 18, 2024.

“The defendant is a highly educated, unrepentant domestic terrorist who sought to use violence against law enforcement officers and the federal government,” prosecutors wrote ahead of the sentencing. They requested a term of more than 15 years “in light of Goonan’s serious criminal conduct, the motivation for his crimes, his pervasive and deeply held violent beliefs, his utter lack of remorse for his crimes, and his continuing danger to the community.”

Goonan faced up to 20 years behind bars. Their defense attorney, Jeff Wozniak, had requested an eight-year term, saying a diagnosed bipolar disorder and diabetes contributed to Goonan’s destructive behavior.

“We’re incredibly disappointed by this sentence. We think the judge went far above what is reasonable in this case, which ultimately was about property damage. Casey Goonan is an activist and has long been involved in raising awareness about Palestinian liberation and around the genocide,” Wozniak said.

Still, Wozniak said Goonan intended to turn over a new leaf.

“They recognize now that they were in the midst of a mental health crisis and that they should have chosen a different path in their activism,” Wozniak said in a statement prepared for court. “Casey is remorseful for the harm they caused to their community, and is ready to enter a new phase as an activist inside prison.”

The firebombings won Goonan the admiration of protest groups. A now-deleted Instagram post showed Columbia University demonstrators wearing “Free Casey Goonan” T-shirts. A group called UC Davis Cops Off Campus has encouraged donations to Goonan’s defense.

Goonan's activism has been evident since college. At UC Riverside in 2012, they were part of a group that called for the abolition of prisons, demonstrating outside the Pelican Bay state lockup. While studying toward a master's and Ph.D. from Northwestern, Goonan launched a "radical publishing collective" that sent literature to incarcerated people.

In online articles, Goonan has described the United States as a "god-awful fascist hell hole" where social injustices are "concealed under the blinders of white supremacist American reason."

It's a stark difference from Goonan's adolescence. In high school in Pleasant Hill, they played on the football and baseball teams and performed in a rock band.

26 Sept - Running Down the Walls 2025 Reportback

We'll cut to the chase (see what we did there?)—Running Down the Walls 2025 in Brooklyn was great on all fronts. Read on for the lowdown.

MORE:



It turns out NYC ABC has been organizing annual events for Running Down the Walls for over a decade. We've been at the same spot in Prospect Park for much of that time and learned early on that if you don't get there early, the spot will get got. So a few of us turned up to squat our favorite corner and start setting up—information tables, registration, and of course food. That's when two folks hawking free vegan canned lattes showed up and offered us as many as we wanted (which turned out to be between twenty and thirty!). That made the day fly by for a lot of participants and helped cement us as the most bourgeois anarchist 5k in the country.

Once the crew gathered, it was quick work to finish up and get ready to register any folks who hadn't done so in advance, and talk with passersby. Free information about political prisoners, alongside a giant banner reading "Running Down the Walls" gets folks from as varied an array of backgrounds as those who frequent the park to stop and check it out. Every year, we reach those who have never thought about the existence of political prisoners in the USA.

Homies from Radix Media showed up with mind-blowingly cool letter press posters made exclusively for this year's event. Big thanks to them for coming through and adding another layer of greatness to the day.

While we are serious about our politics and getting our people free, we are less so about the mechanics of a 5k run/walk/roll/skate/bike/et al. The part where participants make their way around the course happens, some years it's taken more seriously and folks train and other years it's more casual. This year, we split the difference. This only happened after we introduced the event, our collective, and read statements written for the event by imprisoned comrades. And then we heard some inspirational words from Priscilla Grim, whose legal defense received half of the funds we raised this year. For someone facing such intense state repression, Priscilla spoke about others, primarily recipients of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation Warchest program, eloquently and with such passion that everyone in attendance got visibly hyped to complete the 5k.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who turned up, especially those who came to rep their crews and the support committees of locals facing the full weight of the state. Jakhi McCray's support committee turned out folks and we were happy to get the opportunity to build with them.

After everyone finished the 5k, we gathered to share food and spent time in community. The food, all vegan by design (as the absolute minimum we can do to express our resistance to oppression in even the meals we share), was preposterously good--from salads and tamales, to barbecue sandwiches and cookie bars. It isn't uncommon for folks to show up just to enjoy the end of day meal.

In the end, we counted somewhere north of 60 folks who participated throughout the day and reached the goal we set for ourselves in terms of fundraising. None of that happens without organizing in advance and building relationships that last well after the day is over. Through it all, we center those who couldn't be there with us, caged by the state. Thanks again to all who helped make the day so incredible.

That's what's up and that's how we get down (the walls).

26 Sept - Assata Shakur, Black Liberation Army Member, Dies at 78

Convicted in the 1973 killing of a New Jersey state trooper, Assata escaped from prison and fled to Cuba, where she taught and wrote. To U.S. officials she was a wanted terrorist; to supporters, a symbol of resistance. Rest easy, Assata.

MORE:

by Clyde Haberman (*The New York Times*)

Assata Shakur, the Black revolutionary once known as JoAnne Chesimard who found decades-long sanctuary in Cuba after escaping from a New Jersey prison where she was serving a life sentence in the 1973 shooting death of a state trooper, died on Thursday in Havana. She was 78.

Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced her death without specifying a cause, citing only "health conditions and advanced age."

Assata Shakur was both lionized and demonized long after she and the Black Liberation Army, the militant group she had embraced, faded from broad public consciousness. To supporters she was a tireless battler against racial oppression. To detractors she was a stone-cold cop killer, the first woman to land on the F.B.I.'s "most wanted terrorists" list, with \$2 million in state and federal money offered for her capture.

For her part, Ms. Shakur regarded herself as “a 20th-century escaped slave.”

In the early 1970s, an era of American ferment on multiple fronts, Ms. Shakur channeled her radicalism through the Black Liberation Army, a Marxist-Leninist organization that had broken away from the Black Panthers. Its members were accused of planting bombs, killing police officers and carrying out robberies that they described as “expropriations.”

Ms. Shakur herself was indicted 10 times by federal and state authorities in New York and New Jersey on charges of murder, robbery and kidnapping. All but one of those cases ended in acquittals, dismissals or hung juries. The lone exception began with a car ride in the early morning of May 2, 1973.

She and two colleagues were in a beat-up Pontiac when New Jersey state troopers stopped them on the New Jersey Turnpike for having a broken taillight. The police account was that she and the others left the car with guns blazing. She fired first, they said, touching off a shootout in which a state trooper, Werner Foerster, was killed and another, James Harper, was wounded. One of Ms. Shakur’s companions, James Costan, was also wounded and died later. She, too, was shot, in the left shoulder and the underside of her right arm.

Soon captured, she was not put on trial until 1977 because, while in a holding cell with a man named Fred Hilton in an unrelated Bronx robbery case, she had become pregnant.

Ms. Shakur’s version was that she never held a gun on that 1973 morning and that her arms were in the air when she was shot. Her lawyers said she was mistreated in jail and given poor medical care. Doctors testified on her behalf that the wounds supported her claim that her arms had been raised.

Nonetheless, prosecutors insisted that, when shot, she was in a crouch and firing at Trooper Harper. In the end, an all-white jury of seven women and five men believed them. Though there was no evidence that she had fired at the slain Trooper Foerster, everyone involved in the killing of a police officer was deemed equally responsible under New Jersey law.

In March 1977, the jurors swiftly found her guilty of first-degree murder and assault. She was sentenced to life in prison plus 33 years.

She did not remain behind bars for long.

On Nov. 2, 1979, three armed men from the Black Liberation Army broke her out of the Clinton Correctional Facility for Women, a penitentiary in western New Jersey now named for Edna Mahan, a prison superintendent. Using false identification, and apparently not having been searched for weapons, her colleagues were able to free her, taking two guards hostage and commandeering a van. The hostages were later released unharmed.

In an unrelated case eight years later, one of the men who had helped her escape, Tyrone Rison, testified that Ms. Shakur was taken to a “safe house” in Mount Vernon, N.Y., and then to an apartment in East Orange, N.J., followed by stops in Pittsburgh and the Bahamas. She arrived in Cuba in 1984 and was granted asylum.

There she stayed, getting by with money from the government while teaching, writing poetry and studying. Despite being labeled a terrorist by the F.B.I., and despite the \$2 million bounty on her head, she remained beyond the reach of American authorities, all the while professing her innocence.

In 1987, Ms. Shakur published an autobiography, “Assata,” a name she had assumed in 1971, forsaking what she called her “slave name.” The book was replete with spellings and locutions that were standard in radical circles, like references to America as “amerika” and to the police as “pigs.” She routinely used a

lowercase “i” as a first-person pronoun — to “take away from the egotistical connotation of the word,” she said.

As for her name, she wrote: “It sounded so strange when people called me JoAnne. It really had nothing to do with me. I didn’t feel like no JoAnne, or no negro, or no amerikan. I felt like an African woman.”

And so she became a Muslim named Assata Olugbala Shakur (Assata derived from an Arabic name meaning “she who struggles,” Olugbala from a Yoruba word for “savior” and Shakur from the Arabic “thankful one”). She regarded herself as a godmother to the rapper Tupac Shakur, who was shot to death in 1996 when he was 25.

To many Black people she was a folk hero. Several rap artists name-checked her or even devoted entire songs to her. In “Rebel Without a Pause,” Public Enemy sang, “Hard, my calling card/Recorded and ordered, supporter of Chesimard.” In “A Song for Assata,” Common wrote in part, “Shot twice with hands up/Police questioned but shot before she answered.”

At the Borough of Manhattan Community College, which Ms. Shakur once attended, a scholarship bore her name for several years. At the City College of New York, another school she attended, students named a community and student center for her and for Guillermo Morales, a Puerto Rican nationalist who was implicated in many bombings and who also found refuge in Cuba. A 2005 resolution in the New York City Council urged clemency for her, but it did not pass.

In Cuba, Ms. Shakur gave few interviews. She was described as being wary of strangers, concerned that such contact — not to mention the reward money — might lead to her being taken captive and returned to a prison cell in the United States.

Her survivors include Kakuya Shakur, her daughter with Fred Hilton.

The woman who became Assata Shakur was born JoAnne Deborah Byron in Queens on July 16, 1947. Her father, Carl Byron, was an accountant; her mother, Doris Johnson, was a schoolteacher. They divorced soon after their daughter was born. Part of JoAnne’s girlhood was spent shuttling between New York and North Carolina, where she lived with her maternal grandparents.

“All of my family tried to instill in me a sense of personal dignity,” Ms. Shakur wrote in her autobiography, “but my grandmother and my grandfather were really fanatic about it. Over and over they would tell me, ‘You’re as good as anyone else. Don’t let anybody tell you that they’re better than you.’”

Her teenage years were troubled and, she acknowledged, her temper was “terrible.” At 17, she dropped out of a Roman Catholic high school, took several jobs that didn’t last and finally attended night classes to get a diploma. At 21, she married a man named Louis Chesimard, and though their union ended after a year, the surname endured. She attended City College from 1968 to 1971 but did not graduate.

By then, her radicalism was in full bloom, first with the Black Panthers and then with the Black Liberation Army, a group that had fallen apart by the 1980s.

“I feel I’ve been a victim of America,” Ms. Shakur told a Newsday reporter who interviewed her in Cuba in 1987.

“If I owe allegiance to anything,” she said, “it is my ancestors, especially the ones who came over the slave ship. I feel I am answerable to them. I want to be able to say I tried, and that I tried to stand on this earth proud.”

27 Sept - Update on the Budapest trial

Germany: Anti-fascists are in court.

MORE:

Maja

Maja remains in solitary confinement in Hungary. At the beginning of the year, Maja's lawyers attempted to have her detention converted to house arrest, but the Hungarian courts postponed their decision. In protest against the continuing inhumane conditions of her detention, Maja went on hunger strike. On June 20, the court finally ruled on the request for house arrest, but rejected it. This led to many demonstrations and solidarity actions for Maja throughout Germany. Postcard campaigns were used to put pressure on German and Hungarian politicians to stand up for Maja and bring her back to Germany.

After 40 days of hunger strike, Maja's health deteriorated so badly that she was transferred to a prison hospital and had to end her hunger strike.

The trial is currently ongoing. The next trial dates are September 29, October 2, and October 8, at 9:00 a.m. at the State Court in Budapest.

Hanna

Hanna remains in custody in Munich. Her trial ended yesterday, September 26, with a five-year prison sentence. The public prosecutor had demanded a nine-year prison sentence for "attempted murder" and membership in a criminal organization pursuant to § 129. The defense pleaded for acquittal.

Zaid

Zaid was released on bail and allowed to return to his family in Nuremberg, but he must report to the police three times a week. This is to prevent him from fleeing, even though he voluntarily surrendered to the authorities in January.

As Zaid does not have German citizenship, he remains the only defendant in the Budapest trial who still faces extradition to Hungary and thus potential deportation to Syria.

Lina

Lina's defense team had filed an appeal, which was heard on February 6 at the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe. Unfortunately, this did not change the sentence of five years and three months. Lina is currently back in custody.

Our response to this deliberate political escalation and delegitimization of necessary anti-fascism can only be solidarity. Take part in actions, write letters to our imprisoned comrades, donate money for the defendants' legal costs and the travel expenses of their supporters.

We will not be deterred by the German state from showing solidarity with our friends and comrades! Anti-fascism is and remains necessary, and our solidarity with our courageous comrades remains unbroken.

4 Oct - Saxapahaw Prison Books Packing Party

WHAT: Book packing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, October 4th (and every other Saturday)

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

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Saxapahaw Prison Books to get packages of books loaded up and sent out to prisoners.