



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for March 4th

15 Feb - Chronicle of repressions against anarchists and anti-fascists

Belarus: The main “novelty” of the past year was mass repressions against relatives of serving and released political prisoners.

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via Belarus Anarchist Black Cross

On January 23, mass searches and detentions of relatives took place in Belarus, and phones were taken away from the detainees for inspection. The articles under which the detentions and searches are carried out are “Financing of extremist groups” and “Participation in extremist groups”. On July 19, the mother and aunt of Aliaksandr Frantskevich were detained. This happened when they arrived with a parcel for Aliaksandr.

In other respects, the year did not differ significantly from 2023: pressure on prisoners continued using such tools as the destruction of correspondence, placement in punishment cell, PKT, and new criminal cases under Article 411 “Malicious disobedience to the demands of the administration of a correctional institution executing a sentence of imprisonment.”

Transfers from colony to colony.

At the very beginning of the year, on January 4, Aliaksandr Frantskevich was transferred from a colony №11 to №5, and in December, after the “trial” under Article 411, he was transferred to colony №8. On August 8, it became known that Dzmitry Rezanovich was transferred to colony №14 after the “trial”. Immediately after the transfer, he was placed in a punishment cell for 20 days.

Blocking of correspondence.

On February 20, it became known about the information blockade of Andrei Chapiuk, the anarchist’s letters are not sent anywhere. For almost two months, there was no contact with the anti-fascist Tamaz Pipija. Placement in a punishment cell.

Since July 12, 2024, the maximum period of stay in a punishment cell was increased from 10 days to 15.

Tamaz Pipija spent almost a month from the first half of February to March 7. In addition, he is constantly under pressure, people from the prisoners are assigned to him to monitor all his actions.

From June 13 to 26, Ihar Alinevich held a hunger strike in the punishment cell of the Zhodzina prison in order to be transferred to the hospital. The emaciated anarchist with suspected stomach ulcer was taken to the hospital directly from the punishment cell. On September 25, it became known that Ihar was again placed in the punishment cell.

On June 17, Mikalai Dziadok was sent to the punishment cell. And on August 15, right before a meeting with his relatives, Andrei Chapiuk. In November, it became known that Dzmitry Dubouski spent 15 days in the punishment cell.

Tightening of the regime.

On April 11, Tamaz Pipija was transferred to the PKT (cell-type room). On June 1, it became known that Akikhira Hajeuski-Khanada was sent to the PKT for four months. Later, in November, information appeared that Akikhira had been transferred to prison regime in the summer, most likely right after the PKT.

Siarhei Ramanau was placed in the PKT for 5 months, information about this appeared in July.

In October, it became known that Dzmitry Rezanovich had been transferred to the PKT for six months. New terms for “disobedience to the demands of the administration.”

The main repressive article of dictatorial Belarus, which is used against prisoners, is Article 411 “Malicious disobedience to the demands of the administration of a correctional institution executing a sentence of imprisonment.” It allows a person to be kept in prison or colony almost indefinitely.

On January 30, a case was opened against Dzmitry Rezanovich under this article, on May 5, information appeared that 9 months of imprisonment had been added to his 19-year sentence.

On May 30, it became known that Aliaksandr Frantskevich would be tried in a similar case. On June 24, the so-called the court added another year to Alexander’s 17 years of imprisonment.

On June 17, a case under 411 was opened against Mikalai Dziadok. In September, two imprisoned activists received new terms under 411: on September 5, Tamaz Pipija was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison, a new term of 6.5 years in prison, and at the end of the month, Siarhei Ramanau received the maximum term under this article, 2 years. Before that, in 2023, he was sentenced under the same article to 9 months, so the anarchist’s term is close to 23 years in prison.

Some good news.

In April, two people were released from prison: on the 11th – anti-fascist Krystsina Charankova, who was detained on March 22, 2022 for anti-war and anti-police posts on Instagram, and on the 15th – Vadzim Dzenisenka. He was arrested in December 2021 and sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for posting leaflets and stickers of the anarchist group “Pramen”. We do not know Vadzim’s political views, but since he was repressed for distributing anarchist materials, ABC supported him.

18 Feb - Arrest of Ghespe

Spain: In recent days we have learned from the mainstream media that the anarchist Ghespe was arrested in Madrid, Spain during a police check.

MORE:

via *Abolition Media*

The comrade was transferred to the Soto del Real prison in Madrid and did not oppose the extradition to Italy, which should therefore take place soon.

Ghespe, a fugitive and wanted since 2023, had been convicted on appeal for the action against the “Il Bargo” bookstore, a space linked to Casapound, as part of the so-called “Panico” trial. The bomb exploded in the hands of an unwary cop causing him serious injuries, including the loss of an eye and a good part of a hand. The Supreme Court ruling of July 2023 confirmed the convictions on appeal including 8 years for Ghespe, who had already spent a period of precautionary imprisonment.

19 Feb - What Leonard Peltier’s Freedom Represents for Indigenous Futures

Minutes before leaving office, former President Biden issued executive clemency to Leonard Peltier, commuting the remainder of his life sentence to be served at home.

MORE:

by Nick Tilsen (Yes!)

While the most just outcome would have been a full pardon, Peltier’s release after 49 years of incarceration is an undeniable victory. Now, at 80 years old, Peltier has the chance to reunite with his family, receive critical medical care, continue his art, and share his story with the world.

Peltier's freedom is priceless in its own right. But just as his wrongful imprisonment symbolized the systemic oppression of Indigenous peoples, his release embodies the liberation that's possible through intergenerational organizing. It speaks to the possibilities of collective Indigenous power.

Peltier's entanglement with carceral systems began at the age of 9 when he was forcibly taken from his grandmother's home and sent to a federally funded boarding school hundreds of miles away—a traumatic displacement that was part of a broader policy of cultural genocide against Indigenous peoples.

Decades later, while fighting on the front lines for Indigenous rights and land—and against federal agents trying to suppress the American Indian Movement—he was wrongfully convicted in the deaths of two of those agents. Peltier's story is a microcosm of the systemic injustice Native people have endured—a reminder of the United States' dedication to exploiting, incarcerating, and attempting to erase Indigenous peoples.

Yet, despite nearly half a century behind bars, Peltier never gave up. He maintained hope and fought for his freedom by staying connected to his spirituality, culture, and people. His resilience inspired generations to join the movement for Indigenous justice, underscoring the power of intergenerational activism grounded in ceremony and community.

The fight to free Peltier was long and arduous, fueled by grassroots organizing and high-level political advocacy, and ultimately kept alight by people who know and love him. Many doubted his release would ever be possible. But Indian Country proved them wrong by bridging the gap between frontline activism and decision-making at the highest levels of government.

A significant turning point in the campaign to free Peltier came when the U.S. government began to reckon with its role in the boarding school era. As more truths emerged about these institutions' devastating impact on Indigenous peoples that fueled generations of trauma, Biden's perspective began to shift. Learning that Peltier was a boarding school survivor deeply moved the former president, humanizing Peltier's story and adding urgency to the clemency request.

The federal government's formal acknowledgment of these historical injustices helped pave the way for Peltier's release. In October 2024, Biden apologized for the government's role in the boarding schools. This apology was the result of decades of unwavering advocacy by Indigenous peoples who insisted that the U.S. confront this dark chapter in its history and work to repair the harm caused.

While his apology itself was an important step, freeing Peltier was one meaningful action to address the ongoing impacts of the boarding schools policies. Yet the work is far from over, and continued efforts—such as passing the U.S. Truth & Healing Commission Bill—are needed to ensure large-scale reparative justice for the devastation caused by boarding schools.

Peltier's freedom is also a testament to the growing presence and influence of Native leaders in the U.S. government. Figures like former Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland have played a crucial role in amplifying Indigenous voices and bringing frontline issues to the attention of those in power, and her direct advocacy to former President Biden was invaluable in Peltier's release.

One critical piece of the collective efforts to free Peltier was countering the false narratives perpetuated by institutions like the FBI and Department of Justice, who were using Peltier as their own symbol—one of punishment to Indian Country for the 1975 shootout in which two FBI agents were killed. Though the other two American Indian Movement members charged for the same shooting were found not guilty due to self-defense, Peltier was used as an example, touted by law enforcement as a threat of what could happen if Indigenous people dared to resist.

Getting clemency for Peltier took a long time and immeasurable effort. But through organizing, advocacy, and storytelling, we dismantled decades of misinformation and mobilized a powerful coalition of allies. Peltier's story resonated with people across the world, awakening a shared sense of justice and humanity that transcended political and cultural boundaries.

The fight for justice in Peltier's case is tragically echoed in more recent struggles, such as the murder of queer and nonbinary Indigenous forest defender Tortuguita by police in Atlanta. Tortuguita was defending forest land against the construction of "Cop City," a proposed police training facility on Muscogee forest land, when they were shot and killed by 57 police bullets. Their death highlights the ongoing violence and criminalization faced by those who put their bodies on the line to protect sacred lands.

Like Peltier, Tortuguita was accused of shooting at officers, though zero evidence of this has been found. Like Peltier, Tortuguita's story illustrates the lengths to which state power will go to suppress dissent and silence defenders of justice.

Unlike Peltier, Tortuguita is not alive to tell their story.

As we celebrate Peltier's release, we must honor the memory of activists like Tortuguita by continuing to fight for justice—from fighting the current assaults on the LGBTQ community to making sure peoples' basic needs aren't stripped away overnight to refusing to let our school curriculums be defined by racism, queerphobia, and fear. No matter who is in office, Indigenous peoples will continue to protect our lands, cultures, and ways of life against the forces that seek to destroy them. Peltier's freedom is not just a symbol but a call to action—a reminder that even in the face of insurmountable odds, we have the power to create change.

Now, as the Trump administration aggressively pushes forward with drilling and oil extraction plans, withdraws from the Paris Agreement, and freezes Inflation Reduction Act funding critical for combating the climate crisis, the need for mass mobilization has never been clearer.

Since the U.S. government will no longer be contributing its share of the UN climate body's budget, Michael Bloomberg announced that his philanthropies will cover the cost. While this is not an ideal or complete solution to new climate threats, it does represent incremental progress toward the wealth redistribution and action needed to protect our shared planet. Other philanthropists must follow Bloomberg's precedent by directing substantial funding and resources into frontline climate justice organizations immediately. Indigenous-led movements are at the forefront of defending our planet, and they need robust support to succeed.

From the American Indian Movement of the 1970s to the land and water defense movements of today, Indigenous organizing and power-building has remained steadfast against all odds. Peltier's release shows us what is possible when we stay rooted in our values, connected to one another's humanity, and committed to organizing for the liberation of all people. We will continue to expand our power and mobilize for our collective future—the next four years and beyond demand nothing less.

February 23rd - Indigenous Leader Leonard Peltier Released After Nearly 50 Years Imprisoned

by Anna Betts (*The Guardian*)

The Native American activist Leonard Peltier – convicted in 1975 for the killings of two FBI agents – was released from federal prison on Tuesday after Joe Biden commuted his sentence at the end of his presidency in January.

In a statement, Peltier said that he was “finally free!”

“They may have imprisoned me but they never took my spirit!” he added. “Thank you to all my supporters throughout the world who fought for my freedom.

“I am finally going home. I look forward to seeing my friends, my family, and my community. It’s a good day today.”

Peltier had maintained his innocence since his conviction before Biden ordered Peltier – now 80 and in poor health – to transition to home confinement after spending nearly 49 years federally imprisoned.

“This commutation will enable Mr Peltier to spend his remaining days in home confinement but will not pardon him for his underlying crimes,” Biden said at the time.

The National Congress of American Indians celebrated the commutation, calling it “historic” and adding that the case “has long symbolized the systemic injustices faced by Indigenous Peoples.”

Peltier’s imprisonment resulted from a 1975 shootout that occurred on South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Indian Reservation between two FBI agents – who had entered the private property to serve arrest warrants – and members of the American Indian Movement (AIM), a cold war-era liberation group that sought to address police brutality and discrimination against Native Americans.

The group of Native American men who traded gunfire with the FBI agents included Peltier. The shootout resulted in the deaths of both agents, Jack Coler and Ronald Williams, who were shot in the head. Joseph Stuntz, a Native American, was killed, too.

Peltier, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota and an active member in the AIM, was one of several individuals indicted in connection with the agents’ killings.

He was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and given two consecutive life sentences.

Two other movement members were acquitted on self-defense grounds.

Peltier has consistently claimed that he did not shoot the agents. His supporters have long argued that prosecutors withheld critical evidence that could have supported his defense while also fabricating affidavits against him.

Prosecutors argued during trial that Peltier shot both agents in the head at point-blank range. Peltier admitted to being present and firing a gun at a distance, but he claimed that it was in self-defense.

A witness who initially testified to have seen Peltier shoot the agents later recanted her testimony, saying her initial statements were coerced.

For decades, advocates such as Nelson Mandela, Pope Francis and James H Reynolds, the US attorney who handled the prosecution and appeal of Peltier’s case, have fought for his release.

In recent years, Reynolds has written to various presidents, asking them to grant Peltier clemency and calling his prosecution “unjust.”

In a letter to Biden in 2021, Reynolds stated that Peltier’s continued incarceration reflected a flawed justice system.

Peltier’s “conviction and continued incarceration is a testament to a time and a system of justice that no longer has a place in our society,” he wrote.

Peltier was denied parole as recently as July and was not eligible to be considered for it again until 2026.

Biden commuted Peltier's sentence despite objections from the former FBI director Christopher Wray. Wray had called Peltier "a remorseless killer" in a letter to Biden, which was obtained by the Associated Press and urged the president to not give him clemency.

Wray argued that granting Peltier "any relief from his conviction or sentence" would be "wholly unjustified" and "would be an affront to the rule of law."

21 Feb - Update and Thoughts from Behind the Walls

We're happy to share words from Caleb Freestone.

MORE:

It's January's full moon, the Wolf Moon. As I approach three months incarcerated, a quarter of my sentence should I serve it in full, I thought I'd write you all. I exist, although surely there are those who wish the world forget me.

Yazoo isn't as bad as I expected – Miami-Dade jail is certainly far worse. At least we aren't fed bricks (bologna or pb+j on bread wrapped in plastic). However, the isolation is awful by design. My spouse is my greatest comrade, the strongest person I know, 15 hours by car, they've visited 11 days and hope to return this month. Just seeing them, tension instantly melts away. My face soon hurts from smiling so much. Prison is war waged upon the soul, but love and solidarity are our greatest weapons in this fight. The holidays are over, the trips from South Florida will be shorter, but every moment together is a blessing for us both.

An imperious desire to do evil holds 1,100 souls hostage here. No one deserves prison except those who choose to spend their careers keeping human in cages, torturing, starving, and cracking the whip in the attached sewing factory. They deserve this place. One day in prison is horrible, 366 are 366 times as bad. But five years? Ten? Thirty? A friend and his wife were locked up 37 years ago. She just got off probation and was finally approved to visit. Soon they will see each other for the first time in nearly four decades. They can briefly hold each other twice: at the beginning and end of the visit. May all find love so strong, may no love ever again be torn apart for so long. I know that I've found that eternal love.

"NONE ARE FREE UNTIL ALL ARE FREE!!!"

I think often of the tens of thousands of Palestinian hostages held by the settler-colonial state of Israel, an appendage of the U.S. Empire. Today, it was announced that 1,000 will soon be released. Sinwar, rest in power, leader of the Palestinian Resistance, called his 22 years in prison "the academy", for he learned the way of his enemy. The violations for which those gulags are famous are less universal here in the imperial core... unless you're trans. Unless you're at FCI Dublin or San Francisco. Unless your name is Darren Rainey, rest in power, boiled to death in Florida State Prison, or any of the other countless names of the lynched, known and unknown. Another handful were released from Guantanamo, where extraterritorial ambiguity means endless torture. Many here in the U.S. awaiting execution were resentenced to death by prison. "We who all have life without parole sentences are the security deposit to keep prisons open and running from generation to generation," -Angela M. Garza.

Each reprieve is a sad miracle yet together they are but a drop in the ocean. Generations spent their lives on plantation and generations still live in concentration camps rebranded "reservations" and "immigration detention", often located on or near the ancestral lands of the indigenous internees. Even those who walk the streets have so little freedom: COVID relief aid built the largest and best armed police state in history with cameras on every street corner and cyberweapons to hack every device.

"ALL EMPIRES SHALL FALL!!! ALL EMPIRES MUST BE TORN DOWN!!!"

“Every(one) in prison has a baby-mama,” declares my friend Joker. He is Black. His words carry the generational trauma of chattel slavery when Black men were used as studs then carted away for their labor. Now this country criminalizes abortion and mass incarcerates whole communities. A Policy of forced birth becomes one of forced labor, to provide for the little ones. Some find legitimate work – often a McDonald’s uniform or a military uniform, a Walmart badge or a police badge. In other words, in order to raise a child with legitimate pay, most must become a wage slave or a class traitor, hands soaked in blood. Yet those jobs are so limited or pay so little; many parents end up here instead. Most prisoners in Amerikkka are imprisoned for being poor – selling drugs, fraud, organized “crime”, theft – for putting food on the table. Criminalizing abortion fills the prisons directly with patients and doctors and indirectly with parents trying to make ends meet. Prisoners are both the product (to transfer taxpayer money to private profit) and the labor (to keep the prisons running and manufacture goods with enslaved hands). “Slavery shall henceforth be abolished, except as punishment for a crime.” – the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The maximum pay here for an Adult In Custody is about \$100 per month, but most are paid just \$22 per month, barely enough to buy a month’s supply of phone calls to loved ones.

“Like flowers pushing up through the pavement, these gentle crimes keep me alive” – (unknown to me, spotted on a sticker in South Florida)

Mississippi really is beautiful. The crab grass planted at the prison’s construction is losing a protracted war to clover, wild lettuce, dandelion, and these gnarly purple flowers unknown to me. There are ancient trees in the distance, painted skies in the mornings and evenings; birds and skunks defy the barbed wire as voles excavate their burrows below. Yazoo City once burned to the ground thanks to the ghost of a witch burned at the stake seeking revenge. The rebuilt downtown was ravaged again by Walmart and now stands abandoned. Humans have not fared well here since Europeans brought genocide to the land. Yet that evil has only soaked as deep as the roots of the alien grass being routed by wild flowers yearning to be free.

I read. I write. I pretend heating instant noodles is cooking. I work out. I sift through the lies on CNN and Fox. I dream. I speak of the world as it could be. But mostly I learn. Here in the rotting carcass of this empire, there is such creativity, resilience, faith; we practice mutual aid and solidarity every day. We know who the enemy is. “Nothing in prison is free” was the first and biggest lie from a guard. Our bodies may not be free, but most of our possessions were gifts from one another, paid for in gratitude and reciprocity. The only things for sale are restricted or banned. Artificial scarcity is key to capitalism. Everyone is worse off for having come here, yet there are valuable lessons in the extraordinary nature of our humanity. These lessons are simply disdained by a society which worships domination and greed.

“I am truly free only when all human beings... are equally free.” -Mikhail Bakunin

The First Step Act and Good Time Credit will qualify me for release on April 10, 2025 as long as I am not written up. But they will hold me months past this date. The Second Chance Act already qualified me for a halfway house the day after I arrived. However, they keep making up excuses to delay the paperwork. The BOP has no discretion – these Acts are law. In practice, the BOP holds folx as long as they can. Overincarceration lawsuits will not win enough to cover lawyers’ fees unless one has been illegally held for over a year too long. So, I remain in the belly of the beast at Yazoo City, Low 1, separated from my spouse and my community along with 1,100 others who deserve dignity and liberation as well. Meanwhile, states are criminalizing abortion and “fake clinics” continue to trick and manipulate folx from seeking actual medical care.

Please consider writing me, recommending books, sharing the details of our case, speaking up for bodily autonomy and the abolition of prison, distributing copies of this essay, and supporting my spouse and me: **chuffed.org/project/visitcalebf | Cashapp – \$JadeF64 | Instagram – @FTLauderdaleFoodNotBombs, @SolidarityFTL**

In solidarity against all oppression.

22 Feb - How a Guards' Strike Plunged New York Prisons Into Turmoil and Why the Timing Is Curious

Correctional officers complain of unsafe conditions, but critics say the protests were meant to deflect attention from 'a moment of reckoning.'

MORE:

by Jamiles Lartey (*The Marshall Project*)

New York correctional officers led a series of strikes and protests this week that plunged the state's prison system into turmoil, causing lockdowns, suspended visitations — including from legal counsel — and the deployment of the National Guard. Representatives for the officers have said the strikes are intended to force the state to address unsafe working conditions and severe staff shortages. Their efforts — which were not sanctioned by the correctional officers' union and are illegal under state law — spread to nearly all the state's prisons.

The strike isn't the only reason state corrections officers were in the spotlight this week. On Thursday, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that nine corrections officers were indicted on various charges related to the December beating death of Robert Brooks, who had been incarcerated at the state's Marcy Correctional Facility. Five of those officers were indicted for murder. Body camera footage appears to show that Brooks was handcuffed and compliant when several officers punched, kicked and choked him in a brutal assault. He died hours later, and a medical examiner's report ruled his death a homicide.

For some critics of the state prison system, the timing of the labor strike isn't coincidental. "It is intended to deflect attention from a moment of reckoning for New York's violent prison system and culture of impunity," former New York prisoner Thomas Gant said in a statement. Gant now works as a community organizer at the anti-incarceration nonprofit Center for Community Alternatives.

There is some precedent for officers creating disruptions when a facility was receiving negative attention, reported *New York Focus* earlier this week. For example, in 2013, "New York City corrections officers responsible for transporting people from Rikers Island stopped working the day an incarcerated person was supposed to testify about a caught-on-video beating he endured at the hands of guards."

Several incarcerated people whom *The Marshall Project* reached out to this week agreed with Gant's assessment of the timing. "I think it goes without saying," said Mark Edwards, who is incarcerated at the medium-security Wyoming Correctional Facility in Attica, New York.

Edwards said that prison life started to slow on Monday, with all educational programming, recreation and mail delivery halted, alongside visitation.

For others behind bars in New York, the strike is more dire. One person incarcerated at Auburn Correctional Facility told *The Auburn Citizen* that he hasn't received treatment for an infection due to the strike. Others have reported that their facility has skipped serving some meals since the strike began, and some incarcerated people have expressed concerns over timely access to medication.

Several corrections workers involved in the strike reached by *The Marshall Project* declined to comment on the record. Participants have generally pegged the timing to two developments unrelated to the indictments of officers in the Brooks case. One is a Feb. 12 incident at Collins Correctional Facility where incarcerated people were briefly in control of a dorm after officers retreated, citing safety concerns. Officers have also said they were motivated by a Feb. 10 memo from state Corrections Commissioner Daniel Martuscello III suggesting that moving forward, "70% of our original staffing model is the new 100%."

Striking officers have demanded better pay, increased searches of prison visitors, limits on mandatory overtime and the reversal of recent prison reforms that limit solitary confinement. Some officers have

blamed the reforms, along with low staffing levels, for increasing rates of prison violence in the years since its passage. They have also expressed health concerns related to drug exposure, but there is no clinical evidence that the symptoms some have reported — like slurred speech and fainting — are tied to accidental contact with synthetic drugs, *The Albany Times-Union* reported earlier this month.

“They’ve had enough. They don’t care if it’s going to cost them their job,” Pamela Welch, executive treasurer of the corrections union, told *Spectrum News*. “They’re tired of going into work every single day, being unsafe and being treated worse than the inmates, and they’ve reached their boiling point.” The union has not sanctioned the strike, but Welch said the actions were “understandable.”

On Thursday, Martuscello offered several concessions to the strikers, including the suspension of some aspects of the 2021 HALT Act, which limits solitary confinement in state prisons. Corrections officers have fought the reform, arguing that solitary is an important tool for managing violent and disruptive behavior. The suspension is on a temporary, emergency basis, however, and a permanent change to the law would require an act of the state Legislature. *Spectrum News* reported this week that there is currently no momentum for such a change. Martuscello also granted a reprieve from discipline for strike participants, provided they returned to work by midnight Thursday.

As of Saturday morning, the strike was still ongoing, however, with mediation efforts planned for Monday. It’s unclear whether striking workers will receive offers of amnesty again.

Joseph Wilson at the Green Haven prison in Stormville told *The Marshall Project* that the striking guards violated the law and their contract, and should face accountability. “Imagine being locked in a room, and you’re waiting for someone to feed you, to get your medication,” Wilson said.

For guards who disregarded that responsibility, Wilson said: “I wouldn’t be able to trust them again.”

Wilson was one of several incarcerated New Yorkers who told *The Marshall Project* he was sympathetic to the corrections officials’ anger about long shifts and inadequate pay, but all bristled at demands for increased use of solitary confinement and other expansions of punitive measures in New York prisons.

“They’re asking to repeal the whole bill? Would they like to repeal the scientific evidence [that it’s] torture?” said Nikko Colon, who, like Edwards, is incarcerated at Wyoming Correctional Facility. He described his experiences in solitary, where he said he was denied decent food and opportunities to shower, as “excruciating.”

Asked how he hopes the strike will end, Colon said: “I would like for these people to get back to work and do their jobs right,” — with emphasis on that final word.

February 24th - DOCCS buses torched and tagged, 'can you hear us now'

by WRGB

State Police are investigating an incident of vandalism involving two buses used by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). The buses, which are owned by a company contracted by DOCCS, were parked in a storage lot on State Route 370 in the town of Victory, Cayuga County.

On February 19, 2025, authorities received a report that the rear area of one of the buses had sustained heavy fire damage. Additionally, a second bus was found with the message "can you hear us now" spray-painted on one side.

February 25th - Advocates Call on Governor to Release Incarcerated People Amid Dangerous and Illegal Work Stoppage

Today, Governor Kathy Hochul said that nine out of ten prison guards are currently participating in the illegal work stoppage and abandoning their duties and responsibilities. The Governor reportedly said she is

considering alternative holding centers or transferring people to out-of-state prisons. In response, Jose Saldana, Director of the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign (RAPP), and a survivor of 38 years in prison, released the following statement:

"Governor Hochul should first consider all avenues to safely release people, especially the elderly population and others who are medically vulnerable, including expansive use of executive clemency and medical parole. Beyond this immediate step, a sound and reasonable solution is to work with the Legislature to pass the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills, along with sentencing reforms, to ensure that people who are community-ready aren't being warehoused without consistent food, medical care, visits with loved ones, and more. Ultimately, if the prison system cannot keep incarcerated people safe, they should not keep them in custody. Governor Hochul has a responsibility to all New Yorkers to hold these prison guards accountable and make clear that such illegal actions will not be tolerated in New York State. They are engaged in an illegal and dangerous work stoppage, knowing that such actions are not only unsafe but life-threatening. Many people are not receiving life-saving medication, and already at least one needless death has been reported, and we suspect others have not yet been reported. Let's be clear. Tens of thousands of incarcerated people's lives are at stake. Transferring incarcerated people out of state will only cause more harm to them and their families."

24 Feb - Prison Reflections

Germany: The latest writing from anti-nuke activist Susan Crane.

MORE:

After entering a German prison on June 4, 2024, I will be released on January 17, 2025 – more than 7 months of incarceration for convictions resulting from nonviolent actions at Büchel air base in Germany, where U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed. The nonviolent actions at the base were part of a community effort of 60 German peace groups who joined in a coalition to resist the U.S. nuclear weapons. Other German, Dutch and U.S. people have been held in prison on the same charges.

Thanks to everyone who has written, visited, prayed, and been so kind and generous with time and resources. I feel like you have journeyed with me. The letters and books you've sent have lightened the time. Thank you for sharing news of your resistance to nuclear weapons and war, and your life wisdom with me.

While in prison, I have received amazing support from peace and music communities in Germany and the U.S., from Catholic Workers and the Evangelical church community in Koblenz, and also from the anarchist and left community in Koblenz, the IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War) in Germany, and my lawyer Milan Martin.

And I have been inspired by the letters from peace groups around Germany, who meet on a regular basis in their area. They meet outside in a public space, where people congregate and walk. They set up chairs, banners, tables and bring drinks and food, and invite people to sit with them and talk. Sometimes they play some music. This happens in Stendall, Berlin, and other places around Germany.

Inevitably, some folks have asked about the effectiveness of our witness at the Büchel air base, about the usefulness of the time in prison. And what actions make sense in the future. Of course, I would like to think that what we do makes sense, and certainly many people have written to me with encouragement.

To me, the reasons to resist are many:

The U.S. nuclear weapons, the B61 gravity bombs, are still in their underground bunkers at Büchel. The runway is being upgraded, and it looks like the security and fence systems are being reconfigured. Germany has agreed to accept more weapons from the United States: The Tomahawk land-attack cruise

missile, and a hypersonic missile (Dark Eagle), which is still being developed, will be deployed at Wiesbaden.

Israel's occupation and war on the Palestinians and the warmaking in Ukraine continue to bring death and destruction, while the merchants of death reel in more and more profit. Israel has dropped the equivalent of 2 nuclear weapons, the size of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, on Gaza, which is about 6 miles by 25 miles in area.

The nations are raging, with rulers who are suicidal, crazy, mad – drunk with power and greed. The stench of death surrounds us, and war, which is Empire's way of doing business, always includes amputations, killing, starvation, rape, destruction, and misery. War creates climate change and ensures that we don't have the will or resources to address and mitigate the climate crisis. War creates moral and psychological sickness in the warmakers.

Knowing this, I think that all nonviolent actions for justice and peace are reasonable, and not only reasonable, but our duty and responsibility. We need a variety of actions, from having the courage to speak up with friends about the warmaking, to hammering on the weapons as we convert them to something useful for human life.

* * *

The kindness of so many people I met here in Germany will stay in my heart forever.

Despite being a prisoner, I had many unexpected opportunities to meet people because of the support of Superintendent Rolf Stahl at the Martin Luther Evangelical Church community of Koblenz. Pastor Stahl has long been supportive of the peace movement, and has shown his support by letting people on trial in Koblenz for their actions at Büchel air base stay in the church community gathering space. Because of his willingness to work with the peace community, when Susan van der Hijden and I needed an address in Koblenz, he agreed to let us use his address, and let us stay there on weekends when we had a furlough.

When the prison boss called Pastor Stahl on the phone and asked if I could work there at the church, he said yes. That has made a big difference for me, as now every day, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., I am at the church, instead of sitting in the prison. Pastor Stahl has talked to his many colleagues and invited them to visit or contact me. Through his contacts, I have had many thoughtful and helpful conversations. Pastor Stahl has taken the time to check in with me to see how I'm doing, and has helped me in ways too many to count.

In December I was invited to give a talk, illustrated with photos and banners, at the University of Koblenz about the U.S. nuclear weapons and civil resistance to them at Büchel. That was exciting! The room was packed with students and friends from Koblenz. The anarchists, the leftists, Pastor Stahl, and even the prison boss of the Offener Vollzug, Herr Strickert, attended.

My lawyer, Milan Martin, has been very helpful. He was by my side in the courtroom through the three trials, and he filed appeals at the higher courts through the Federal Constitutional Court, which refused to hear my case. Then, he filed an appeal in the European Court of Human Rights, as have nine other Büchel resisters. My appeal was tossed for technical reasons, while other appeals were turned down as "manifestly ill-founded." We still think that the laws and treaties clearly make the deployment and use of nuclear weapons illegal.

Milan also contacted his clients and friends in Koblenz once I entered the open prison: gentle and outspoken anarchists and leftists who were the first to find me and visit, bringing solace and encouragement. They immediately opened their organizing space to Susan van der Hijden and me, and welcomed us into their activities. On Saturdays during Advent, I was able to join Die Linke ("The Left" political party) sharing hot drinks, soup, warm clothes, hygiene supplies and political stickers at the train station, a gathering space for the poor and unhoused.

Milan has visited me several times in prison, and argued with the prison authorities so that my rights to pray and to demonstrate were not taken away, even while I was in prison.

It was thus an amazing development that I have been able to go to the prayer gatherings at the Peace Meadow near the main gate at Büchel. The prison guards originally said “No, of course you can’t go. That’s where you were arrested, right?”

But then Milan spoke up... and Elka Koller, a doctor and pharmacist from the Büchel area, has driven to the prison to pick me up and drive me back, making it possible for me to reliably get there and back. (The prison doesn’t accept train travel as “reliable” as we have to report back “on time”.)

It was also exciting when Frits ter Kuile organized a rainbow walk at Büchel, and I was given permission to go. Again, thanks to Milan’s intervention, and Pastor Stahl’s willingness to go with me.

The winter days are darker, with snow and rain. It is hard saying goodbye, but I am ready to get out of prison. At the same time I know there are many prisoners of conscience and others unjustly imprisoned around the world. We know of people in prison in Ukraine and Russia for their peacemaking, people in Turkish prisons for their political ideas, people around the world who are imprisoned for nonviolently standing up for peace and justice. And, of course, the United States has more than 25% of the world’s prisoners. I was moved to tears watching the Syrian rebels open the prison gates, and help all the prisoners leave.

It is hard to leave Germany. I have made friends through actions and prison time, steadfast comrades who I love to be with. I hope to be able to return, and help name the powers and principalities who we struggle against.

So perhaps you didn’t see your name here... I could write pages of the names of all who have encouraged and supported my resistance to nuclear weapons. You know who you are, and I am ever so thankful, and will carry you in my heart forever. We need to continue to struggle, continue to build community, continue to resist.

24 Feb - Anti-nuke Campaigner Brian Terrell to Report to Prison

Germany: Terrell was ordered to pay a fine for trespass and out of conscience refused.

MORE:

While participating in an international peace camp on July 14, 2019 organized by Nukewatch and GAAA, Susan Crane of Redwood City, California and Susan van der Hijden of Amsterdam and I were apprehended by German Military police after cutting a hole in the security fence and entering the airfield at Büchel, Germany, with a banner that read “Atomwaffen sind Illegal- Fliegelhorst Büchel ist ein Tator!” (Nuclear weapons are illegal, Büchel airfield is a crime scene). Despite our assurances to the soldiers guarding the base that our intentions were not intended to violate the law but to call attention to the crime of the United States Air Force 702 Munitions Support Squadron keeping about 20 nuclear B61 bombs there, we were turned over to civilian police, cited and released.

It was only when I returned to a protest at Büchel again two years later in July of 2021 that I was served documents by local police informing me that the previous July, 2020, the court in Cochem had issued a penalty order against me and a fine of 900 euros for trespassing and unlawfully damaging property. Susan and Susan had both been served the same papers earlier and had already filed appeals, so I also filed my own, hoping to argue my case in a German courtroom.

If the courts in the hyper-incarcerated United States can be likened to a giant meat grinder, mindlessly pulverizing the bodies and lives of those who fall into it with blind and callous indifference, where due

process is a luxury usually afforded only to the privileged few, the courts in Germany might be compared with grain mill, sifting out the wheat and chaff slowly with careful precision and so I go to jail now for a “crime” committed more than five years ago.

In the end, though, the German courts are no more ready than courts in the U.S. would be to hear a reasonable argument that the American nuclear bombs kept at Büchel under a NATO “nuclear sharing” agreement, ready to be loaded onto German planes to be “delivered” when so ordered, are there in violation of numerous laws, including the 1970 Nonproliferation Treaty which forbids any transfer of nuclear weapons between treaty signers, not to mention an existential threat to all life on this planet. After my two accomplices and some 18 other resisters in recent years had no success in their appeals to the various German courts, including the Federal Constitutional Court and up to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, I decided to stop waiting for my day in court and dropped my own appeal.

On December 12, 2024, the court in Koblenz sent me a letter reminding me of the 900 euro fine (plus 77.5 euro costs) with the order to pay up or report to the prison at Wittlich, Germany, on February 26 to serve a 15 day sentence. I chose prison.

The world is a more dangerous place today than it was five years ago when we took bolt cutters to “defence” Büchel. For one thing, the old B61 nuclear bombs that had been kept ready at Büchel and at five other European bases since 1968, are being replaced now with new, more “flexible” and more “easily deployed” B61-12 bombs.

In January, 2022, officials at the Kansas City National Security Campus, 100 miles from my home in Iowa, announced the completion of the B61-12 Life Extension Program’s First Production Unit: “It is with great pride and excitement that we see the B61-12 achieve FPU,” said Eric Wollerman, President of Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies which manages and operates the campus.

Three years later, on January 7, 2025, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced the completion of the last production unit of the B61–12. Just weeks ago on January 16, as my accomplice Susan Crane was being released from prison for her “crimes” at Büchel, NNSA administrator Jill Hruby, in an address at the Hudson Institute, spoke glowingly of “the future of the nuclear security enterprise.” Despite the challenges we face, “all is not gloom and doom” because, she said, “The new B61-12 gravity bombs are fully forward deployed, and we have increased NATO’s visibility to our nuclear capabilities.” The B61-12 presumably in place at Büchel is just part of a \$2 trillion program to extend the “lives” of and exercising “stewardship” over the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile.

“I want to say, and this is very important: at the end we lucked out,” wrote Robert McNamara, U.S. Secretary of Defense during the Cuban missile crisis in his 1995 memoirs. “It was luck” McNamara insisted, not careful diplomacy nor any show of power, “that prevented nuclear war” in those cold war years.

It was not just luck, though, but also the persistence of anti-nuclear activists in the 1980s and ‘90s that brought the world away from the brink of nuclear destruction, demanding and getting meaningful international agreements and drastic reductions of nuclear stockpiles. Today, profiteers like Eric Wollerman and bureaucrats like Jill Hruby do not view the reduction of nuclear weapons of those recent decades as lifesaving progress toward a more peaceful and sustainable world to build upon, but as years of regrettable neglect. Today, they have reason to celebrate “the long-term future of the stockpile.” “It has been the honor to serve as the NNSA Administrator, and a pleasure to observe the progress” said Jill Hruby on January 16, “I am fond of saying that my proudest accomplishment is getting our mojo back in NNSA.”

While the officially stated “fundamental role of U.S. nuclear weapons,” according to the 2022 *Nuclear Posture Review*, is to “deter nuclear attack,” they also “allow us to achieve Presidential objectives if deterrence fails.” The new U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Command and Control Facility at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, according to a USSTRATCOM press statement, “will conduct strategic

planning, warfighting operations, provide global situational awareness to the National Command Authorities and combatant commands, aid the president's nuclear response decision-making process, and, if called upon, deliver a decisive response in all domains."

Simply put, "Presidential objectives" and "a decisive response in all domains" both are ways of referring to the planned total destruction of life on this planet. If such power at the personal discretion of the President of the United States was of less concern before the 2024 election, it should be a terrifying thought today.

My first visit to Germany was in October of 1982, a time referred to as the "long hot autumn," an exhilarating time when millions of Germans took to the streets to protest the short-range Pershing II nuclear missiles then deployed by the U.S. on trucks roaming the border between east and west. In solidarity with activists protesting around the globe, the Pershing program was successfully ended.

The need for a mass movement like the world saw back then could not be more urgent than it is today. I look with both fear and hope for one to arise. In the meantime, I know that mass movements are not made by people waiting for a mass movement to arrive. A mass movement is built by people joining with others to speak and act for peace the best they can in their circumstances and who are willing to risk apparent failure in their efforts.

On February 23, there will be a Global Day of Action to Close Bases taking place at military sites around the world. Two days later, on the day before I turn myself in to the prison at Wittlich, I will be joining Dutch and German friends protesting again at the gates of Büchel and the NATO nuclear sharing base at Volkel, in the Netherlands. From March 3-7, while I am quietly protesting in a German jail, the Atlantic Life Community will be in the streets of New York City for the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons at the United Nations. At the same time, on the other end of the country, the Pacific Life Community will be conspiring on their future actions on retreat at a monastery in St. David, Arizona. I am grateful to be part of this grand movement. As I prepare for my brief sojourn at Wittlich, I am looking forward to joining my friends in Europe who will be seeing me off and greeting me on my release. I am grateful for the support and prayers of many friends, for Betsy, who with help from friends and neighbors will be holding down our farm in Iowa and for the support of my colleagues with the Nevada Desert Experience, with whom I will be joining in April for our annual Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site.

25 Feb - US anti-pipeline activists say charges against them 'meant to intimidate'

Protesters who tried to disrupt completion of Mountain Valley pipeline to defend themselves in Virginia court

MORE:

by Nina Lakhani (*The Guardian*)

Climate activists who tried to disrupt the completion of a fossil-fuel pipeline through Appalachian forests will appear in court in Virginia on Tuesday to face serious criminal charges that they vehemently deny.

The Mountain Valley pipeline (MVP) was pushed through by the Biden administration in mid-2023 – overriding court orders, regulatory blocks and widespread opposition to the 300-mile (480km) fossil fuel project. Biden's decision triggered a wave of non-violent protests and civil disobedience against the pipeline in Virginia and West Virginia as work crews rushed to finish construction of the pipeline through sensitive waterways and protected forests.

In one case, on 16 October 2023, a group of activists descended on Peters Mountain in Giles county with a banner that read "Respect existence or expect resistance". They blasted music and one person chained themselves to an excavator with a sleeping dragon, while others sang protest songs and chanted "Doom to the pipeline". The MVP excavator operator was able to exit and leave the area, according to the police report.

Over the next few weeks, a total of 10 activists were charged with conspiracy to defame the reputation of a business, a misdemeanor most commonly used in civil disputes, and two felonies: conspiracy to commit unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, known colloquially as the joyriding charge, and abduction of the MVP machine operator.

On Tuesday, two of the 10 will face trial for the misdemeanor conspiracy charge and a preliminary hearing for the felonies, which carry a maximum combined sentence of 16 years.

“These are absurd charges meant to intimidate. I was exercising my right to free speech and protest and am not guilty of conspiracy or abduction or joyriding. The real conspiracy was how the pipeline got pushed through without judicial and environmental oversight,” said one of the accused.

“It is a slippery slope for the state to accuse ordinary people of a conspiracy charge used in corporate slander and malfeasance cases ... I am willing to take the risk of jail time to shed light on that in open court.”

“The charges are bullshit and I’ve decided to face the state which is trying to silence any dissent – whether it be against pipelines, Cop City or the genocide in Palestine. We live in the heart of the imperial core, so we have to take action even if it comes at a personal cost,” said River, not their real name.

The remaining eight reached an agreement with prosecutors to be convicted of interfering with the property rights of another person, a misdemeanor. They will be given a suspended sentence with 50-100 hours community service, and must collectively pay almost \$5,000 restitution to the county for police overtime.

“The justice system in the US is fundamentally corrupt, and people are punished by the process without ever getting to a guilty verdict. I need to move on and find employment, which has been impossible to do with these illegitimate felony charges hanging over my head, and that’s why like so many others I had to take a plea deal,” said Daisy, not their real name.

Almost 50 non-violent activists were arrested in multiple counties across Virginia and West Virginia during the final phase of pipeline construction, amid growing concern about the criminalization of environmental and climate protests across the US – and globally.

“These ludicrous charges are clearly designed to scare off any resistance to the MVP and future fossil-fuel infrastructure. This continues a long pattern of multibillion-dollar fossil-fuel companies conspiring with the legal system to suppress dissent throughout history and across the world today,” said a spokesperson for Appalachians Against Pipelines, a direct action movement.

In a separate action on 29 January 2024, Madeline Ffitch attached herself to drilling equipment in the Jefferson national forest, at the top of Peters Mountain, with a banner that read “Mountain moms say no to MVP”. She was extracted after about eight hours, and was charged with five misdemeanors and one felony – the joyriding charge, which carries up to five years.

Ffitch has agreed with prosecutors to be convicted of two obstruction, interference with property rights of another and a trespass misdemeanor and will have to serve 150 hours community service. She refused to agree to pay \$15,000 in restitution to the police, and will argue that in court on Tuesday.

“They wanted to send me to prison for standing up for clean water and air for our region, and fighting to end the climate chaos. It sucks to take a plea deal, but I am a single mom of two children,” said Ffitch. “Extreme weather is impacting everyone. It doesn’t matter who you vote for. Yet politicians are doing backroom deals with corporations to sell out the people. Climate change is an existential crisis.”

In another incident on 3 March 2024, a protester who goes by the name Ricky Bobby climbed into the pipeline using a harness and rope on the side of a mountain, where she remained for 36 hours. She faces four misdemeanor charges on Tuesday after declining a plea deal that required paying restitution to the police, and could go to jail if found guilty.

The MVP, a joint venture in which the gas giant EQT Corporation is now the majority shareholder and operator, is also suing dozens of protesters in alleged damages resulting from acts of civil disobedience. Such lawsuits can chill free speech and debate, experts have warned, and are being increasingly used globally to silence environmental and social justice activists, especially by fossil fuel corporations and the ultra-wealthy.

EQT and the commonwealth attorney's office have been contacted for comment.

25 Feb - Revolutionaries are not "CORRECTED" and they do not "IMPROVE MORALLY"

Greece: Once again, for the sixth time in a row, the Lamia Misdemeanors Council has "honored" Nikos Maziotis with its decision to reject his request for conditional release. His reaction below.

MORE:

Indeed, a committed fighter, a revolutionary, an anarchist like myself could never be "rehabilitated" or "morally improved" by prison, no matter how many years they remain incarcerated.

A committed fighter, a revolutionary, an anarchist can dedicate their life to the struggle, as did comrade Lambros Foundas of Revolutionary Struggle; they can risk their life for the cause, face the threat of being killed by the state's praetorians—just as I almost was; they can spend many years in prison—I have already served 12 years for Revolutionary Struggle and another 4 in the past—but they must never take a step back, express repentance or revision, or, in other words, demonstrate "rehabilitation" and "moral improvement," as the judicial council puts it.

From this perspective, all the decisions of the judicial councils—six from the Misdemeanors Council and one from the Court of Appeals—honor me and show me that I am on the right path. If I were to say the opposite, I would begin to wonder whether I had made a mistake and violated my ethical principles and values. My only objection is the council's reference to my "pretextual" good behavior. This is truly unfair to me. If such a thing were true, then during the council hearings, entirely "pretextually," contrary to everything I believe in, everything I have been convicted for, and all the disciplinary violations I have committed, I would have mumbled apologies and expressions of remorse—just as most criminal inmates do to secure their release. However, such a thing is unthinkable for me.

The latest rejection from the Lamia Misdemeanors Council effectively excludes me from the possibility of conditional release, even though I have already served more than four-fifths of my sentence.

In the broader context of recent years' tightening of penal and "correctional" legislation—which has included increased sentence limits, stricter conditions for conditional release and furloughs, and the effective abolition of these rights, along with the establishment of maximum-security prisons (similar to the old Type C prisons, but worse)—I may well become the first person sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment who will serve the full sentence, all five-fifths, without suspension, effectively approaching the duration of a life sentence, which under the old penal code meant serving 16 years.

25 Feb - Judge Grants Final Approval of Landmark Dublin Consent Decree Addressing Systemic Sexual Abuse

A federal judge has granted final approval of the Consent Decree negotiated in California Coalition for Women Prisoners, et al. v. United States Bureau of Prisons, et al.

MORE:

The ruling cements enforceable protections for hundreds of incarcerated individuals who have suffered systemic staff sexual abuse, retaliation, and medical neglect in federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) custody. The judge indicated that the Consent Decree will go into effect on March 31, 2025 at over a dozen federal women's prisons nationwide, and will remain in effect for the next two years.

"For the first time in BOP history, a consent decree will provide ongoing court oversight across multiple federal women's prisons," said Susan Beaty, an attorney with California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, who represents the plaintiffs in this case. "This agreement acknowledges that the abuses at FCI Dublin were not isolated incidents but part of a nationwide pattern of harm. Survivors fought tirelessly for this victory, and this consent decree gives advocates the tools to ensure enforcement and hold BOP accountable."

Class members submitted comments to the Court in advance of the hearing, and many joined via phone and video call from prisons across the country. The California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), an organizational plaintiff in the case, also submitted commentary, writing: "We continue to receive alarming reports of ongoing abuse, retaliation, and medical neglect against people transferred from Dublin, and we remain very worried about their safety and wellbeing... We urge the court to approve—and just as importantly, enforce—an agreement that will provide for ongoing monitoring, protections, and resources for survivors of FCI Dublin."

In another failed attempt to delay enforcement, at the start of today's hearing BOP requested additional time to re-negotiate terms related to transgender people's access to undergarments and non-citizens' access to halfway houses—rights that are already protected by federal law. BOP claimed that those provisions do not align with the new administration's "priorities," which advocates say are to terrorize trans people and immigrants. The judge flatly denied BOP's request for additional time, noting that the agency already entered into a binding agreement, and does not get "two bites at the apple."

The class action lawsuit, originally filed in August 2023, addressed BOP's failure to protect incarcerated individuals from rampant sexual abuse and retaliation at FCI Dublin. After the court appointed a Special Master to oversee the facility, BOP abruptly closed FCI Dublin and transferred hundreds of class members to prisons across the country under inhumane conditions. The court's decision to approve the Consent Decree ensures that survivors will have enforceable protections and ongoing oversight for the next two years.

Key provisions of the Consent Decree include:

- Extensive monitoring and public reporting: The monitor will have access to class members and BOP staff, facilities, and records, and will investigate and make public reports on a range of issues, including staff abuse and retaliation, medical care, and application of early release credits and timely release to halfway houses.
- Outside supports: Class members will have ongoing and confidential access to the monitor, attorneys, and community-based counselors.
- Limitations on solitary confinement (SHU): To prevent retaliatory SHU placements, class members will not be placed in SHU for low-level disciplinary charges (absent specific security threats), and will be guaranteed timely disciplinary proceedings. Class members in SHU will have access to the monitor, legal calls, and reporting mechanisms, and class members in non-punitive segregation will be guaranteed basic privileges.
- Protections related to Dublin transfers: BOP will restore early release credits lost as a result of the Dublin transfers, and will review and expunge invalid and retaliatory disciplinary write-ups by Dublin staff.
- Designations and release: BOP will release eligible class members to halfway houses and home confinement as soon as practicable, and will not deny early release on the basis of immigration status alone. BOP will house class members as close to their families as practicable, and in the lowest security facility possible. Class members will no longer be housed long term at pretrial detention facilities or transfer centers.
- Public acknowledgment of abuse: The BOP Director will issue a formal, public acknowledgement to survivors of staff sexual abuse at FCI Dublin.

With final approval now granted, class counsel, advocates, and survivors remain committed to ensuring the BOP upholds its obligations under the Consent Decree and that meaningful reform is implemented across the federal prison system.

"Our task in organizing alongside Dublin survivors has always been to assert that we believe their stories, trust their experiences, and will commit our support and solidarity until their demands for accountability and justice are won," said Emily Shapiro, an organizer with CCWP. "Today we packed the virtual courtroom to start a new chapter, which is enforcing our historic legal victory. Don't mistake this moment for an ending—the movement is really just getting going."

26 Feb - Poetry From Marius Mason

Marius' support crew have re-uploaded some of his poetry to supportmariusmason.org and we are including one of our favorites below.

MORE:

Theocracy

No disrespect to Detroit's brilliant,
Beleaguered, and recently drug-martyred poet –
But Gil Scott-Heron was wrong, wrong, wrong.
The revolution Has been televised
And trivialized,
Made almost antiseptic, it's apocalyptic attempts
Co-opted, contained and commoditized.
Now showing, an exhibit at the MOMA,
A thrilling documentary about
Just plain folks in far away places, maybe,
Coveting our conventional "democracy"
Surely these young people in tents knew that
Last year.
Not far away, but here,
They are serving Ben and Jerry's,
And endlessly updating their Facebook pages,
Considering the subjugation of women and discussing brands..
Where are the anarchists, now,
As billions change hands and borders flex,
And bodies go to ground (blood being the most productive crop this year)
The shadow of Theocracy
darkens, sinister, solidifies
And creeps into the catbird seat,
Directing an international conversion event

That had naught to do with God

Well-documented and almost unseen.
Whose revolution has this been,
Really?

28 Feb - One Person Arrested for Vandalizing Colorado Tesla Dealership

This is corporate news on a pre-trial arrest, so we are redacting identifying information and you should read the remainder with a critical eye.

MORE:

by Darryl Coote (UPI)

Authorities in Colorado have arrested a [REDACTED] accused of repeatedly vandalizing a Tesla dealership in Loveland.

According to a statement from the police department in Loveland, a city of about 79,000 people located about 50 miles north of Denver, [REDACTED] was arrested just before midnight Monday.

Police apprehended [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] was in possession of incendiary devices and other materials commonly used in vandalism crimes, the Loveland Police Department said.

"Detectives apprehended [REDACTED] prior to further damage occurring," the statement said.

[REDACTED] has been charged with using explosives or incendiary devices during a felony, criminal mischief involving damages between \$2,000 and \$5,000 and criminal attempt to commit a Class 3 felony.

According to police, [REDACTED] arrest follows an investigation opened Jan. 29 into vandalism at the dealership.

On Feb. 7, police said in a statement that the dealership had been vandalized the night prior during an attempted arson attack.

"Various vehicles and the Tesla building were vandalized with graffiti, some of which were offensive and hateful in nature," it said.

A \$100,000 cash surety bond has been issued for [REDACTED].

The incident comes as Tesla has become a target for public anger since its chief executive officer, Elon Musk, has joined the Trump administration. Tasked with cutting wasteful spending from the federal government, Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency has sought to cancel billions in programs and fire thousands of federal employees, which has attracted growing criticism and several lawsuits.

Among the incidents include Tesla chargers being vandalized with Nazi swastikas, as Musk has been accused of giving a Nazi salute during President Donald Trump's inauguration. The world's richest man has denied the accusation.

Tesla responded to one such incident stating it would remove the graffiti the following day.

"We will press charges for vandalism at Superchargers," Tesla Charging said on X, which Musk also owns.

5 Mar - This Is Lit

WHAT: Trivia Night

WHEN: 6:00pm, Wednesday, March 5th

WHERE: Francis Kite Club - 40 Loisada Avenue, NYC

COST: \$15, \$7 with a gently used paperback with no writing inside

MORE:

A benefit for Saxapahaw Prison Books. If you know stuff about books, come show off!

10 Mar - Pop Gym Workshop

WHAT: Self Defense for LGBTQAI+ Folks

WHEN: 6:00pm, Monday, March 10th

WHERE: MayDay Space - 176 Saint Nicholas Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

This is an introductory self-defense class. Spread the word.

10 Mar - Drawn Together

WHAT: Culture + Social Movement

WHEN: , Monday, March 10th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Avenue, Brooklyn

COST: \$5-10, suggested, register at tiny.cc/DrawnTogether

MORE:

At Drawn Together, we provide prompts and materials for you to experiment and explore with your visual art-making practice, all without the pressure of having to do it well.

Because of this one-night partnership, we'll also have access to Interference Archive's materials, which we'll be using as part of our inspiration.

The mission of Interference Archive is to explore the relationship between cultural production and social movements. This work manifests in an open stacks archival collection, publications, a study center, and public programs including exhibitions, workshops, talks, and screenings, all of which encourage critical and creative engagement with the rich history of social movements.

Come for the art-making, stay for a collection of visual media related to the history of activism and social movements around the world!

13 Mar - IWW Social

WHAT: Art build

WHEN: 6:00pm, Thursday, March 13th

WHERE: Brandworkers - 4332 22nd Street, Suite 202, Long Island City

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join this community art build to support local worker organizing, plus chat with other labor movement comrades.

15 Mar - Saxapahaw Prison Books Packing Party

WHAT: Book packing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, March 15th

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.