



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for July 8th

21 Jun - Police Search For Accused of Setting 11 NYPD Vehicles on Fire

We are redacting any identifying details that are included in this corporate news article, which should be read with a critical eye.

MORE:

by Rebecca Heath (*NJ Advance Media*)

An individual is accused of setting fire to 11 NYPD vehicles in Brooklyn last week.

Police are searching for [REDACTED], of [REDACTED], who allegedly climbed over a gate and placed fire starters on the windshields, hoods and tires of the vehicles at about 1 a.m. on June 12, the NYPD said in a Facebook post.

The suspect fled the scene on foot after igniting the fires, which caused “severe damage” to the vehicles, police said. No injuries were reported.

The suspect was last seen wearing a gray sweater, green pants and a blue face mask, police said.

[REDACTED] has previously been arrested in connection with incidents related to anti-ICE and pro-Palestinian protests, *The New York Post* reported. [REDACTED] is also wanted for an incident in September at Columbia University, where [REDACTED] allegedly caused \$1,000 in damage to a statue on campus after disguising [REDACTED] as a student.

Surveillance footage from Thursday shows the suspect fleeing to Manhattan after the arson incident, according to *The New York Post*. [REDACTED] was seen changing clothing several times during the escape, *ABC 7* reported. Investigators believe the suspect acted alone.

“There is zero tolerance for anyone who attacks the NYPD,” the police department wrote in a post on X.

23 Jun - An Update About Presos Caso Susaron

Chile: This is a tweaked version of a correspondence with the support group helping our comrades.

MORE:

via *UNOFFENSIVE ANIMAL*

Tortuga and Itamar continue to serve their intensive probation sentences on the street, having to report to a representative every month, who prepares reports on their compliance.

Panda and Rucio are in the ex-penitentiary, they have already served 2 years and 7 months of their 4.5 and 5 year prison sentences respectively.

The comrades have been doing well overall, staying as healthy as possible and with high morale. They continue to spread anti-speciesism and anarchism whenever they can.

A few months ago, we tried to arrange Panda’s early release through a prison benefit, but as expected, it went poorly. We have a new release date for both comrades almost at the end of the year. We hope things go better this time; if not, we can only wait for the sentence to be served.

One of our last posts was about how the many animals live inside prisons.

Despite sometimes providing emotional support for the prisoners, they lack the basic conditions for their well-being. For example, there's no veterinarian here, no sterilization campaigns, and they don't even allow cat food. So, caring for them is very difficult.

However, despite all these difficulties, our comrades took care of two litters of newborn kittens, as well as their mothers and other cats living there. They spent weeks providing them with all the necessary care and inventing ways to feed them.

Then, when they were older, we took them out one by one and found them homes, also taking care of their food and their visits to the vet.

We also temporarily took care of a kitten who became quadriplegic inside the prison. We gave him all the care we could until he couldn't take it anymore and had to be put to sleep. We wanted to make this story public because we believe it's important to tell how our comrades continue to carry out small anti-speciesist actions inside the prison, seeking to break the apathy and indifference of the other prisoners, so that these actions can be replicated and everyone knows that we can do something whenever we can, that even in very hostile circumstances our comrades were able to. And it was also because we needed financial contributions, since both feeding and paying veterinary care for all the kittens meant great expenses. At the same time, we had to continue to cover all the prison's expenses.

We've been holding activities, information days, gigs, and various other opportunities to raise funds for all of this.

Our comrades also participate with written contributions whenever they can and when needed, to create a constant connection between the streets and the prison.

We thank you for the support you've always given us; we appreciate your constant support for us and our comrades in prison. Hugs and freedom.

23 Jun - Supreme Court to Hear Prisoner's Suit Over Shaved Dreadlocks

Damon Landor, whose faith requires him to let his hair grow long, said guards threw a court ruling in the trash before holding him down and shaving his head to the scalp.

MORE:

by Adam Liptak (*The New York Times*)

The Supreme Court said on Monday that it would decide whether a Rastafarian man may sue prison guards in Louisiana who shaved off his dreadlocks in seeming violation of an appeals court's ruling about how the state must treat members of his faith.

The case concerns Damon Landor, whose faith requires him to let his hair grow long. When he started a five-month prison term for drug possession in Louisiana in 2020, his dreadlocks fell nearly to his knees.

Mr. Landor was wary of the state's prison system, according to a lawsuit he later filed, and he kept a copy of a 2017 judicial decision with him. That ruling, from a unanimous three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, said that Rastafarian inmates in Louisiana must be allowed to keep their dreadlocks under a 2000 federal law protecting prisoners' religious freedom.

The first four months of Mr. Landor's incarceration were uneventful. Then he was transferred to the Raymond Laborde Correctional Center in Cottonport, La. According to his lawsuit, he presented a copy of the 2017 decision to a guard, who threw it in the trash.

After consulting the warden, two guards handcuffed Mr. Landor to a chair, held him down and shaved his head to the scalp.

“When I was strapped down and shaved, it felt like I was raped,” Mr. Landor said in a statement last year. “And the guards, they just didn’t care. They will treat you any kind of way. They knew better than to cut my hair, but they did it anyway.”

The question the justices agreed to decide is whether the 2000 religious freedom law allows suits against prison officials for money.

The case is in an early stage, and courts have assumed that Mr. Landor’s account of what happened to him is true. Officials in Louisiana have so far not disputed it.

Elizabeth B. Murrill, Louisiana’s attorney general, agreed that the conduct Mr. Landor described was appalling, but she said the 2000 law did not allow his suit.

“The allegations in petitioner’s complaint are antithetical to religious freedom and fair treatment of state prisoners,” Ms. Murrill wrote in a brief urging the justices to deny review. “Without equivocation, the state condemns them in the strongest possible terms.”

She added that “the state has amended its prison grooming policy to ensure that nothing like petitioner’s alleged experience can occur.”

Last month, the Trump administration filed a supporting brief urging the justices to hear Mr. Landor’s case and to rule that he may pursue his suit.

Mr. Landor’s case does not seem to be an outlier. At least five other Rastafarians have filed lawsuits in Louisiana saying their dreadlocks were forcibly shaved by prison officials.

Mr. Landor sued the warden and the guards under the 2000 law, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. When the case reached the Fifth Circuit, the same court that had ruled that the law protected Rastafarian prisoners’ dreadlocks, a different three-judge panel said that “we emphatically condemn the treatment that Landor endured.”

But that condemnation was all the relief the panel was willing to offer Mr. Landor. It ruled that he was still not entitled to sue the prison officials for money because the 2000 law had not specifically authorized such suits.

In his petition asking the Supreme Court to hear his case, Mr. Landor said the Fifth Circuit’s ruling was at odds with a 2020 decision interpreting identical language in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

In that case, the court ruled in favor of Muslim men who said their religious rights had been violated when F.B.I. agents put them on the no-fly list in retaliation for refusing to become government informants.

The court did not find the question of whether they could sue for money difficult. In a brisk nine-page opinion for a unanimous court in 2020 in the case, *Tanzin v. Tanvir*, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that “in the context of suits against government officials, damages have long been awarded as appropriate relief.”

In Mr. Landor’s case, the Fifth Circuit ruled that the 2000 law, which applies to the states, was meaningfully different from the 1993 law, which, after the Supreme Court limited its sweep, applies only to the federal government.

The full Fifth Circuit declined to rehear the panel's ruling. But nine judges in the majority urged the Supreme Court to clarify matters in the case, *Landor v. Louisiana Department of Corrections and Public Safety*, No. 23-1197.

Prison officials, Judge Edith Brown Clement wrote, "knowingly violated Damon Landor's rights in a stark and egregious manner, literally throwing in the trash our opinion holding that Louisiana's policy of cutting Rastafarians' hair violated the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act before pinning Landor down and shaving his head. Landor clearly suffered a grave legal wrong."

But whether he can sue prison officials for money, Judge Clement wrote, "is a question only the Supreme Court can answer."

25 Jun - Drop the "conspiracy" charges against protester Alejandro Orellana!

On the morning of June 12, the FBI, accompanied by the National Guard and LA sheriffs, raided the home of Alejandro Orellana for his protesting of ICE raids in Los Angeles.

MORE:

He was arrested, taken into federal custody, then released the next day - after much public pressure and many phone calls to the U.S. Attorney.

Now he faces two bogus federal charges: one for conspiracy to commit civil disorder and another for aiding and abetting civil disorder. He is facing serious prison time.

Alejandro Orellana is a longtime activist in LA's Chicano community. When immigrant rights are under attack - he helps organize the protests. When law enforcement guns down people in the Boyle Heights neighborhood, Orellana is one of the speakers on the bullhorn demanding justice. He is a Teamster, who is an activist on the shop floor. As a former marine, he is opposed to unjust U.S. wars abroad.

In Los Angeles, ICE agents, the National Guard, Department of Homeland Security agents, and U.S. troops are roaming the streets. Wearing masks to hide their identities, they abduct undocumented people, tearing apart families in the process.

The people of LA have a right to protest. Standing up to ICE is not a crime. The charges against Alejandro Orellana should be dropped. Now!

There has been a call for a National Day of Action on June 27, the date of Orellana's preliminary hearing. We are calling on all those who value civil liberties to hold actions on that day. We are calling on all supporters of Orellana to call U.S. Attorney Essayli at 213.894.2400 on June 27 as well.

The U.S attorney claims that Orellana drove a pickup truck carrying PPE (personal protective equipment) including face shields, and that this is their basis for arresting and charging him. In our view, there's nothing wrong with looking out for people's safety. Police often shoot rubber bullets, as a result there are multiple cases of protesters losing eyes. Helping to prevent this is a good thing.

The California Central District U.S. Attorney Bilal Essayli who filed the charges against Orellana was appointed by U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, a dedicated Trump supporter who helped build his MAGA think tank. He is Trump's man in California.

Essayli has pursued charges against other anti-ICE protesters, such as David Huerta, the president of the Service Employees International Union California, who was held on a \$50,000 bail. Essayli is the legal representative of the Trump administration in the court battle over who controls California's National Guard. In his time as a California state legislator, Essayli authored bills targeting parents of trans kids and

criminalizing the teaching of "critical race theory." He has revealed himself to be an all-around opponent of democratic rights and anything progressive

The Trump administration and its tools such as U.S. Attorney Essayli are out to crush any dissent of Trump's immigration policy. They seek to trample the First Amendment rights of protesters in order to do it. Orellana's activism is the real reason he is in the FBI and prosecutors' sights. An attack on Orellana is an attack on anyone who cherishes the right to resist mass deportations and the many other wrongdoings of the Trump administration.

27 Jun - New Political Prisoner: Hridindu Roychowdhury

Hridindu Roychowdhury is an anarchist from Madison, Wisconsin who was sentenced to 90 months in federal prison for attacking a building with a Molotov cocktail in the wake of the leak of the draft opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, overruling Roe v. Wade.

MORE:

He targeted the building because it was occupied by an anti-choice organization (Wisconsin Family Action). Roychowdhury acknowledged spray-painting the message "If abortions aren't safe then you aren't either" on the outside of the building. No one was in the office at the time. Roychowdhury pleaded guilty on Dec. 1, 2023. He was ordered to pay nearly \$32,000 in restitution and was serving his sentence at FCI Marion. He received a 7.5 year sentence.

In May 2005, he was shipped to Wisconsin to go before a grand jury. Hridindu is currently being held in federal civil contempt of court for refusing to cooperate/snitch at a federal grand jury proceeding. After the judge recently found him in contempt for refusing to answer questions within the grand jury room, he sits in this county jail without earning any good time—in essence his federal time is frozen until contempt is purged.

He is currently housed in a county jail in Wisconsin after being transferred there from the federal prison he was assigned after he took a non-cooperation plea deal and was sentenced. Hridindu is currently being held in federal civil contempt of court for refusing to cooperate/snitch at a federal grand jury proceeding. After the judge recently found him in contempt for refusing to answer questions within the grand jury room, he sits in this county jail without earning any good time—in essence his federal time is frozen until contempt is purged.

Originally from the U.S. Southwest, he is a diligent academic and enjoyer of word puzzles and Terry Pratchett novels. Earlier in federal detention, he had been keeping himself busy by taking courses in advanced mathematics, tutoring other people in prison to complete their GED tests, and participating with a dog training program. He was moved to county jail in 2025 in retaliation for refusing to cooperate with a federal grand jury.

30 Jun - Lockdowns, Violence, and "Barbaric Conditions" in a Federal Jail Known for its Famous Detainees

In February, a violent fight broke out in the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC), a federal jail in Brooklyn.

MORE:

by Katie Rose Quandt (*Solitary Watch*)

It left people like Sean Chaney, who was released in January after spending 15 months in MDC, scrambling to learn the status of his friend and former cellmate, who was stabbed 18 times and hospitalized. At least nine other people sustained stab wounds.

"This is the type of stuff that goes on in MDC, because of the just inhumane conditions," Chaney said.

"This happens often. Whether it's a riot, or it's a few guys who just go at it with each other—there's always

going to be some type violence, because of the conditions going on in MDC, and the lack of concern for human life.”

Throughout his time in MDC, Chaney never knew when the facility was about to go on lockdown, trapping people nearly all day in tiny cells with a cellmate, for days or weeks on end. He saw time and time again how these conditions lead to violence.

“They don’t care about us, and they make dudes not care for themselves,” he said. “The dudes just start giving up... We know when we’re being treated badly. Dudes have emotions. They act on them, and the first people they act out on are the people that they’re around.”

MDC typically holds people who are awaiting trial for pending federal charges. Every so often, the jail emerges from obscurity into the public eye—usually when a high-profile person is detained there. In recent months, a flurry of news stories followed the arrival of suspected UnitedHealthcare assassin Luigi Mangione. Last September, the news focused on Sean Combs, the rapper known as Diddy, who is currently on trial for racketeering and sex trafficking charges. Before that, it was Ghislaine Maxwell, who was later convicted of sex trafficking minors with Jeffrey Epstein; the rapper R. Kelly, held there before his conviction on federal racketeering and sex trafficking; so-called “pharma bro” Martin Shkreli, who drew public rage for hiking drug prices and was subsequently convicted of securities fraud; and Sam Bankman-Fried, founder of the FTX cryptocurrency exchange, who was convicted of fraud and related crimes.

But with the exception of its “celebrity prisoners,” MDC receives little attention, even relative to the city-run jail on Rikers Island. And for the many non-famous people stuck in MDC, unsanitary and unsafe conditions are facts of life. In lawsuits, people describe grotesque food and almost nonexistent medical care. In an unusual development—and a testament to MDC’s horrific conditions—some federal judges have been refusing to detain defendants pretrial if it means they will be held in the notorious jail.

As if the jail weren’t chaotic enough, in late June, the Trump administration began housing between 100 and 120 ICE detainees in the facility, to the alarm of advocates and attorneys. “The MDC has not been able to carry out its primary mission of housing pre-trial detainees safely,” Deirdre von Dornum, an attorney with the Federal Defenders of New York, told *Solitary Watch*. “It is inexplicable that BOP would take on 100 or more additional detainees at MDC when our judges have been regularly seeking to reduce the population.”

“An Absolute Tinderbox of an Environment”

Lawyers who represent people in MDC say lockdowns have become far more common since the COVID-19 pandemic. “The institution has gotten accustomed to running this way,” explained Andrew Dalack, another attorney with the Federal Defenders.

“It really is like solitary confinement,” von Dornum told *Solitary Watch*. During lockdowns, visitation is suspended, and meals are passed into the cells on trays. During some lockdowns, von Dornum said, people are allowed out of their cells for just 45 minutes every three days, to shower and make a phone call. Yet they are often summoned back into their cells before reaching the front of the phone line.

In a November 2023 federal filing, one man documented his time on lockdown: Over the prior 245 days of incarceration, MDC had been locked down 137 days—more than 50 percent of the time. A BOP spokesperson disputes that lockdowns, which “can be initiated for a variety of issues,” have gotten more frequent since 2020.

“From lockdown to lockdown, it’s never going to be the same,” said Chaney. “The most consistent thing about MDC is the inconsistency... The reasons why we go on lockdown, how long it is... It’s very arbitrary. You don’t know what it’s going to be from day to day. We wake up and the doors don’t open today, that’s how you could find out. Or we come out, and they just recall us right back.”

As in many facilities throughout the BOP, people in MDC are typically double-celled with a cellmate. So during lockdowns, they are forced to spend hours and days trapped in a tiny cell with someone with whom they might not get along. “At least when the door is open, you can just get out of the cell, and everybody can kind of coexist,” Chaney said. But during lockdowns, “when you’re stuck in a cell with someone, it causes violence, causes problems, causes tension.”

He recalled one person who was assigned to live in a cell with the brother of the man he was accused of killing—a cell assignment that “almost got that man killed.” A BOP spokesperson denies that people with a history of problems are ever housed together in MDC, noting “that the safety of staff, inmates, and the public is a top priority.” However, incarcerated people have reported similarly dangerous cell assignments in other federal facilities in recent years.

Since 2020, 17 incarcerated people have died in the jail. In an August 2024 order, a federal judge summarized the violence in MDC, noting that each of the prior five months “was marred by instances of catastrophic violence at MDC, including two apparent homicides, two gruesome stabbings and an assault so severe that it resulted in a fractured eye socket for the victim. One knife attack was captured on a surveillance video producing images that are horrifying beyond words.”

“It used to be that I would tell people, ‘It’s safer than Rikers, but you don’t get as much freedom,’” said von Dornum. “It’s no longer safer than Rikers.”

“It’s a lack of care for our lives,” said Chaney. “And now when this assault happens, you’re going to blame us, as if you didn’t know what you were doing.” After a fight or assault, he noted, the people involved are typically sent to solitary confinement. But even with the perpetrators removed, he said, the rest of the unit often gets stuck on lockdown, brewing further resentment.

“It’s an absolute tinderbox of an environment,” said Dan McGuinness, an attorney who represents people in MDC. “And then these events are happening—which are horrible, violent events—and then everyone shuts down again. So, they’re in this vicious cycle, where things are just getting worse and worse.”

“Unconscionable” Conditions

During Chaney’s time in MDC, he says, the water coming into his cell sink was often brown. For a long time, hot water on his unit wasn’t working, so people were unable to heat up commissary food. In 2024, the Federal Defenders collected ten different accounts of people finding maggots in their meat or beans. And *Spectrum News 1* obtained videos from people incarcerated in MDC, which showed “cockroaches on the food, broken light fixtures and mold in the shower.”

Even when not on lockdown, Chaney said, they were allowed just one visit a month. When he was released last January, there were only two working showers on his 100-person unit. And although everyone was issued a tablet, they had to share just one working charger.

“Things are happening as a result of that,” he said. “People want to get their tablet charged, so they take other people’s tablets off. That causes things. Instead of just giving us chargers, they just exacerbate the problems.” The BOP denies these allegations.

Although the jail has held more than 1,600 people at a time in recent years, as of January, it employed just two medical doctors and one physician, contributing to serious issues accessing medical care.

“We receive constant reports of people having seizures, trying to kill themselves, other truly emergent situations, heart attacks, and the call button doesn’t work,” said von Dornum. “The call buttons have now been non-functional for four years... So, everyone’s banging on the cell doors, but there are no officers on the unit because they’re understaffed.”

This happened in June 2024, when a diabetic man lost consciousness in his cell, according to court records. There were no correctional officers working on the unit at the time, and the panic button was broken. A fellow incarcerated man spent the night placing cold towels on the sick man's head to keep him conscious, and feeding him sweets to raise his blood sugar. The BOP says MDC's call buttons are working.

MDC staff have a history of ignoring court orders demanding medical treatment. In one 2023 case, a federal judge ordered MDC to transfer someone with a MRSA infection to a medical facility. After repeatedly defying the orders, staff transferred the man to solitary confinement by "mistake." And in May 2024, U.S. District Judge LaShann DeArcy Hall berated MDC staff for failing to give a man his medication following an emergency appendectomy, and then lying about it. She noted that this was "not an anomaly," and stated: "At a certain point the MDC is going to have to understand that the judges of this court are no longer going to tolerate the mismanagement of the medical care of the defendants that are in their charge."

Drugs and homemade weapons are rampant. While prisons and jails tend to blame contraband on visitors, some MDC officers have been caught smuggling it into the facility. Dalack noted that when the jail halted all visitation, including legal visits, for several months during the COVID-19 pandemic, contraband continued to make its way inside.

Lockdowns and inhumane conditions also impact incarcerated people's ability to prepare for their legal cases—many of whom are facing serious prison time. Lawyers describe waiting two to three hours just to meet with clients, or even being turned away without seeing their client at all. In 2019, the Federal Defenders brought an ongoing lawsuit against the BOP, over their clients' lack of legal access in MDC. The parties have been in mediation since 2020.

Von Dornum said lockdowns "make it impossible for them to review their own discovery, which means they can't then talk to us about their discovery, or assist in their defense. It makes it impossible for them to go to the law library to do legal research." It's also hard for people to focus on their cases when they have been denied contact with their loved ones.

"When you actually see your client, all they want to talk about is how terrible their conditions are," added Dalack. "How little sleep they're getting, how their requests for medical attention go unheeded." This leaves little time to discuss their actual case.

Abysmal conditions at MDC date back years. In 2016, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) investigated the "unconscionable" conditions in which MDC was holding 161 women in two large, windowless rooms. Their food was often spoiled and moldy, and access to gynecological and other medical care was extremely insufficient. They were never allowed outside for exercise.

And during a polar vortex in early 2019, an electrical fire caused a week-long blackout in the facility, leaving many people without access to their medications. One person wrote that during the blackout, "I suffered from: insomnia, asthma-related coughing and chest pain and tightness that were intensified by the cold, dizziness and headaches, and severe stress, fear, and mental health symptoms that caused me to swallow razor blades." Another wrote: "There were nights that I was so cold that I feared that if I fell asleep that I would not wake up." In a 2023 settlement, the government agreed to pay \$17,500 each to 69 people whose medical conditions went untreated in MDC during the blackout, as well as \$8,750 each to an additional 945 people who endured the crisis.

Judges Refuse to Send People to "Barbaric" Jail

Some federal judges have begun taking the unusual step of refusing to send people to MDC.

In January 2024, U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman heard the case of a 70-year-old defendant awaiting sentencing for drug distribution. Although Furman noted that federal law would mandate pre-trial jailing,

he used a loophole allowing judicial discretion for “exceptional reasons”—citing the inhumane conditions the man would face if sent to MDC to await trial.

In a scathing ruling, Furman noted that recent court dockets “have been filled with cases in which defendants complain about near-perpetual lockdowns (no longer explained by COVID-19), dreadful conditions, and lengthy delays in getting medical care” at MDC. He added: “It has gotten to the point that it is routine for judges...to give reduced sentences to defendants based on the conditions of confinement in the MDC.”

Furman’s ruling noted that “the reason most often given for many, if not all, of these problems is understaffing.” Just 55 percent of correctional officer roles were filled in January 2024; the BOP says a hiring push improved this rate to 70 percent by September. But in his decision, Furman suggested another strategy: “The only other way to mitigate the ongoing tragedy is to improve the ratio of correctional officers to prisoners by reducing—or at least not adding to—the prisoner population.”

U.S. District Judge Gary R. Brown cited similar concerns several months later, when he sentenced a defendant to nine months incarceration—but promised to vacate the sentence if the BOP sent him to MDC. Brown cited MDC’s “dangerous, barbaric conditions,” where “chaos reigns, along with uncontrolled violence.” Several years earlier, in 2020, another judge noted that a defendant had been subjected to conditions in MDC “as disgusting, inhuman as anything I’ve heard about any Colombian prison... I am convinced that no good would be served by keeping you incarcerated for one minute more than I am required to do by law.”

“All the judges recognize that this is inhumane and intolerable,” said McGuinness. “These guys in the MDC are going through hell.”

“It can’t be overemphasized that prosecutors should be seeking detention in far fewer cases, and judges should be putting far fewer people at the MDC, unless there’s some overriding and urgent public safety or flight risk concern,” said Dalack.

Yet he cautioned that individual rulings are not enough. “What we really need is some meaningful, institutional reform that can really only come from the political branches,” Dalack said. “Individual judges can do more, and they can do a lot, but they can only do so much.”

But under Trump, federal prison and jail reform seems unlikely. In May, New York Rep. Dan Goldman, whose district includes the jail, condemned Trump and his Republican colleagues for funding cuts that he said will only worsen the crisis in MDC and other federal facilities, including canceling the collective bargaining agreement for federal correctional officers and eliminating officers’ retention bonuses. And the more recent decision to throw ICE detainees into the mix will almost certainly exacerbate the already deadly conditions in the federal jail.

“MDC was so consistent with the bad treatment,” said Chaney. “It’s not just one thing. It’s the totality of everything put together that makes everything so unbearable and inhumane.”

24 Jun - Leonard Peltier talks freedom, future after nearly 50 years in prison

Leonard Peltier’s home on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa reservation is nestled among green prairie grasses at the end of a tree-lined gravel road.

MORE:

by Allison Herrera (MPR News)

His small yard and 2-bedroom home sit below the big skies of North Dakota. In the driveway sits an old van that he’s determined to fix. He calls it his Indian Car.

It's been four months since Peltier moved into his new home. It's also the first time since Jimmy Carter was president that Peltier lived outside of a prison cell. He said the transition to a comfortable new home in Belcourt, N.D., is "awesome."

"Coming from that cell to this is like, I guess what heaven must feel like, the Great Spirit, the happy hunting ground must feel like," Peltier said with a soft smile.

In one of the first lengthy interviews since he was released from prison in February, Peltier described his health and the decades he spent living behind bars. He also described his life as a free man after President Joe Biden issued a last-minute commutation of Peltier's two life sentences for his involvement in the shooting deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota 50 years ago.

During the interview at his kitchen table, Peltier's salt and pepper hair was pulled back into a braid. He still has his signature mustache, but it's greying and thinning. He also joked that he wanted Botox "to hide the wrinkles." Peltier told jokes, teased his home health aide and drank countless cups of coffee while recounting his life.

But despite his gentle, grandfatherly demeanor, Peltier harbors resentment about the events that took place during the occupation that happened at Wounded Knee, the violence that occurred on the reservation afterwards and the trial in Fargo, N.D., that led to nearly five decades of imprisonment.

"Goddamn right I'm bitter," Peltier said. "Otherwise, I would have been guilty. Only the guilty would not be bitter."

He said he has no regrets standing up for his people.

"Hell no! I would stand up for them again today, if it cost me the rest of my life," he said. "I don't care. I believe what we were fighting for."

Lekši Leonard

Peltier is now an elder in his community, a storyteller with a lot of colorful tales to tell. A walk through his home highlights his history. It's full of photos, blankets, memorabilia and gifts he's received since he moved in. There are paintings of Indigenous people doing everyday things. One is shaded in dark purple and features a woman braiding her husband's hair.

Peltier's own artwork is also on the walls. The paintings — done during his time in prison — were inspired by famous Native Americans like Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull.

"I usually would draw them with chalk first. I would draw it on a canvas," Peltier explained. "Then I could erase it easy instead of drawing with pencil."

Peltier also showed off gifts from world leaders like Evo Morales. The former president of Bolivia sent Peltier a wooden statue of Túpac Katari, an Indigenous leader from the 1700s that led a rebellion against Spanish colonialists.

Since Peltier's incarceration in 1977, celebrities such as Marlon Brando, Robert Redford, Willie Nelson and Bonnie Raitt have called for his release. The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu also advocated for his freedom.

Peltier is regarded by many as one of America's oldest political prisoners. They argue he was illegally charged and imprisoned for protecting his people on that fateful day on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in June of 1975. Law enforcement and a jury disagreed, and Peltier was forced to serve most of his life in

the federal prison system. He was imprisoned in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Lewisburg, Pa., and Coleman 1 in Florida.

His image has donned thousands of “Free Leonard Peltier” bumper stickers and posters and has been associated with the fight against injustice worldwide.

“I feel honored about it. I don’t feel like I’m any better than them or anybody else,” he said about his image being used all over the world.

Despite his celebrity, those close to Peltier know him as Lekši Leonard, a respectful Dakota phrase meaning uncle.

As for future activism, Peltier said he may be too old to march in the streets, but he wants to use his standing to fight what he sees as chronic substance abuse disorder. He’s troubled by youth drug use.

“It’s killing us,” he said.

There have also been other adjustments. Before prison, Peltier’s preferred classic rock was played on record players. He’s now playing music through an Alexa speaker.

Peltier also said his health has greatly improved. When he left prison, Peltier said he could barely walk.

“I think I was on my death bed,” Peltier said.

Now, he’s no longer on his diabetes medication and his heart condition was downgraded from being dire to something to monitor.

“I’m starting to walk good now. My voice is still a little messed up, but I’m able to speak a lot better now, and I don’t feel as tired and constantly in pain,” he said. “I think I’m starting to pull out of it.”

He also said he is expected to receive surgery to help his poor eyesight.

Peltier remains close with his son Chauncey, who lives in Oregon, and his grandson Cyrus, who lives in Grand Forks, N.D. He said the two had visited him in Belcourt. He’s also excited to see his great-granddaughter, whom he bragged about being so smart and was going to win, “all kinds of medals” for swimming.

He said he remains angry that he lost so much family time.

‘They expected me to die in prison’

When Biden issued Peltier’s commutation during the final minutes of his presidency, he made it clear it wasn’t a pardon.

Still, the FBI Agents Association called Biden’s action a “disgraceful act” that is a “cruel betrayal” of FBI Special Agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams.

During one of his many appeals, Peltier’s first-degree murder charges were upheld to aiding and abetting after ballistics tests revealed that the gun the prosecution linked to Peltier didn’t match the gun that shot the agents.

In his book, “Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sundance,” Peltier expressed remorse over the deaths of the two agents and sent his sympathies to their families. In the interview he again expressed remorse over their deaths.

Peltier said he was treated well by the prison guards and staff during his last years in prison.

But he also remains defiant, vehemently denying any involvement with the murders. He said his anger over what he called a wrongful conviction helped him through decades of imprisonment.

“I’m pissed off, not only what they did to me, but what they did to my people,” he said referring to the racism and boarding school violence that happened to his generation.

He also argued that “They were killing us,” referring to the violence between the American Indian Movement (AIM) and those opposed to AIM on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the 1970s.

The violence from that day shaped the rest of Peltier’s life including the murder convictions, his imprisonment, the calls for his release and his commutation this year. During his homecoming after his release, Peltier shouted to the crowd, “I beat the bastards.”

When asked what he meant by that, Peltier responded, “They expected me to die in prison.”

1 Jul - Urgent: Help Priscilla Stay Housed While Fighting for Justice

NYC local and Stop Cop City defendant Priscilla Grim's support crew are reaching out because she currently needs immediate help from the community that has stood by her side. Donate at tiny.cc/IRTF_Priscilla

MORE:

After two years under the weight of politically motivated charges from the State of Georgia, a new judge is rapidly advancing the case, intensifying the pressure on Priscilla. Preparing her legal defense while working full-time has become nearly impossible. And now, that pressure is hitting home: Priscilla is a month behind on rent and urgently needs support to stay housed.

We're working to raise \$20,000 to ensure Priscilla and her daughter can maintain stable housing and financial security during this critical time. Your contribution will help ease this burden, allowing Priscilla to focus on her defense and rebuilding her life, and her daughter to stay grounded and focused her studies.

We're also grateful to share that the InterReligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF) has brought Priscilla into their fiscally sponsored projects. This means:

✅ Your donation can now be tax-deductible

🔄 You can become a monthly sustainer, helping build long-term support

Whether you give \$10 or \$1000, or sign on to want to help with future fundraising events (email team@priscillagrim.com), you are part of a powerful community that refuses to let political repression isolate or erase our friends. PayPal: paypal.com/paypalme/pgrim | Venmo: venmo.com/u/priscillagrim | Cash App: [cash.app/\\$grimwomyn](https://cash.app/$grimwomyn)

2 Jul - Court temporarily reverses suspension of solitary confinement law in NY

Court temporarily reverses suspension of solitary confinement law in NY prisons

MORE:

by Jeongyoon Han (WXXI News)

The state's correctional system in February suspended implementation of a law called the HALT Act, which limits the use of solitary confinement. Prison officials said they did so to address safety concerns when corrections officers went on strike.

But the unbridled use of solitary confinement continued well past the state's self-imposed June 6 deadline to reinstitute the restrictions.

In a court order this week, Judge Daniel Lynch wrote that the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision violated "the separation of powers" by temporarily suspending a law that sets limitations to the use of solitary confinement.

Lynch wrote that the department, or DOCCS, "wholly failed to demonstrate" that temporarily repealing the HALT Act "has a basis in rational fact."

Riley Doyle Evans, a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society who represented the six inmates who filed the lawsuit, said his clients and others had been "subjected, unlawfully, to prolonged solitary confinement for months — with DOCCS not providing justification."

As a result of the HALT Act suspension, incarcerated people were in solitary confinement for 22 to 24 hours a day, Evans said — even if they did not have misconduct that merited temporary isolation.

"No agency in the executive has the authority to suspend a duly enacted law," Evans said.

Lynch ordered the preliminary injunction to go into effect by July 11. He wrote that DOCCS would have to give an explanation to the court if the department needs exceptions in some facilities.

A DOCCS spokesperson said in a statement that officials are reviewing the decision.

Starting in February, DOCCS Commissioner Daniel Martuscello said the department would stop mandating that those in solitary confinement get four hours of time outside their cells for educational and health programs, as the law requires. All other individuals get seven hours of recreational and outside time. Martuscello extended the suspension in March for 90 days to last until June 6.

Martuscello said the measure was in response to a statewide emergency triggered by corrections officers' three-week-long wildcat strike. The officers, in part, were striking to protest HALT, which stands for Humane Alternatives to Long-Term solitary confinement.

During a news conference in early March, Gov. Kathy Hochul said she supported the decision to temporarily pause the full implementation of the HALT Act, but specifically the requirement that those in solitary confinement get four hours for programs such as career services.

"That is the area that is temporarily suspended because I'm wildly acutely aware that the hours are just too long," Hochul said at the time. "No one should have to work a 24-hour shift, but it's been part of having to comply with that law that has created this tension here."

Hochul's office did not respond to requests for comment.

But even after June 6, Evans and criminal justice advocates said, DOCCS never re-implemented the HALT Act, and that his clients were in cells for weeks on end.

"They were being essentially locked in their cells and not afforded any sort of access to programs or rehabilitative activities," he said. "These conditions are profoundly harmful to human beings."

The HALT Act, which went into effect in 2022, limits the use of solitary confinement to 15 consecutive days and 20 days within a 60-day period. Corrections officers have protested the law since its inception, arguing that it stripped officers of an option for disciplining incarcerated people, and was leading to increased violence in state prisons.

Repealing the HALT Act was a core demand among striking officers during the strike, which began days after 10 officers were charged in connection to the beating death of 43-year-old Robert Brooks at Marcy Correctional Facility in December.

3 Jul - Illustrated Guide Version 18.6 Uploaded!

nycabc.wordpress.com/2025/07/03/guide_18_6

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. Unfortunately, this edition includes the addition of Hridindu Roychowdhury.

4 Jul - Update on the imprisonment of the two comrades

Germany: Update on the two imprisoned anarchists N & M – – "Hetzblatt gegen den Windpark" – – investigation and upcoming trial against the paper Zündlumpen under Section 129.

MORE:

via Act for Freedom Now!

Since 26th February, our two comrades N & M have been held on remand, accused of publishing the anarchist paper Zündlumpen ("criminal association / conspiracy"). This criminal case, which we have known about since 2022, was brought against the two of them and another person, under Section 129 (relating to organized crime and terrorism). In 2025, two other cases came to light, also implicating N and M: they are both charged with spreading the publication "Hetzblatt gegen den Windpark" ["Smear Sheet / Scandal Rag Against the Wind Farm"] alongside three other people ("incitement/promotion of criminal acts"). Secondly, they are both "suspects" for willful arson.

In April seven people were taken for questioning by the public prosecutor, for witness interviews under the "incitement/promotion of criminal acts" investigation (linked to the "Hetzblatt gegen den Windpark ") and the "series of arsons" in Munich. All those interrogated refused to answer questions. Two other summonses were issued by the prosecutor's office in May. On top of this, one person received a second summons. This last person was recently added as one of the suspects charged in the "incitement/promotion" case while remaining a statutory witness in the other case. In the course of the interview, she was further served with a court order for the collection of DNA and fingerprints. The DNA sample was taken on the spot, under the threat of violence. As with the previous interrogations, all those taken for interview refused to answer when questioned. Refusal to assist at the previous interviews in April already resulted in administrative fines of €250 (plus some bureaucratic charges) per individual.

Details of the arrest

As we learned in the meantime, N and M were arrested on 26th February in the municipal library HP8 (Neues Gasteig neighborhood) close to the Brudermühl bridge. Both of them were sitting in front of a computer when they were tackled to the ground by plainclothes cops. Clearly, the arrest had been well planned, with several plainclothes offices positioning themselves around them, putting on face coverings hoods on the spot, separating N. and M. and taking them away in handcuffs. The timing of the operation seemed to be carefully chosen: they waited until the comrades had logged in to the computers, which likely gave the nosey pig spies access to their encrypted e-mails. The State Protection Service was apparently lurking around the corner, and immediately informed our comrades of the warrant for their arrest. The two were then taken to the police station, processed for identification purposes, thoroughly examined for burn marks, measured and photographed naked, and had a "neck smear" performed on them in order to present these scent traces to a police dog.

After this torture, our comrade M was taken at dawn to the Stadelheim detention center for men, where he is still locked up to this day, whereas our comrade N was held for a short period in the women's detention center at Stadelheim, before being quickly transferred to the Aichach prison (near Augsburg). This measure was probably taken because of the ban on contact imposed on the two comrades.

Conditions of detention at Aichach and Stadelheim

The conditions of detention of the two imprisoned comrades have all the hallmarks of a politically motivated bullying agenda. For example, they have still not been permitted any personal items of clothing or requested books, as laundry and book tickets have to be approved by the prosecutor. In addition, all applications for visits from friends have been refused for both, meaning that only family members are granted visit permits. As comrade N's parents don't live in Germany, she hasn't received any visits so far, and can only phone her parents once a week for 15 minutes – but she's not allowed to talk to her brother during these calls and is obliged to speak German with her mother, which she normally doesn't do.

M on the other hand, has regular visits with his parents, but is not allowed to telephone. Visits take place in a video-monitored room, talking through an intercom grill, in the presence of two state security cops. Generally speaking, conditions of detention are more restrictive in the men's prison, and in his wing, M is forbidden contact and work. This means that there are few moments for social interaction, almost no activities, and he has to spend more than 20 hours a day in his cell. In this respect, N's conditions are not quite as harsh: she has a kitchen in her section, can take part in a few activities and has less lock-up time.

Consequently, for both of them, the post remains more or less the only way to keep in touch and communicate with their friends and comrades. But of course, all post goes through the Public Prosecutors' office, which is why letters often take four weeks to arrive, or sometimes don't arrive at all... Postcards are quicker. Despite the ban on contact, the two can write letters to each other, but these take even longer. Most of the time, letters are delivered in batches. This tiresome procedure obviously complicates communication enormously. What's more, more or less all anarchist and far-left newspapers and pamphlets are withheld and/or censored. A few printed texts have been allowed inside from time to time, and even newspapers such as 'Gefangenen-Info' [prisoner-info] are also held back for being "a threat to the security of the establishment". Nevertheless, it can be interesting to try to send printed texts inside. Access to the huge investigation file from inside the prison is also delayed and dragged out, which is also pure harassment.

Upcoming trial regarding the anarchist paper Zündlumpen under Section 129.

The three accused were indicted in April; hence we have to assume that the trial should begin this autumn. It will likely take place in the high-security chamber of the upper court or in Stadelheim prison.

We believe that, over and above support for our friends and comrades, this trial itself has its own significance for subversive movements and initiatives. The question in this case [in terms of legal procedure] is whether an alleged newspaper editor can be convicted under Section 129. The crimes this newspaper editor is accused of all fall under the dissemination of ideas – promotion of crime, calling for and incitement to commit crimes, and publishing threats. In sum, these are pure thought crimes. Whereas past trials against various works of the radical press in Germany were always about supporting and joining militant and armed groups, today it's about the simple endorsement of resistance and counter-violence. That's why we think it's important not only to show our solidarity with the prisoners, but also to follow the proceedings at the trial in terms of content, and to discuss what this new degree of repression and censorship means, and how we're going to deal with it.

Whatever the result of the trial: we will not be muzzled!

6 Jul - Arturo Gamboa Released Without Charge in Salt Lake City

The 24-year-old had open-carried a rifle at protests years before the “No Kings” march. Event security, aka “Peace Police” killed a protester and Gamboa, a known anti-racist, was somehow the one arrested though he was at the rally with an open carry rifle.

MORE:

by Paighthen Harkins (*The Salt Lake Tribune*)

Arturo Gamboa is a 24-year-old local punk rock drummer who deeply cares about his community. He also likes guns, and at least a dozen times, he’s brought one to a protest.

That’s according to his longtime friend and roommate, who spoke with *The Salt Lake Tribune* about Gamboa.

When Gamboa did bring his gun to protests — an AR-15 style rifle — he never aimed it at anyone, his friend said. He never indicated he might use it, and no one ever fired on him thinking he was about to, the friend said. Not until the “No Kings” march in downtown Salt Lake City earlier this month.

So, what changed between those earlier demonstrations — dating back to at least 2020 — and this one, where Gamboa was arrested on suspicion of murder after a protest volunteer opened fire on him, injuring Gamboa and killing an innocent bystander, Arthur “Afa” Folasa Ah Loo, in the process?

Nothing, according to Gamboa’s friend, Andy B. *The Tribune* is identifying him by his first name and the first letter of his surname because he fears online harassment, which he said another friend who spoke publicly about the case has experienced.

“I feel like [the safety volunteers] failed to de-escalate the situation, or at least get a read on what the situation was,” he said. “I think there was just this notion of like, ‘This is a tall dude. We can’t see his face and he’s got a gun. We should probably handle this.’”

“But,” he continued, “I think they acted too quickly and it resulted in a very horrible tragedy unfolding. He made a fatal mistake.”

Gamboa spent five days in jail without the option of bail before he was ultimately released Friday. As of Monday, prosecutors had not filed any formal charges against him or the self-described “peacekeeper” who Salt Lake City police said fired the gun.

Gamboa’s attorney, Greg Skordas, has said Gamboa’s rifle was not loaded and characterized those days spent in jail as a violation of Gamboa’s rights.

Skordas said Gamboa seemed shaken up after his release and reeling from his treatment in jail. He is afraid of going back, the defense attorney said, adding that Gamboa was kept tightly shackled whenever they met and remains in pain from the entry-exit bullet wound he suffered.

Even before his release, social media accounts linked to community activists, local punk music supporters and Gamboa’s friends had pleaded his innocence.

They also scrutinized the protest’s organizers, Utah 50501, who initially thanked its “safety volunteers” and police for their “quick response to the shooting” and “apprehending the suspect before he could injure more people.” The national 50501 group has since cut ties with the Salt Lake City branch.

And Gamboa’s supporters have pointed to high-vantage video that seems to contradict police, who wrote in a probable cause statement that Gamboa lifted his rifle into a firing position and ran into the protest crowd before the volunteer opened fire.

The video seems to instead show Gamboa with his weapon pointed toward the ground before shots rang out, which then prompted him to run, according to FOX 13, who spoke with the person who filmed it.

Salt Lake County District Attorney Sim Gill has asked for “everyone’s patience” as police and prosecutors continue to investigate the case.

While jailed, Gamboa spoke with Andy B. once for about 10 minutes. Gamboa told his friend he was still sore, like Skordas said, and Gamboa shared that he’d been feeling lonely, because he was detained alone in a higher-security cell.

“He just felt really kind of isolated, and he wasn’t really sure what to think,” the friend said.

Gamboa was also worried about money. He asked his friend to sell some of his belongings to add funds to his commissary, but Andy B. said that wasn’t necessary, because he and others had been collecting money for Gamboa online, in posts that described him as “kind-hearted, well-loved,” and “peaceful.”

Now that Gamboa has been released from jail, the friend said that money will go toward supporting Gamboa through any future legal proceedings.

The friends first met nearly 10 years ago at a Guitar Center. Andy B. recalled walking in with his mom and seeing a “big dude with a big, tall red mohawk” standing next to “this other guy with blue hair.”

“I was like, ‘Oh, I gotta be friends with these guys,’” he remembered.

The guy with the red mohawk was Gamboa, and that chance encounter sparked a long-lasting friendship and a handful of musical projects, like the punk band Rade, featured in *SLUG Mag* in 2021.

Gamboa told *SLUG Mag* at the time that he grew up seeing the unfair struggles his Venezuelan father faced, “working twice as hard to get half as far” as a non-white person in the “American system.” He turned to music to vent those frustrations.

“The American System is a steam train that’s always been fueled by Black and brown bodies, and by the emotional, physical and spiritual pain and anguish of poor people, of Black people, brown people,” he said, “of anybody who did not fit the idea of every man is created equal.”

Punk rock, Gamboa told *SLUG*, is a “more direct way of expressing failure in the current society.”

“It’s a way of releasing these angers and these frustrations,” Gamboa continued, “in a constructive way with the community, in a way that we can, you know, get together, dance and kind of form a stronger bond than just straight up music.”

A ‘very responsible’ gun owner, friend says

Andy B. and Gamboa lived together from around 2019 to 2022, so when crowds gathered en masse in 2020 to protest police violence in Salt Lake City, the pair often went together.

The friend said both were passionate about the cause — but Gamboa probably came off as more so.

“He’s a big personality,” the friend said.

It was sometime after the large May 30, 2020, protest in Salt Lake City — just after the deaths of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Bernardo Palacios-Carbajal in Salt Lake City — that Gamboa began to bring his rifle to the months of demonstrations that followed, the friend recalled.

“I’ve walked with him a few times armed as well. But every time that that had happened, there was never any problems, any pushback,” Andy B. said. “He’s a very responsible — very responsible — gun owner.”

Skordas echoed those sentiments Monday, saying Gamboa’s father taught the 24-year-old about guns and that Gamboa likes to carry one.

The friend said Gamboa carried his gun not only for personal protection “but a protection for other people, for other protesters, in case there was any sort of counterprotest where people may show up armed.”

Five years ago, police protesters were often met by other groups with guns, including the Proud Boys or Utah Citizens’ Alarm.

Gamboa became a fixture at those 2020 demonstrations, typically dressed in black, covering his face, carrying his rifle, sometimes leading the group of hundreds of marchers through the streets, said Jeanette Padilla Vega, a community advocate who founded the Food Justice Coalition and participated in many of the protests.

Though she didn’t speak with him back then, she learned soon after his June 14 arrest that Gamboa was the person she remembered marching alongside.

“None of us know him to be a violent person whatsoever,” Padilla Vega said.

“Unfortunately, I think one of the peacekeepers just acted too swiftly and made assumptions,” she said, “and the tragedy happened because of that.”

Padilla Vega, who was recently defeated in a crowded field vying for an open Democratic seat on the Salt Lake County Council, said at first, she wondered if Gamboa had bad intentions in bringing the gun to demonstrations.

“But he was always very calm, very peaceful. He never pointed [the rifle] at anybody. He never even raised it. And then, as he kept showing up,” Padilla Vega said, “I realized he’s definitely on the side of keeping peace.”

The day before Gamboa’s release, Utah 50501 organizers said in a statement they were “not able to comment on any of the speculation or questions asked by the public,” saying there’s “too much disinformation” and that the police investigation is ongoing.

The statement noted the group hoped to “address the community’s concerns in the near future.”

“Like so many in the community, we grieve the loss of Afa Ah Loo deeply. We hope everyone mourns his loss in a way that is respectful to his family and celebrates the impact he had on his loved, his friends, and his community,” the statement concluded.

‘All power to the people’

At one 2020 protest, on Aug. 22 of that year, Gamboa rallied with a group at the Capitol, calling on Gill to dismiss charges the district attorney’s office had filed against demonstrators who’d gathered about a month earlier, on July 9, 2020.

During that protest, some poured red paint outside Gill’s office, as a symbol of the blood they believed to be on Gill’s hands for not charging the Salt Lake City police officers who shot and killed Palacios-Carbajal. Others broke windows. A police officer and at least two demonstrators had to be treated at hospitals after a mid-street confrontation. At least eight people ended up facing felony charges.

Ahead of that August protest, after a few speakers, Gamboa grabbed a microphone with one hand — his phone in the other — and spoke of revolution.

“If you want to break down an engine, you don’t replace it with the same spare parts, put that same oil inside of it and put premium gasoline inside of it. No,” he said, “you fill that tank with sugar and let it break the f--- down.”

As he spoke, his black rifle hung from a strap, muzzle down, across his chest.

Gamboa then demanded all protesters charged after various demonstrations over the prior year be exonerated. He also denounced Gill — the same prosecutor currently overseeing the decision on whether Gamboa will face charges in connection to the “No Kings” shooting.

“We demand the removal of all laws that infringe protesters’ rights, and we demand the immediate resignation of Sim Gill, and,” Gamboa continued at the time, “should he decide that he will not leave on his own accord, then, by the power of the people, he will be removed.”

Gill said Monday that prior to *The Tribune* asking, his office was unaware that Gamboa protested against Gill in 2020, and that a team would decide how (and whether) his office moves forward in filing charges in the case — the same process used for all death investigations.

“I don’t know who Mr. Gamboa is, and neither did anybody in our office,” Gill said. “We make our decisions based on the evidence and where we are, and that’s what we’re doing.”

Skordas said Monday that he doesn’t believe Gill’s office has treated Gamboa unfairly because of his protest background.

That August evening five years ago, Gamboa ended his speech by telling the crowd that they have power, and that if they unify, they can enact change.

“We’re going to keep fighting because they fought for us,” Gamboa said about his fellow demonstrators facing felony charges, “and we’re going to keep stopping fascism, because fascism will stop us all.”

“All power to the people,” he called out

“All power to the people!” the crowd called back.

“I am,” he continued.

“I am!” the crowd responded.

“A revolutionary,” Gamboa said.

“A revolutionary!” they yelled back.

“And may we continue this fight, today, tomorrow, the next week, the next month, the next year,” Gamboa said, “until we gain our liberation.”

12 Jul - HAPPY BIRTHDAY ASSATA

WHAT: Celebration

WHEN: 12:00pm, Saturday, July 12th

WHERE: Marcus Garvey Park - 124th Street & 5th Avenue Entrance, Harlem

COST: Donation—\$5-10

MORE:

IN honor of Assata Olugbala Shakur's 78th birthday, the Healing Drum Collective, Black Vegfest, and the Dr. Mutulu Shakur Mobile Health & Healing Project invites you to a spiritual day of guided centering, holistic healing, and natural wellness health foods in Harlem's Marcus Garvey Park.

18 Jul - Letter Writing to People in Prison

WHAT: Letter-writing

WHEN: 7:00pm. Friday, July 18th

WHERE: Tiny Raccoon Books - 277 Railroad Avenue, Sayville 11782

COST: FREE

MORE:

People in prison are people from our communities and deserve support, consideration and communication with the outside world. Your words can provide hope to someone inside.

Join us to for a brief presentation on incarceration in the United States followed by writing letters to people in prison and jail. We will have all the supplies you need - just bring yourself!

19 Jul - Tribute To Fallen Political Prisoners, The Queens 2

WHAT: Panel

WHEN: 1:00pm, Saturday, July 19th

WHERE: CEMOTAP CENTER - 135-05 Rockaway Boulevard, Queens

COST: FREE

MORE:

Featuring a panel with original New York state chapter Black Panther Party veterans of the Corona & Jamaica Queens branches as a fundraiser for the still held veteran, Queens Panther Kamau Sadiki.

19 Jul - Saxapahaw Prison Books Packing Party

WHAT: Book packing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, July 19th

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.